

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for May 2017



History News → Readers, where's your story?

Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others through our 8th AFHS Chapter is on the last page.

Windows 10 Goes to War

The US Military has almost converted from Windows 7 (& XP and others OSs) to Windows 10 laptops. The military has always used technology and been in the forefront – often the general public has no knowledge of what is being done by necessity. IBM EAC (Electronic Accounting Machines) were heavily used in WW II – both by us and the AXIS powers. IBM equipment ran the German Rail Industry tracking rail cars and the USA used IBM equipment to track and destroy U-Boats. This update of systems only pushes the equipment closer to the people doing the combat people.

WW II was logistically won by the USA with one original and four carbon copies for a part on a typewriter, now it is 200 to 500 emails.

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-gets-battle-hardened-us-army-recruits-10000-rugged-tablets/>

The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial

Near Versailles there is a memorial to the American Pilots who went to France in WW I to fly and fight – but only after they stated they were going as Ambulance drivers and once there diverted themselves into the Escadrille. 68 out of the 200 men who were assigned to the unit were killed in the war.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/05/travel/france-lafayette-escadrille-memorial-honors-american-flyers-world-war-i.html?_r=0

WW II was a Battle Worldwide of Armies and Spies

There were plots within plots and everyone wanted something good out of the war – not necessarily good either for the Axis or Allies and Quaroni was one such spy.

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/indian-probably-most-extraordinary-spy-033901151.html>

Philip G. Johnson – Aviation Visionary and Boeing President during WW II

Some people just have a natural knack for things – and to see the future – and so it was with Johnson.

<http://www.investors.com/news/management/leaders-and-success/philip-g-johnson-put-boeing-war-production-on-a-higher-plane/>

The B-24 “Boom Boom” Liberator

How unexplained explosions of the B-24 was finally solved. Joseph A. Biblin was an instructor pilot in Florida and was on a B-24 to witness, land, and solve the reasons why B-24 were blowing up while flying over the USA.

http://www.dailyitem.com/news/lifestyles/b--liberator-had-history-of-flight-explosions/article_b441bf55-8a88-5c1a-b1fb-4b7bb412bc5a.html

French Aerobatic Team on Tour in the USA

This is their first appearance in the USA air show tour circuit in over 31 years. The logistics of travel is a lot more difficult for the 9 plane group that is used to flying a few hour hop to get to a show location – or in some cases just 30 minutes - in Europe.

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article142973724.html>

WW I was a War of Horses

Before the advent of mass produced vehicles, mules and horses were the engines of war, like it has been since the time of the Greek City State battles over 3,000 years ago.

<http://www.npr.org/2017/04/06/522594344/the-unsung-equestrian-heroes-of-world-war-i-and-the-plot-to-poison-them>

WW II Russian Sniper Tour of 1942 - Lyudmila Pavlichenko

In 1942 where it took a President of the USA to approve use of women to just ferry aircraft around the USA, Lyudmila Pavlichenko had already been in the front lines of combat in southern Russia for two years killing Germans – 309 of them.

<https://inews.co.uk/essentials/news/world/pavli/>

P-38s vs Yak-3s – by Accident

In the fluid battlefields of the Eastern Front in 1944 the Soviets did not always quickly pass onto the Allies where their forces were. In October of 1944 15th Air Force P-38s came across Yak-3s – which look like Bf-109s in a quick glance – and engaged.

<http://www.scout.com/military/warrior/story/1768817-wwii-soviet-s-air-combat-with-u-s>

Capture and Escape – General O’Conner

Captured in 1942 by a German patrol in North Africa, General O’Conner became a POW – and likely the highest ranking Officer to Escape a POW camp during WW II.

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/book-tells-incredible-war-adventures-10136094>

Remembering “The Lady Be Good”

The physical parts of the aircraft are still in storage in Libya. Some artifacts are in the US Air Force Museum.

http://www.qchron.com/editions/queenswide/the-wreck-of-the-lady-be-good/article_80e9342b-87ad-581a-9f54-ef3f761f2109.html

A Telegram from Himmler

WW II was not only a battle of armies, but of improbable allies, when their goals were the same.

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/85891/rediscovered-wwii-telegram-ss-chief-promised-jerusalem-mufti-support-jewish-invaders/#dz39Luk1BBxGwDZW.97>

Finding a P-51 Pilot in the Ukraine

Flying with the 15th Air Force on June 6th 1944 over what was then part of Romania, he was shot down by German fighters. In 2016 based on local reports, they found his crash site.

<http://wfla.com/2017/03/23/mia-for-72-years-st-petersburg-fighter-pilot-hero-now-rests-at-home/>

Un-Manned Drone Combat – Envisioned for a few thousand years

Most people think drone combat is new – but it has been around and effectively used in combat since 1942.

<https://warontherocks.com/2017/04/your-grandfathers-manned-unmanned-teaming-looking-back-to-stay-ahead/>

From Hong Kong to Scranton PA

Shot down in Hong Kong harbor in 1944, he was initially buried in Hawaii as an unknown, but he was finally identified via DNA and returned to be buried in Scranton in March, 2017.

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/remains-of-wwii-airman-from-scranton-identified-1.2174674>

Diving for Answers in Kwajalein Atolls

The Marshall Islands were a battleground in WW II for a very short time – but the location generated lots of ships sunk and aircraft shot down with MIAs on all.

“Kwajalein Atoll was the scene of a short but intense battle by U.S. soldiers, sailors and Marines in February 1944 to retake from the Japanese a strategically important chain of roughly 100 small islands. The Japanese had built airstrips on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur islands.”

<https://www.stripes.com/news/diving-into-the-past-team-scours-a-south-pacific-atoll-for-wwii-wrecks-linked-to-mias-1.461776#.WOaczP67oeM>

From Portland Oregon to the shores of Tripoli

Ben Chin was drafted in 1942 and spent the war guarding POWs, directing traffic, and on ships in the Med while in North Africa, Italy and France – then opened a restaurant. Along the way he got to visit Mussolini’s summer house.

<http://www.times-standard.com/article/NJ/20170408/FEATURES/170409866>

A Box of Letters from a WW I Trench

“John McGrath knew he had struck a genealogical goldmine when he stumbled upon dozens of letters by his grandfather’s cousin, written from the trenches in France during the First World War.”

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1458126-generations-of-soldiers-military-service-runs-in-the-mcgrath-family>

BB-62 Needs A Few Good Guns

The USS New Jersey, BB-62 moored at Camden NJ as a museum, needs to pick up the three original 16" barrels before they are cut up for scrap and a Quad-40 AA gun.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/new_jersey/Battleship-New-Jersey-taking-aim-at-history-Philadelphia-Navy-Yard.html

Never Too Old to have a Bucket List

Navy Veteran Donald Irwin returned to Okinawa where his WW II ship, the USS John C. Colhoun was sunk, for a visit on during a much more friendly time.

<http://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/1147335/a-wwii-veterans-journey-through-hell-and-back-to-tell-about-it/>

The P-520 – The US Army Air Corps on the Water

"This vessel is a relic of wars past, a 73-year-old former U.S. Army Air Force crash-rescue boat that served during World War II and the Korean War to save air crews whose aircraft had ditched at sea."

<http://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/tn-dpt-me-navy-craft-20170415-story.html>

2nd Oldest Pearl Harbor Veteran as of April 2017

Jim Downing is 103, the second oldest veteran still alive who was at Pearl Harbor on Dec 7, 1941.

He wrote a book and was at lunch at VFW Post 280 or food and book signing on April 22 at VFW Post 280, 1509 Ashley St in Columbia Mo.

http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/pearl-harbor-survivor-to-appear-at-vfw-post/article_0a445194-2117-11e7-a21f-779e164feb7f.html

Ball Turret Gunner Laid to Rest Honorably

Police are still investigating how he ended up in Arkansas instead of New York, but he lived a long life and survived his missions as a ball turret gunner in a B-17 during WW II.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4386620/Military-funeral-WWII-hero-body-dumped.html>

20,000 Women Volunteers for France

Considering the criteria, as for the size of the country back in 1914, that is a lot of women to pay their own way to France and Italy, and unpaid once there, to fight for the allies. Alice O'Brien was one such woman and a book about her adventures has been published.

<http://nypost.com/2017/04/15/this-heiress-risked-her-life-to-drive-cars-in-world-war-i/>

France Issuing Commemorative Gold and Silver Coins for WW I

One for each year, 1917s version has planes and tanks.

<http://www.coinworld.com/news/world-coins/2017/04/france-marks-world-war-i-centennial-on-silver-gold-coins.html>

The Battle Of Monte Cassino – January thru May 1944

The battle was really a battle of many nations – Italy was the only area where every western nation (except Mexico, their fighter unit was in the Philippines) for the allied cause actually had units in combat.

<https://sofrep.com/79384/monastery-green-devils/>

A Member of the “Devil’s Brigade”

Ray Buchholz of Nashua died on March 31, 2017 at age 95 in Iowa City. He was one of the few thousand who served in the U.S.-Canada First Special Service Force during WW II – now known at the US Army Special Forces.

“There was seven of us, and I was driving. And they all got killed but me,” Buchholz said. Neeseman was following behind in an ambulance. “He told me later I went 50 feet up in the air and came down and still had the steering wheel in my hand. And they couldn’t get the steering wheel out of my hand until I came to. I came to enough to release the wheel.”

http://wcfcourier.com/news/opinion/editorial/wwii-hero-revered-in-america-and-italy/article_feee67a6-d6df-5c0f-806d-ef183ec7eee4.html

Cascade Warbirds awards 2017 scholarships

Five different people got scholarship awards from the chapter. Cascade Warbirds is Squadron #2 of EAA Warbirds of America.

<http://www.nwnews.com/index.php/local/applause/14535-cascade-warbirds-awards-2017-scholarships-honors-vets-woodinville-resident-is-recipient>

Clifton James from two James Bond Films Dead at 96

He died in Gladstone, Oregon, from diabetes complications. He was the tough talking sheriff in two James Bond Films: Live and Let Die and The Man with the Golden Gun. He served in World War II in 1942 as a soldier with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific, receiving two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/35158319/clifton-james-sheriff-in-2-james-bond-films-dies-at-96>

Lt. Col. Dick Cole at 101 is the Last of the Doolittle Raiders

On the 75th Anniversary of the B-25 Raid that sank The Empire of Japan, will be at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio April 17 & 18th.

<http://www.daily-chronicle.com/2017/04/17/last-doolittle-raider-101-recalls-world-war-ii-attack-75-years-later/aejnwp7/>

How To Fly 400 Miles and Arrive With-in 1 minute of a planned Rendezvous – in 1943

Hard pressed to do it now – back then it was un-heard of. But that is what P-38s the US Army Air Force did in April of 1943 and shot down Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-the-us-assassinated-the-japanese-admiral-who-planned-20202>

Uniforms On Display

Starting as a hobby it is now a full time restoration and display of military uniforms from the "average joe" to the famous.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2017/04/15/veterans-national-military-archives-korean-war-palm-springs-air-museum/97839230/>

Known but Unmarked WW I Soldier May get His Veterans Headstone

Dying from wounds from gas and machine gun fire Pvt. Elmer Charboneau was initially buried in France but the family requested he be returned and buried at home. Then the whole family died of various diseases by 1935. Only a family member can request a veteran's headstone. Then a historian found out about him.

"Kavan Stull, the Oronogo historian, said he contacted a VFW post in Sandy, Oregon, where the man lived and they helped Stull get in touch with the relative."

<http://www.carthagepress.com/news/20170419/world-war-i-centennial-world-war-i-veteran-lies-in-unmarked-carterville-grave>

"Victory Day" in Canada can be Awkward

VE Day in Europe for the West is May 8th ("Hooray, Hooray for the 8th of May" Outdoor Sex Starts Today) but for those who now live in the west who left the USSR to live here it is May 9th –the Soviets would lose 600 more soldiers in Silesia on May 9th before the Germans finally surrendered there. Consequently, V-E Day is not celebrated until the ninth in Moscow. The initial surrender occurred in Rheims France on May 8th.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/victory-in-europe>

New Book: "Tin Can Titans"

The book is all about Destroyer Squadron 21 fighting in the Pacific in WW II. Except for two battles, Palau and the Marianas, they were in every single major, and numerous smaller battles, from 1942 till the end of the war.

<https://spectator.org/haze-gray-and-underway-americas-destroyers-in-the-pacific-war/>

How To Sink A Modern Carrier – No One Knows

Many carriers were sunk during WW II starting with a British carrier HMS Courageous in 1939, and the last one was crippled while at anchor being the IJN Amagi in June of 1945. Since then none have even been damaged by enemy action so what it would take to even disable a true carrier is unknown.

<http://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/what-it-would-really-take-to-sink-a-modern-aircraft-car-1794182843>

Imperial War Museum Book of Color Photos from WW II

Color film was around during WW II, Germany had AGFA which owned the patent rights to its version (which we later confiscated as war reparations and gave the rights to it out to all for free) while the US had Kodachrome and the UK had its own version of color film. But it was expensive so rarely issued to anyone. IWM has collected some of the best stills and put them into a new book covering all aspects of WW II.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/rare-second-world-war-colour-photographs-revealed-1.3054361>

A Statue for Sgt. Carter

As the suffering Sgt. Carter (Frank Suttons) who is in charge of Gomer Pyle (Jim Nabors) is what he is best known for in his acting roles. He was in the Army in the South Pacific during WW II.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/news/local/clarksville/2017/04/20/sgt-carter-statue-unveiled-downtown-saturday/100697768/>

An English Woman Caught up in the War by Marrying A German

When an Australian woman marries a German and now is in Germany when WW II starts the internal struggles remain forever.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-24/grandad-german-soldier-struggle-to-come-to-terms-with-the-past/8449260>

A Novel of a True Story

When you want to write a true history book but cannot due to the shyness of publishers and inability to verify all the facts you turn it into a novel using the known facts you know to be true. Mark Sullivan took the true story of an Italian driver shuttling around German Generals, who was really a spy.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/bozeman-writer-captures-story-of-young-italian-hero-in-world/article_b8a25102-1ba7-5105-a57e-dcefe79b5e8d.html

WW I Kills California Pilot

Javier Fernando Arango was flying his replica Nieuport 28 when he lost control and crashed. It is painted in the colors of the 94th Fighter Squadron – the “Hat in the Ring” squadron. Nieuports were known for shedding their upper wings in a power dive but this seems to be a case of a stall / spin based on the photo.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/pilot-killed-crash-replica-wwi-era-plane-california-46985577>

WW I Battleground Training Site Found Under the Land

WW I was a battlefield of trenches and tunnels. How do you train for tunnel fighting? By making soldier build tunnels first then train in them.

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/apr/24/first-world-war-training-tunnels-and-trenches-discovered-in-wiltshire#img-1>

Memphis Belle update

The B-17F Memphis Belle has been undergoing a complete restoration since 2005 when the Air Force took it back due to the neglect it has been subject to in Memphis.

Of note, the museum has 11 hours of color outtakes that never made it into the Memphis Belle movie of 1944 to properly paint the aircraft back to the 1943 colors.

It is scheduled to be completely restored and on display – but not allowed to fly – on May 17, 2018 on the 75th anniversary of its 25th combat mission.

<http://www.npr.org/2017/04/22/525106154/at-75-a-world-war-ii-legend-gets-a-full-makeover>

It is Tour Season for Warbirds of the Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour

They are traveling up the West Coast – No Zeros in sight.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170417/rare-world-war-ii-aircraft-tour-comes-to-san-bernardino-international-airport>

Mining WW II Arms from an Old Salt Mine

The USSR did not destroy captured weapons like the US & England did and still does, they sent them to arsenals and reworked them to “as new” condition and then stored them. The USSR breakup and subsequent re-creation of prior nations meant that all those stored arms are now theirs. It costs money to destroy them, and you make money when you sell them. But to whom you sell 75 year old weapons is a problem with UN treaties and such – so crime syndicates steal them and they make the money.

<http://micetimes.asia/walter-in-translation-from-ukrainian/>

Remember the USS Ward

The USS Ward DD-139, was the first group of US personnel to engage the Japanese by sinking a midget submarine on December 7, 1941. Though the US Navy did not give them credit saying that a bunch of reservists from Minnesota could not hit a sub that small in a rolling ocean on the move. It was found 2 years ago with a 5” shell through the conning tower.

On December 7, 1944, the USS Ward was hit by a Kamikaze and with an uncontrollable fire on it and ordered to be sunk by another destroyer in the group. The commander of that other ship was Capt. William W. Outerbridge – who had been the CO of the Ward on December 7, 1941.

The original 3” gun that sunk the sub is now in Minnesota on the grounds of the capital St Paul.

Agent Orange Exposure

A Vietnam Veterans of America book is out that details how people who were, or maybe were, exposed to Agent Orange (plus the other two defoliants that were used) to apply for VA disability benefits. Even if previously denied, new data has shown that where the military THOUGHT where agent orange was used and previously denied was wrong. It was also just dumped randomly when the assigned mission could not be carried out so they just sprayed it on unlogged alternate areas.

There is even a case where submarine personnel were exposed – they landed troops who went through areas and came back on board – and of course their clothes were covered in it and spread in the ship.

POC for Oregon is Jerry G. Craig, 503-659-1300. Web-americanleigonpost180.org.

August 13 At Willamette National Cemetery at 11 AM

The Spirit of '45, a local Oregon organization, has organized a ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery on the anniversary of the end of WW II.

They are trying to get photos from any veteran, living or dead, from WW II. You can upload the photo so that they can create a Wall of Honor for those who served 1941-45.

<http://www.orspiritof45.org/>

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is May 12, 2017

Remaining Dates in 2017 are, August 12 and November 4^h

May 12, 2017 Program

George Bickford, commissioned in 1942 Naval Aviator, now retired, will be the featured speaker. He was a class ahead of John Glenn and President George Bush. He developed the Naval instrument flight course and pioneered other items like ILS landings approaches. He has over 15,000 hours in the air.

Food for the Meeting YOU MUST CALL IN

The May food menu is a sandwich type meal will be available at the Beaverton Elks lodge. ***YOU MUST CALL*** if you are planning to eat contact Tom Philo via email at secretary@8thafhsoregon.com or phone him at 503-591-3227 – again ***ONLY*** if you are planning to purchase a meal.

There is no cost to attend the meeting and it is open to the public

Oregon Chapter Executive Board Meetings

All members can attend any Executive board meeting. The Board meets at the Elks Lodge three Saturdays before the regular membership meeting. If you can spare up to 2 hours between 10 AM and Noon you can also join the board and help make our chapter a continuing success.

Send Stories and documents to be Borrowed / Archived

If you have items that you wish to share with others, they can be loaned to the Oregon Chapter, scanned and catalogued and then returned to you. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter if you wish. Contact Tom Philo to make arrangements for the documents.

Items in the archive are usually be posted onto the web site (see release form on web site) so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

Secretary 8th AFHS of Oregon
Tom Philo
17502 SW Kimmel Ct
Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877
secretary@8thafhsoregon.com
<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com>

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