

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for November 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.

Bataan: 5 Months of Fighting Defeats and a few Victories

It is often said that battles are won before they are fought based on logistics and training. Both were lacking in the Philippines in 1941.

<http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/rising-sun-descending-darkness/>

A “40 or 8” Moves on Rails Again

This time by being put on a truck to a new set of rails in Bishopville.

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article176993706.html>

WW I and WW II Saw the Widest use of Motorcycles

And to spur recruitment into the military the British started a little demonstration unit. Now after 90 years, it goes away.

Like message runners, dispatch riders often did not live long in combat areas. Enemy fighters often would single them out over trucks on any road.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4936668/Farewell-Red-Arrows-Wheels.html>

Don't Fence Me In

Built over the old WW II Internment Camp at Tule Lake, the airport wants / has to build a fence around the airfield for both security and safety, but the relatives of the people who were interned there from 1942 thru 1946 want to roam the old building foundations without having to pass through an airport controlled gate.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article176447971.html>

Night Witches – The Play

Inspired by the true combat exploits of the USSR's all-Female 122 Air Group from 1942 thru 1945. The three squadrons started their combat careers over Stalingrad.

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2017/10/04/night-witches-new-play-wwii-soviet-female-fighter-pilots-workshop-local-airports-hylton-performing-arts-center/>

A Concise read of The Political History of Russia in St Petersburg - 1860s to 1917

A long multi-page long article that succinctly explains Russia political history in an easy understandable way.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-ever-happened-to-russian-revolution-180964768/>

US WW I Centennial Coin Revealed

The real US Mint will be producing the 100 year WW I anniversary dollar coins starting next year.

For once they actually picked a good design for the dollar coin.

<https://coinweek.com/us-mint-news/u-s-mint-unveils-winning-designs-world-war-centennial-silver-dollar/>

A German POW Returns to Fort Lewis

Captured in Normandy in June of 1944 after his tank was knocked out, he ended up as a POW in Fort Lewis. He came back to visit his old barracks, still there, this year at the age of 91.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article177972456.html>

WW II SAS Medals of Lieutenant James Riccomini Auctioned

Killed in 1945 behind the lines in Italy while on a mission, his military awards will be set onto the auction block in 2017.

<http://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/medals-nottingham-born-sas-hero-590797>

A World Tour from a B-25

At 21 Jim Moore was to command pilot of a B-25 which took him around world – but not in the same direction. Like The Hobbit, he went there and back again.

<http://www.swtimes.com/news/20171009/fort-smith-world-war-ii-veteran-last-original-pilot-of-184th-squadron>

Madam Curie's Battlefield X-Ray Machines of WW I

When you have a tool but no one trained to use it what did she do? She set up a school to train people in X-Ray technology, photography, driving, and sent them to the French hospitals to X-Ray patients so surgeons knew where to operate.

<https://phys.org/news/2017-10-marie-curie-x-ray-vehicles-contribution.html>

October 15, 1917 Mata Hari Faces a French Firing Squad – Without a Blindfold

Accused of being a double agent, but no real proof has ever been revealed, she was executed by the French outside of Paris in Vincennes.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/a-recap-of-mata-haris-life-the-ultimate-seductive-spy-who-was-as-famous-as-madonna/articleshow/61037642.cms>

Book Review: Code Girls

War brings out opportunities where none existed before. In the USA it meant 10,000 women went from home work to code work deciphering Italian, German and Japanese Codes.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/the-brilliance-of-the-women-code-breakers-of-world-war-ii/2017/10/06/ec64ca8a-9e2c-11e7-9c8d-cf053ff30921_story.html?utm_term=.7a3aa93b9e5a

From the Ukraine, to Philadelphia to Italy and Back Again

Martin Gelman's parents emigrated out of the Ukraine after Russia dropped out of WW I and was raised in Philadelphia, but when WW II arrived seen he joined the Army Air Force and became a navigator in a B-24 flying out of Italy – never quite making it back to the Ukraine on a bombing mission – but he came close.

Only those in the 8th AF ever landed in the Ukraine during a shuttle mission.

<http://jewishexponent.com/2017/10/11/renowned-psychologist-montgomery-county-community-college-professor-dies-96/>

The OODA Loop—Observe, Orient, Decide, Act – And Time

In one of the more famous 1960s era Star Trek episode Cap Kirk is battling a Gorn on a planet and the crew of the Enterprise is watching Kirk solve problems. The Gorn is much stronger, but slower than Kirk, and but the captain has a plan and Spock states that Kirk can win if he has the time. Time and the OODA Loop ends up being a critical factor in a year long, or minute long, battle.

"More targets were struck across Iraq from the air in the first 24 hours of Operation Desert Storm in 1991 (152 separate targets) than the Eighth Air Force had been able to hit in its first year of operation over Europe in 1942 and 1943."

<http://www.css.ethz.ch/en/services/digital-library/articles/article.html/8ca7e10e-a3d2-4aaa-860c-8e0dc41b558a>

Paul Murphy – USS Indianapolis Survivor

He was featured in the Discovery Channel search for the ship in 2014, but only discovered this year by Paul Allen's Search Team, but died in February so he never knew that it was finally found – over 5,000 feet down in the Pacific.

http://www.swnewsmedia.com/chanhassen_villager/news/lost-now-found-local-connection-to-the-discovery-of-historic/article_768d8d3e-2745-5c59-b386-8d3265ff7656.html

Fly Enough Missions You Get To Become A Crew Chief

Drafted before Pearl Harbor, which mean he went through the rigorous and extended technical aircraft training which was standard before the war, he was deemed too valuable of a technician and thus was promoted to fix the B-26s that he had been flying in after just 7 combat missions in North Africa.

<http://newschannel9.com/features/price-of-freedom/wwii-veteran-remembers-more-than-three-years-fighting-in-north-africa-and-across-europe>

Shot down in February 1945 His B-24 was discovered in the Waters off Italy in 2015

Clarence Dragoo was the navigator in the 716th Bomber Squadron, 449th Bombardment Group 15th Air Force on missions into Southern Europe and Southern Germany till he was shot down. His plane was damaged by flak and was last seen still descending as the rest of the bomb group pulled away heading back to their base in Grottaglie, Southern Italy.

<http://www.progress-index.com/news/20171010/after-72-years-jackson-county-world-war-ii-hero-is-coming-home>

Ignorance of history knows no borders

If you live in the Soviet Union people have no real idea of the date that WW II started. It Depends.

<https://scout.com/military/warrior/Article/Report-Only-40-Percent-of-Russians-Believe-the-Nazi-Soviet-Pact--109070112>

Capt. Robert “Bob” Manning Gray B-25 Raider

Surviving the raid and his bailout over China he was killed when his aircraft crashed into the Himalaya mountains just six months later.

http://kdhnews.com/fort_hood_herald/across_the_fort/killeen-hero-killed-in-action-years-ago-today/article_d8310b32-b37b-11e7-9548-8ba0a1f509cf.html

What Does Chanel No 5 – A Counter-Intelligence Officer - An Allied Prison Camp - Mudyug Island - all have in Common? 1918 Russia

Seemingly random connections end up having surprising ramifications once you connect the dots.

Not mentioned in the article is that US Soldiers were also involved for two years in 1918-1920.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-41271418>

A Kingfisher Taxi Rescue to the USS Tang

WW II aircraft patrol duty was 99% of the time boring. But searching the ocean on seemingly endless patrols found the Japanese fleet at Midway, Eddie Rickenbacker, air crews (both enemy and friendly) and crews of torpedoed ships.

Kingfishers were the slowest of the slow.

<http://www.avgeekery.com/voughts-kingfisher-floatplane-was-slow-but-it-saved-many-wwii-crews/>

October 24, 1951 Formal End of State of War with Germany

Though Unconditional Surrender of Germany to the Allies occurred on May 8, 1945, the diplomatic end of war between the USA and Germany did not occur till October 24, 1951. The USSR did not formally end the War with Germany till 1955 – which is why the last German POWs were not sent back to Germany by the USSR till 1956 (1.5 million returned home out of the 2.5 million captured – the rest were killed / died while captured.)

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/24/truman-officially-ends-us-hostility-with-germany-oct-24-1951-243995>

Firing the 1st AEF Shell at the German Lines in WW I

In a modern war a person will just press a button, but back in WW I it was a lanyard. “Sgt. Alexander L. Arch of South Bend pulled the lanyard on a 75-mm artillery gun near the small village of Rechicourt in northeast France, firing a shell into German territory.”

https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/history/ceremony-to-honor-south-bend-soldier-who-fired-first-american/article_3e6a73cc-0ae7-5ff1-8191-46ded549d509.html

Restoring The B-17E “Desert Rat”

A decade's long restoration is getting close to being airworthy. ... “will be the oldest Flying Fortress in the skies when she finally flies, although this record may eventually be surpassed by a B-17C which the team also has on the books.”

<http://www.warbirdsnews.com/aircraft-restoration/desert-rat-restoration-update.html>

Late Arrival Did Not lessen the Danger

John N. Rosati when he flew his first Privateer combat mission in July of 1945 in the Pacific did not mean the Japanese were defeated – their destroyers and aircraft still shot back.

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/10/29/salute-oct-30-2017-wwii-navy-aviator-grieves-loss-2-brothers-killed-war-japanese-helped-kill/>

Telling the Truth Will Get you Killed in NAZI Germany

Living under a true totalitarian government is not easy – accept it or speak out. Speak out, and get noticed when doing so, usually results in your death. Helmuth Hübener spoke out, was tried in the “People’s Court” (sham trial) and was executed in 1942 for doing so.

<http://www.history.com/news/meet-the-youngest-person-executed-for-defying-the-nazis>

A Mis-Understood battle? Kursk

In July 1943 the Germans launched a battle at an obvious location and expected a 1941 style victory in 1943 – forgetting that the USSR military, and Stalin, had learned some things since June of 1941.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/why-the-battle-kursk-might-just-be-the-most-misunderstood-22931?page=show>

Two WW I Garhwal Rifles Soldiers to be Repatriated to India

Killed in combat during WW I, they were discovered during routine ground excavation in France. A British soldier, and a German, were also discovered.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/india-to-bring-back-remains-world-war-i-soldiers-who-fought-for-british-indian-army-against-germans-in-france-4181509.html>

Literally On the Wing With A Prayer

What do you do when a fuel line is damaged and a fire breaks out on the wing of your Wellington bomber at night? You crawl out onto the wing and put it out.

<http://www.wearethemighty.com/history/that-time-a-wwii-bomber-pilot-climbed-onto-the-wing-mid-flight-to-save-his-crew>

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is November 4, 2017

Remaining Meeting Date in 2017 is November 4^h

PROGRAM: Veterans Discussion Panel

We have to have 5 to 7 WW II veterans on the panel.

If you ever wondered about some aspect of WW II aviation then you can send your question in advance to: secretary@8thafhsoregon.com and we will assemble the questions received to ask the panel. You can also ask questions during the meeting. Tom Davis will be the emcee of this meeting.

25th Anniversary of the Oregon Chapter!!!

Cake will be provided to celebrate.

Food for the Meeting YOU MUST CALL IN \$18.00 Hot Meal

The food menu is a hot type meal will be available at the Beaverton Elks lodge. ***YOU MUST CALL*** in by ***November 1*** 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.

3464 SW 106th Ave
Beaverton, OR 97005
<http://beavertonelks.org/>

Annual Dues are due - \$15 can be paid at the meeting.

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>

The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit 503(c) with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.

The Oregon 8thAFHS maintains a person on the club roster for up to two years even if they had not renewed, or if the original member is deceased their next of kin will continue to receive all club mailings, before they are removed them from the club roster.

If a person wishes to receive the club mailed newsletter and meeting notice they need to submit the membership form along with the yearly \$15.00 dues (pro-rated if necessary) to become a member of the chapter.