

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society  
*History News for March 2018*



**History News → Readers, where's your story?**

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

## **Sierra Sue II P-51 Mustang Flies Over Superbowl**

This Mustang saw combat in the MTO during WW II.

<http://warbirdsnews.com/warbirds-news/wings-of-the-north-p-51-mustang-to-lead-super-bowl-iii-flyover.html>

## **Not Leading from Behind**

Unlike many modern politicians who talk big but stay back (and their kin), the sense of Duty was a lot more pronounced, and performed, prior to the 1950s.

A book about UK MPs who fought in WW I has been published written by Neil Thorton: *Led by Lions MPs and Sons who Fell in the First World War*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5324925/The-politicians-went-fight-WWI.html>

## **A Little Rain on the Parade and John F Kennedy Lives**

When you read a lot of history there are many, many, cases where just the right amount of rain can change the course of history.

<http://kut.org/post/how-weather-can-shape-course-history>

## **Blue Light Nights**

During the war of 1812 naval battles were actually common. However, once trapped how does a naval vessel escape the larger fleet? Stephan Decatur never could due to blue lights.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/20180204/historically-speaking-traitor-or-spy-thwarted-naval-heros-escape>

## **Malvern Hill – Battlefield of 3 Wars Becoming a Park**

Malvern Hill Farm is the only documented place in the United States to see troop activity during three major wars: the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

<http://www.nbc12.com/story/37432144/non-profit-buys-historic-malvern-hill-farm-connected-to-several-battles-in-va>

## **Fake News of 1898**

"You get to Havana I will the provide the war."

<https://wtop.com/national/2018/02/a-century-ago-progressives-were-the-ones-shouting-fake-news/>

## **Media Cover-ups → of WW II**

News reporting has *always* been slanted. The reporter in the field has their own bias as to what they like to report and how to report it. The news aggregator has an idea as to what it can sell to the media (any type) as interesting that they will pay for it; the media then filters out what they want to print / view to fit their own bias of the information; then the final consumer will filter out by what media they choose to look at. Here are some examples of cover-up bias reporting from the WW II era.

<http://www.wnd.com/2018/01/6-wwii-media-cover-ups/>

## **The Bombing of German Military Targets in France in WW II**

USSR, Germany, Poland, Italy, and Japan all had extensive damage caused by aerial bombing of targets – but France suffered extensive damage caused by USA and British bombing of German units in towns but more often by bombing of rail, river, and road targets in cities.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/why-did-america-bomb-france-world-war-ii-24120?page=show>

## **Growing Up in Germany During WW II**

From the time that Hitler assumed power a nationwide effort to teach and indoctrinate children into both National Socialism was started and from 1940 onwards having all people under 18 work in the war effort in some way occurred. Christine Grothouse was one such girl who went through all this as well as losing her ancestral home to the Russians, then to Poland, when she escaped to the West in 1945.

<http://www.delphosherald.com/Content/News/Community-News/Article/Young-German-girl-recalls-Hitler-s-reign-World-War-I/191/1185/205661>

## **March Field California – 100 Years of Military Aviation**

Reading about March Field air base always entails a who's who of US Military aviators who either trained there, or commanded there, after it was created as a U.S. Army Signal Corps airfield in 1918.

<https://www.pe.com/2018/01/27/march-field-marks-100-years-with-exhibit-of-photos-artifacts-and-surprises/>

## **Last Mission Before Going Home – To Stalag Luft I**

Shot down on mission number 35 – the normal magic number saying your bomber tour in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF was over from 1944 onwards – Irwin Stovroff instead ended up at the "Rest Haven on the Baltic" – Stalag Luft I.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/palm-beach/boca-raton/fl-pn-obit-stovroff01182018-story.html>

## **18 Missions till 2<sup>nd</sup> Schweinfurt**

For 8<sup>th</sup> AF crews flying B-17 missions in 1943 a crewman was very unlikely to complete their 25 mission tour – Bill Davidson was one of those who got to 18 till the “Black Thursday” mission to Schweinfurt on October 14 , 1943 when his B-17 was one of 60 shot down. He then went to Stalag Luft III to earn his promotions until the war ended. [Editor’s note: While a POW Americans still got promoted in rank when the minimum time to the next rank was reached. Thus, you could be captured as a private and released as a Sergeant if a POW long enough.]

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/local/this-purple-heart-awarded-american-hero-was-pow-polandbefore-thriving-middletown/8a2iJIUaHowWSoulB7Z19I/>

## **A Toggler for “Cover Girl”**

By the middle of 1943 the 8<sup>th</sup> AF no longer had a true bombardier in every B-17 doing an individual aim and bomb drop. They had converted to have the whole squadron drop when the lead plane salvoed so the number of bombardiers in training was cut for B-17s, and other crewmembers became “toggler”. These crewmen were taught how to open the bomb bay and drop the bombs when the lead ship in their formation dropped. Carl Landwehr was one such rear gunner who became a toggler.

<http://www.newstribune.com/news/local/story/2018/feb/05/crewmember-of-b-17-flying-fortress-killed-in-mission-over-europe-in-wwii/712119/>

## **Situational Allies**

How a German Major and a few German soldiers, Eastern European Partisans, the US Army, helped hold off an SS attack on French Political Prisoners at the end of WW II in Austria.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/fact-us-nazi-soldiers-fought-allies-once-during-world-war-ii-20533?page=2>

## **Internment Of Japanese During WW II Harmed The War Effort**

When President Roosevelt ordered the internment of all Japanese – US Citizen or not - west of the Mississippi due to fears of them being a “5<sup>th</sup> Column” – he also caused a food shortage that lasted throughout the war.

<https://qz.com/1201502/japanese-internment-camps-during-world-war-ii-are-a-lesson-in-the-scary-economics-of-racial-resentment/>

## **Going to War In A Cargo Plane**

Most US Troops went to their assigned unit by getting on a ship that sailed to a port then a train to their base. In the China theatre, you got to the war in a cargo plane flying over “The Hump”. You take off in the tropics, watch it snow in the cargo plane, then land back in the tropics. They never bothered to tell the “cargo” that they were going to get cold on the five-hour long flight into China.

[http://www.henryherald.com/a-veteran-s-story-snowing-inside-the-cargo-plane/article\\_fcd14132-efbe-5be1-bae7-c0c293660307.html](http://www.henryherald.com/a-veteran-s-story-snowing-inside-the-cargo-plane/article_fcd14132-efbe-5be1-bae7-c0c293660307.html)

## **The 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in Italy**

Parts of the 92 ID arrived in Italy in June of 1944 after the initial two years of training in the states (normal length of time for a US division), however, the division was not a

coherent unit until early 1945. The partial division was constantly “attached” to others before the other two combat commands arrived. Even then, it often had other units attached to it per common practice even after it was complete.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/military-honor/black-military-history/2018/02/14/how-the-buffalo-soldiers-helped-turn-the-tide-in-italy-during-world-war-ii/>

## **Aircraft Naming Standards in the Pacific and The Modern Version**

In The ETO enemy aircraft were ID'd and referenced by their manufacturer and model number. In the Pacific Theatre of Operations (PTO) Captain Frank McCoy in the Intelligence branch created a method to refer to enemy aircraft and it became a standard. Here is that story.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/how-us-military-nickname-enemy-aircraft-2018-2>

## **NKVD – Everywhere they Went People Went to Their Graves**

Since the founding of the USSR organized terror was the enforcer of the laws – even if you did not break any. No part of the USSR was safe from them. The current country of Belarus, which share a border with Russia now, was just one of many areas where you said anything wrong, or someone said you did, you ended up missing and dead in a remote forest.

The NKVD also was very active during WW II. In the Stalingrad city battle itself, when every soldier was needed, the NKVD still executed over 10,500 soldiers on any perceived anti-Stalin rumor, or even truth-telling in letters of how things were on the front lines.

<https://belarusdigest.com/story/stalins-victims-in-belarus-to-remain-unburied-and-nameless/>

## **British Mobile Artillery – Self Propelled Gun – of WW II**

When a British unit wanted artillery to rain down on the enemy infantry you called for God to intervene – in the British and Canadian Army you were really calling for a Bishop, a Priest or A Sexton artillery battery to come to your defense.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/these-british-howitzers-crushed-nazi-forces-24579?page=show>

## **Signed Short Snorters**

During WW II people often collected print currency from the various countries they traveled through and strung them together calling them “Short Snorters.” Sometimes, they had people, especially USO personnel and Movie Stars, sign them.

<http://www.numismaticnews.net/article/star-signatures-appear-short-snorters>

## **US Schools are not the Only Schools that no longer Teach History**

Surveys, especially political cannot always be trusted. However, non-emotional content surveys are very reliable. In England, where history was once revered and taught, seems to have fallen into the modern Liberal model where history is re-written or stated to be of no value and so wiped out of existence in schools.

“When asked to identify historic events from the First World War, 16 per cent of millennials incorrectly listed Pearl Harbour, 8 per cent Independence Day, 7 per cent the Battle of Hastings, and 4 per cent the Great Fire of London.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5415555/Half-millennials-Churchill-World-War-leader.html>

## **Raid on Darwin February 18, 1942**

The spring of 1942 was the year the Japanese Empire was making gains everywhere. The bombing of Australia's northern city of Darwin set in motion the battle of Guadalcanal. Recon planes discovered an airfield was being built there, which was much closer than the airfield used by the planes that raided Darwin in February, which forced the US to invade in order to protect Australia's supply line from the USA.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/remembering-the-darwin-bombing-76-years-on>

## **Plaque for the Crew of the I-124 in Australia**

The I-124 was a Japanese submarine that part of a coordinated attack on Darwin when it was sunk by an Australian warship. The plaque is in Darwin.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180219/p2g/00m/0dm/046000c>

## **Negotiation of Peace from Weakness**

When the Bolshevik's Delegation under Lenin refused to talk peace in 1918 they withdrew from the talks and thought revolution in all the Central Power would be the answer. Then the Germans laughed and attacked.

<http://www.centenarynews.com/article/100-years-ago-war-resumes-on-the-eastern-front>

## **The German Assault Rifle of WW I the Mauser Gewehr 98**

A dust cover, telescopic sight for sniping, and other improvements improved its functionality in 1918. This could not overcome the supply problems once a breakthrough occurred in the spring of 1918. Logistics, however mundane it may seem, still wins battles.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2018/2/21/wwi-battle-rifle-the-upgraded-mauser-gewehr-98-of-1918/>

## **B-26 Night Mission Near Caen**

Shot down between Baron-sur-Odon and Gavrus, which is around 20 miles SW of Caen in Normandy, the crew were all killed well behind German lines. The area was not taken by the British till late July 1944 during the breakout and by then all traces of the aircraft had been obliterated by the fighting that had taken place in the area.

The crew members are slowly being identified and Sgt John H Canty was ID'd on January 22, 2018.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-air-force/2018/02/07/remains-of-airman-missing-since-wwii-recovered-in-france/>

## **Soldiers from Burnley and the Victoria Cross**

Burnley, which is east of the industrial city of Blackburn in Lancashire, was a small area that paid a heavy price in WW I. However, they started long before that in the Boer War. And like some other famous people, an accident ended their lives while living through front line combat.

[http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/15989915.A\\_BOER\\_war\\_soldier\\_the\\_fir\\_st\\_from\\_Burnley\\_to\\_in\\_the\\_Victoria\\_Cross\\_for\\_valour/](http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/15989915.A_BOER_war_soldier_the_fir_st_from_Burnley_to_in_the_Victoria_Cross_for_valour/)

## **Double Medal Denied**

Awarded the Medal Of Honor in 1890 for rescuing a soldier by himself under heavy fire in the Indian Wars, he performed a similar rescue during the Spanish American War in Cuba and was denied – with the excuse being he already had one. A relative is trying to get that corrected.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/bs-fe-augustus-walley-slave-medal-of-honor-20180208-story.html>

## **Gooney Bird Restored**

Seeing it is only possible if you live in India. It was used both in WW II and in various conflicts around India. It was restored in the UK and will fly the 4800 miles to its new home.

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/acquired-from-scrap-restored-world-war-ii-era-dakota-aircraft-to-join-iaf-fleet-in-march-4349215.html>

## **London City Airport Relives WW II**

The airport was built in the 1987 in the London dock area which was heavily bombed by the German Luftwaffe in 1940. A UXB was found while doing work and so the airport had to close while they dug it up, moved it to the tidal flats, and then blew it up.

<https://sofrep.com/99673/watch-royal-navy-detonates-500-pound-wwii-bomb-found-at-london-city-airport/>

## **Book about RAF 159 Squadron in the CBI**

*Out of Sight Out of Mind* is a common phrase – and being in the CBI was both. A book about RAF Squadron 159 sheds some light on the fighting that went on in a backwater of the backwaters campaigns of WW II.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5421725/RAF-gunner-fought-Japanese-skies-Burma.html>

## **Two of a Kind – Gregory “Pappy” Boyington and Mike Kawato**

Fighter pilots both, and both teller of tall tales. Both wrote books about their WW II careers – mostly true.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/enemy-world-war-ii-fighter-pilots-told-a-gripping-tale-of-peril-and-reconciliation-and-then-there-was-the-truth/>

## **Camp Hearne – POW Camp in Texas**

What do you do when you capture 90,000 plus AXIS troops in North Africa – you send them to the states.

<http://www.kagstv.com/article/news/local/stories-of-camp-hearne-inside-wwii-pow-camp/499-522302435>

### ***Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS***

***Next Chapter meeting May 12, 2018***

### **NEED A NEW Treasurer!**

Tom & Diane are planning to move out of Oregon and thus will no longer be able perform any of the Treasurer position functions.

Per Oregon Non-Profit rules – no Treasurer no Non-Profit! It is a required position in order to exist.

Thus, the chapter needs a person(s) to step up and take over the duties. The main duty is collecting food money at the meeting and sending out membership notices and collecting the yearly dues. You also get to attend the board meetings!

*Reminder – 18 people have yet to renew for this year!*

If you can perform this duty, please contact any board member or Tom directly!

Treasurer 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS of Oregon  
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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.

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