

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for June 2018



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.

B-17 "Preston's Pride" To Be Restored to Static Display

Completed on May 18, 1945, "Preston's Pride" did not get a chance to see action in WWII but it played an important part in the period after the war: It was the "mother ship" that remotely controlled twelve other B-17s in a 1946 experiment involving nuclear weapons. The B-17s tested the fallout from nuclear explosions above a fleet of ships in the Marshall Islands.

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/volunteers-restore-wwii-era-b-17.html>

Collings Foundation Tour Dates Oregon and Washington

Oregon

North Bend June 11-13

Corvallis June 13-15

Aurora June 15-17

Washington

Bremerton June 18-20

Burlington June 20-22

Seattle June 25-28

Spokane June 15-28

https://www.collingsfoundation.org/events/category/wings-of-freedom-tour/list/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=past

An Article On Why Japan Lost WW II in the Pacific

Not just on the ground, but in the production lines at home.

<http://www.combinedfleet.com/economic.htm>

Chief Gunner's Mate John Henry "Dick" Turpin Honored

Unlike most black navy men, he was in the thick of action from the start of his Naval career - in the 1890s.

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/2018/03/30/northwest-chief-petty-officers-honor-dick-turpin/463557002/>

Trekking to Personalize WW II History

His father was 49th Fighter Group ace John G. "Jump" O'Neill and he flew in the 9th Air Force in the South Pacific. This alone makes things really difficult to learn anything since local people almost never existed on many islands and those that did were almost always ignored by all sides with any real information or had any interaction with the locals.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/america/040418/son-treks-mountains-for-lost-hero-dad.html>

Freedom of the City on RAF Gibraltar

First there was a balloon unit in 1903 and then in the 1930s someone realized they had to have an airbase which was finished in 1936.

<http://vox.gi/cms/local/11405-govt-motion-to-confer-freedom-of-the-city-on-raf-gibraltar.html>

A Museum for General Carl "Tooey" Spaatz

Plans are in the works to have a museum dedicated to him opened by August 2018.

<http://www.wfmz.com/news/berks/wwii-museum-dedicated-to-gen-spaatz-planned-for-boyertown/724730057>

Converting Ships into War Ships

Governments taking over private ships to help in wartime is nothing new. But some ships were best left as they were and should not be converted. The St. Paul was one of those ships.

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-moment-the-st-paul-was-an-ocean-liner-with-a-cursed-history/478918433/>

Striking a Ships Colors

For hundreds of years only when a captain of a ship lowers his colors would the ship surrender – and many would lower the colors and destroy the flag rather and let it be captured. The US Naval Academy actually has a captured British Flag in its collection which is now on display.

http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/naval_academy/ac-cn-british-royal-standard-0406-story.html

Admiral Sir George Cockburn – The Sailor Who Burned Washington – in 1814

Britain was a naval power and it used its navy very well in many wars. The war of 1812 was no different where it would sail into the USA, land and raid and return to the sea to land somewhere else. That is how they got to both Baltimore and Washington DC.

<https://usa.spectator.co.uk/2018/04/who-is-the-real-cockburn/>

Trying to Find a National Historic Register item – that Flies Away

Most USA Items on the register are pretty easy to find – but a TBF Avenger that is flyable and goes on tour makes it harder to find it sometimes on a map.

https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/wwii-torpedo-bomber-named-to-national-register-of-historic-places/article_f358c45c-4072-11e8-92af-10604b9ffe60.html

Keeping a Promise - Winton Churchill Made Good on it 10 Years Later

Most of the time people will make a promise and you don't expect them to keep it but you do them a favor anyway. Winton Churchill made a promise, as a civilian war correspondent, and he kept it, but it took him years to get it done. But he did.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5626473/How-Winston-Churchill-secured-Boer-War-railway-crew-bravery-medal.html>

An Old Suitcase and a WW I Story Yet to be Told

In "Raiders of the Lost Arc" the German archeologist makes the statement that something common, left for a thousand years and dug up, becomes invaluable. It does not take that long of time and a suitcase closed up in 1932 with WW I items opened now is just as valuable as an 1000 year old relic.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/17/suitcase-of-first-world-war-mementos-could-unravel-mystery-of-forgotten-soldier>

Wanting to be an UNESCO World Heritage Site

Cork Harbour wants itself, and surrounding military and naval areas be listed with UNESCO.

Course with it comes many restrictions as to what you can do with it once granted so be careful if you get it and the tourists come to visit.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/bid-for-unesco-recognition-of-cork-harbour-sites-469353.html>

Gandhi Statue Demanding to be Removed

At Carlton University some students are demanding that his statue be removed from campus. Gandhi is often mentioned as a role model of resistance to accomplish goals. But people forget a person is also a product of their time and they have to use the current norms to accomplish their goals – and often their norms is not what is accepted now.

<https://sikhsiyasat.net/2018/04/11/students-demand-removal-of-gandhi-statue-at-carleton-university/>

Rough Riders Visit The Philippines

The USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier stopped off for a visit in April.

"Rough Riders refers to sailors, marines and officers serving aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt; they take their name from a famed regiment led by Roosevelt, a famed

cavalry officer who fought during the Spanish-American War of 1898." When the Rough Riders went to war in the Spanish American War they left their horses in Florida and only the Officers and medical corps had any horses in Cuba.

<https://gulfnews.com/news/asia/philippines/another-us-carrier-visits-the-philippines-1.2203947>

B-17 “Lone Wolf” Wreckage Found in France

A photograph from 1957 shows a wreck that looks like a B-17 and a local farmer has been digging the site for the past 6 years. Alfred “Al” Kramer was 23 when he was shot down by a Luftwaffe pilot in 1943.

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2018/04/22/newly-discovered-plane-parts-rekindle-tale-of-waterville-man-bailing-out-of-wwii-bomber-over-france/>

No Aviation Movies for Clint Eastwood

Of all the movies that Clint Eastwood has made none are aviation centered. Maybe this is why.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/40559697/this-underwater-drone-could-find-the-lost-plane-clint-eastwood-crashed-in-66-years-ago>

Shot Down in “Little Girls”

2nd Lt. Ed Davidson dropped bombs on target in Bordeaux France but Me-109s of JG2 damaged his aircraft so much that he had to ditch it in the Bay of Biscay.

“He estimates that “Little Girls” floated eight to 10 minutes from splash down before sinking into the depths of the Bay of Biscay.”

<http://www.thecoastnews.com/a-pilots-survival/>

How “The Dam Busters” influenced “Star Wars”

Inspiration comes from many sources, some made up, some so true people thought it was made up. The Dam Busters is one such true story that made it into Star Wars in the Trench Run scene.

<https://www.slashfilm.com/dam-busters-influenced-star-wars/>

Memphis Belle Back on Display

Rolled out on May 17, 2018, on the same day anniversary of its last combat mission in 1943, it is again on display.

<http://www.startribune.com/memphis-belle-s-rebirth-rehabbed-wwii-bomber-rolling-out/482482591/>

The CBI Leaders – Stillwell and Mountbatten

A new book is out about their time in the CBI.

[Stilwell and Mountbatten in Burma: Allies at War, 1943-1944 \(American Military Studies\)](#) (Amazon link)

Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2017. Pp. x, 216. Illus., maps, diagr., append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 157441674X

<http://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/1648.asp>

China's Aircraft Carrier goes to Sea Trials

Their first home-built carrier, prior one was bought from Russia, is on sea trials.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/china-s-first-home-built-aircraft-carrier-begins-sea-trials-1.3927401>

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – Field Doctor in the Boer War

He was a qualified doctor who went to war in 1900 as a field doctor in South Africa during the Boer War. Which is why all his medical information in all his stories is so believable – since he was a doctor while writing all the Sherlock Holmes stories.

[The Complete Sherlock Holmes \(2 Volumes\)](#) (Amazon link)

<https://www.theobjectivestandard.com/2018/05/happy-birthday-sir-arthur-conan-doyle/>

Field Gun Competition – British Style

Loading, transporting, unloading and firings a field gun is a teamwork filled task – even harder when it is pre-1900 style field gun.

<https://www.forces.net/news/taking-navy-tradition-akrotiri-team-set-field-gun-competition>

B-24 Liberator “Heaven Can Wait” Found off of New Guinea

Part of the 93rd BG “Jolly Rogers” the plane was shot down on March 11, 1944 and discovered and identified this year via [Project Recover](#). (Video on their web site.)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/28/world/asia/world-war-ii-bomber-mia-new-guinea.html>

Need a Flying Flea?

Royal Enfield is making new WW II Style motorcycles based on the British light motorcycle that fought in WW II.

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-5772703/RAY-MASSEY-Royal-Enfield-launches-military-style-bike-honours-World-War-II-hero.html>

An Old Fashion Horse Tail – British War Horses That Is

Two new books are out about those trusted mounts of the old British Military – their horses that served them well for a few centuries.

Anthony Dawson. [Real War Horses: The Experiences of the British Cavalry, 1814-1914](#). Barnsley, South Yorkshire: Pen and Sword, 2016. 256 pages. 20 illustrations.

Janet Macdonald. [Horses in the British Army, 1750 to 1950](#). Barnsley, South Yorkshire: Pen and Sword, 2017. 224 pages. 30 illustrations.

21 Escapes and No Home Run

Lieutenant Alastair Cram was captured in North Africa and spent the rest of the war escaping from various Italian and German prison camps.

" . . . he teamed up with David Stirling, the legendary founder of the SAS, to make the Cistern Tunnel escape."

[The 21 Escapes of Lt Alastair Cram: A Compelling Story of Courage and Endurance in the Second World War](#)
(Amazon link)

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/history/967934/alastair-cram-ww2-houdini-escape-gestapo-prisons>

American Battlefield Trust

It has a new name, it started out as The Civil War Trust, but now goes about saving all battlefields in the USA that are in danger of being obliterated by land development. Some of its most famous saves are at Gettysburg, Shiloh, Manassas and other areas near well populated cities that grow into the old battle fields.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/american-battlefield-trust-reaches-historic-milestone-50-000-acres-of-hallowed-ground-saved-300657768.html>

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

Next Chapter meeting August 11, 2018

Reminder – 11 people have yet to renew for this year!

Treasurer 8th 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.