

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society

History News for March 2019



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.

British Hospital Restored to Former Glory

Built for the Crimea war of 1859, the hospital and chapel, which is now restored to as it was when built, was used till the end of WW II.

<https://www.forces.net/heritage/history/sophie-countess-wessex-opens-restored-british-army-hospitals-historic-chapel>

Joining As Friends During WW I

WW I saw loads of people joining as a group to go fight in the early part of the war. Football, fraternal organizations, and whole school groups would join up as a team. And around 30% of them never returned.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/all-blacks-visit-ww1-hauntings-soldier-sculpture-in-st-stephen-s-green-1.3700182>

Memorials All Over England, France and Elsewhere

The end of the war saw almost any town with more than 100 people all over erect statues in honor of those who were killed. And anything built needs to be maintained. The 100th year on the end of the war saw many of them repaired.

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/history/sandon-war-memorials-great-war-2210106>

How WW II Changed the Public View of Fighters and Bombers

Before WW II started H G Wells movie "Things to Come" had bombers devastate cities and throwing everyone back to a "stone age". It did not come to that, but parts of Europe and Japan did look like a disaster movie set at the end of the war. No large city in Germany or Japan had more than 20% of its building left intact at the end of the war.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-world-war-ii-changed-everything-we-think-about-bombers-and-fighters-36692>

Japan's Air and Defense Slow Growth

After WW II ended one of the first things the USA did was rebuild both Japan & Germany's military. We helped with Italy but since they switched sides during the war we did not do much. Japan's constitution has LOTS of restrictions on what they could do after the war, and only now are things being changed to allow planes and ships to be built.

<https://www.defensenews.com/industry/2018/11/26/japan-at-a-crossroads-whats-keeping-its-defense-industry-from-growing/>

Boeing 747 #25 To Prima Air Museum

Not all planes are sold to airlines. Some stay with the manufacturer, others are used by support firms. GE had #25 to use to test engines.

<https://www.avgeekery.com/ges-original-classic-747-testbed-takes-one-last-flight-to-her-resting-place/>

Bailing out of a TBM – in 2018

There is a reason most WW II a/c have a plaque saying "Experimental".

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/elgin-courier-news/news/ct-ecn-elgin-plane-crash-survivor-st-1121-story.html>

Col. George Iles – POW

Having flown during 3 wars, WW II, Korea & Vietnam, he made the Air Force a career. He never flew a full tour in WW II – he was shot down and captured by Germans. "It was our first experience of being treated equally, equally bad, but equally."

<https://www.whig.com/20181126/col-george-iles-pilot-from-quincy-to-the-world#>

Presidents of War

A book about US Presidents and ability to wage war by Michael Beschloss, "Presidents of War" (Crown Books, 2018). The book explains how presidents have responded to waging war across two hundred years of U.S. history.

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/presidents-and-war-powers>

Winning the War Before the First Battle

This is a long sought objective, but few countries or Generals have accomplished this repeatedly. India did it in 1971 against Pakistan.

<https://theprint.in/opinion/even-before-1971-war-started-with-pakistan-india-had-won-the-battle/152975/>

Thrice Charmed

William Clark fought in the Boer and survived it (many men died of disease during the war) and then went to work on the Titanic – his good luck did not change.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/first-titanic-then-empress-an-irish-man-s-lucky-escapes-1.3711259>

Spitfire flown by Great Escape Pilot Flt. Lt. Alastair 'Sandy' Gunn Found in Norway

Flying a specialized Spitfire for long range recon missions he was shot down in 1942. It was capable of flying nearly 2,000 miles.

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/extremely-rare-world-war-ii-fighter-plane-discovered-on-norwegian-mountain>

Looking for Aircraft Shot Down During the Cold War

The USA sent many a/c over the USSR during the Cold War era and some of them were shot down. None were reported in the press – except Gary Powel since he was captured. Those killed were anonymous.

<https://sputniknews.com/russia/201811291070225865-us-russia-commission-spy-aircraft-cold-war/>

Recording History During Reunions

Johnny Bryant, Air force veteran from 1986 to 2006, went to the 8th AF Reunion and recorded conversations.

https://www.cdapress.com/local_news/20181201/air_force_reunion_the_bomb_for_ve_t

Exile in Paradise – St Helena

Be like Napoleon and go there and see where he stayed.

<https://www.fodors.com/news/photos/16-reasons-to-want-to-be-stranded-on-tropical-remote-saint-helena>

Star On The Mountain

During the winter months you can see a large star memorial on the mountain above the military bases outside Anchorage.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/11/29/secret-keepers-alaskas-mountain-winter-star.html>

10 US Landmarks that were Indian in Origin

When one tribe takes over another tribes area they often repurpose what was there. This occurred often in the USA.

French in British Uniforms

A British regiment made of foreigners who fought for Britain from the US Revolutionary war till 1814.

<https://www.connexionfrance.com/Community/Your-News/Join-Britain-s-only-French-regiment-under-Wellington>

Building a Messerschmitt Bf-109 G-6 – Full Size

Finding all the right parts is the main problem – and money of course.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/saskatoon-wwii-plane-aircraft-rebuild-1.4932497>

Replica ZERO Restoration

Used in the 1968 Movie TORA TORA TORA it is based in NY.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Photos-Restoring-WWII-replica-plane-once-used-13450405.php>

1898 Treaty of Paris Ended the Spanish American War

How did the USA get Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines? This is how.

<http://www.tribtoday.com/news/local-news/2018/12/1898-treaty-of-paris-is-signed/>

Isle of Wright Became an Aircraft Carrier in 1910

The first plane flew to there in 1910 and it changed island life a bit. No longer subject to seas and ships it now became possible to get to the mainland quickly.

<https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/17272353.isle-of-wight-aviators-of-great-war-remembered/>

When is it a cross and when a War Memorial?

Peace Cross round-a-bout in Bladensburg Maryland (Editor's note: I grew up 1 mile from this and routinely drove around it) is a memorial to WW I veterans. It is also on the site where in 1812 the US lost a battle to stop the British which allowed them to burn Washington DC.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2018/12/justices-to-consider-constitutionality-of-cross-shaped-war-memorial-on-public-land-in-plain-english/>

How did Camp Perry Ohio come into being?

Gen. Ammon Critchfield became a Vice President of NRA in 1906 and since the NRA was founded to ensure all Americans had a basic understanding of weapons and rifle marksmanship, he got Congress to appropriate money to create a modern rifle training center. The need was shown due to the extremely poor marksmanship shown during the Spanish American War by military recruits of the war.

<https://www.ssusa.org/articles/2018/12/6/father-of-camp-perry-ammon-critchfield/>

52 Missions in a B-25 "Desert Warrior"

As part of the 9th Air Force Ralph Lower flew B-25s and did a variety of missions – almost all medium to low altitude. "German anti-aircraft guns were very accurate. We would come home with holes in our plane almost every mission."

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/with-his-future-shaped-by-pearl-harbor-he-flew-52-missions/>

Burying the Dead English Style

Before the Boer war if you died during battle you were just left where you fell, unless you were nobility, then you would be brought back. During the Boer war the English started doing real graves for the common soldier, but where you died you were buried in a cemetery and not brought back. WW I saw the start of actually making a good

effort to recover all those who died during a war. The War Graves Commission of the UK, which Anna Durie referred to as "the most tyrannical and autocratic body of men", remained firm. The fallen were to be buried where they fell, and "some corner of a foreign field" to be their final resting place."

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/first-with-a-rifle-then-with-a-shovel-an-irishman-s-diary-on-the-postwar-battlefield-clearances-and-burials-of-the-great-war-1.3727995>

Treaty of Ghent – Ending a War

The war of 1812 never really happened – it went back to way it was before the war with no issues resolved – except the USA had new found respect in the world – and in England.

<https://www.signalsaz.com/articles/this-day-in-history-dec-24-treaty-of-ghent/>

Canadian Ensign Flag To Museum

The flag was created in 1907 before the modern Canadian Flag. A Red Ensign was famously carried by a Canadian soldier when storming Vimy Ridge, Taylor explains.

<https://cochranenow.com/local/restored-1907-canadian-red-ensign-delivered-to-museum>

Making the Cover of Life Magazine

His iconic picture was used in Life, Yank, Reader's Digest and Stars and Stripes and on a credit card for the Smithsonian World War II fighter pilot Vernon Richards.

<https://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news03/champion-historian-displays-research-on-world-war-ii-flying-ace-20181231>

20 best aviation museums around the World

According to this news channel.

<https://www.localnews8.com/lifestyle/travel/20-best-aviation-museums-around-the-world/950339727>

Some Notable US Military Veterans who Died in 2018

The oldest was Richard Overton; Overton once said the secret to his long life was smoking cigars and drinking whiskey.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/12/28/farewell-remembering-those-who-died-in-2018/>

When People Should NOT be Put in Charge of a Nation – Some Examples

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a fool as a person lacking in judgment or prudence. Let's look into history to examine what heads of state generally accepted as fools did to earn such discredit.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/opinion/20181231/lenefsky-historic-fools-as-heads-of-state>

Old Chevrolet plant in Saginaw that made bomber propellers during World War II being demolished

Once WW II started in the USA all factories were converted for war use, almost every type of civilian goods was no longer made, and thus instead of sewing machines singer made M1s, and in 1942, the former Chevrolet plant shifted its production from bumpers and bumper brackets over to propeller blades for airplanes.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw-bay-city/2019/01/old-chevrolet-plant-in-saginaw-that-made-bomber-propellers-during-world-war-ii-being-demolished.html>

XP-82 “Twin Mustang” Flying Again

Out of the 5 left in the world, only 1 can fly.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/flight/a25740504/restored-twin-mustang-flies/>

America’s Physical size Turned WW II

Due to the physical size and distance of the nation, different production methods and thoughts went into the manufacturers of everything – reason for Indy 500 racing, long distance airplane travel – hence aircraft engines – basically the need for speed in everything US. WW II production goals matched those needs for speeds.

Automobiles of the era had 15,000 parts and weighed around 3,000 pounds. Sixty-seven feet long, the B-24 had 450,000 parts and 360,000 rivets in 550 sizes, and it weighed 18 tons empty. Dwarfs, whose physical stature had limited prewar employment opportunities, toiled inside wings, fuel cells and other confined spaces.

<https://www.assemblymag.com/articles/94614-how-fords-willow-run-assembly-plant-helped-win-world-war-ii>

First Woman in the Air As a Passenger

Sarah Van Deman made her mark in aviation history Oct. 27, 1909 at College Park Maryland with Wilbur Wright on the controls.

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/vacaville/dixon-woman-first-female-plane-passenger-in-us-in-1909/>

Ever Eat Corned Beef? Thank a German Run British Financed Factory in Uruguay

Tin rations was nothing new – but making them on an industrial scale and keeping them well preserved for shipment and use years later – was.

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20190106-how-a-uruguayan-town-revolutionised-the-way-we-eat>

Learning Military Effectiveness by Prior Disaster

Using examples of failed efforts in order to prepare for the future – not repeat mistakes of the past.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/306163/learning-through-disaster>

C-47 Plans to Make Normandy in 2019

Flying a Douglas C-47 built in 1943 over to Europe is not taken on lightly. This Florida based bird is working toward that goal.

<https://www.tampabay.com/pasco/hands-on-history-group-restoring-wwii-plane-in-pasco-for-d-days-anniversary-20190114/>

WW I Dominos Continue to Fall 100 Years+ On

WW I radically changed the face of the world – creating MANY new countries out of few. Things are still changing.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/views/news/middle-east/2019/01/10/A-century-after-the-end-of-World-War-I-her-dominoes-continue-to-tumble.html>

Digging up a Shiden Kai

Unlike Europe where the air war raged on from 1939 till 1945, mainland Japan only had heavy bomber attacks since August of 1944 which were launched from China till Saipan and Tinian airbases were ready. There were sustained air attacks against northern Japan from 1943 but they were single ship, occasionally squadron level raids and were more to tie down Japanese fighters than do real damage.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901150008.html>

Trawling The English Channel

In 1987 a fishing trawler pulled up a aircraft and called the coast guard. They said if it was a WW II plane it might be a war grave, which illegal to disrube, so throw it back – it might have been Glenn Miller's aircraft.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/glenn-miller-mysterious-plane-disappearance-might-soon-be-solved/>

WASP Pilot Millicent Young Dead at 96

Driving tractors since she was 10 years of age, she knew she would have no problems flying aircraft.

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/01/15/pioneer-among-female-world-war-ii-pilots-dies-at-96/>

Capt Jerry Yellin Lead Last Mission of WW II on August 14, 1945

He flew the whole war in the Pacific flying P40s, P47s and P51s with the 78th Fighter Group. He died at the age of 93.

<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1733115/world-war-ii-fighter-pilot-ptsd-advocate-laid-to-rest-at-arlington-cemetery/>

1 of 14 Air Force Men awarded MOH During Vietnam Dead at 93

Joe Jackson started off in WW II flying and was flying C-123 transports when he earned his MOH by landing on an airfield under fire, finding 3 service men trapped there, then taking off again while under fire.

Maneuvering his cumbersome aircraft through a 270-degree roll as if it were a nimble fighter plane, Colonel Jackson leveled out just above the trees and landed on the first 100 feet of the runway, by then engulfed in smoke from burning fuel tanks.

"My answer is, 'It was the right thing to do' . . . The mission was to get the three guys, and we got out of there OK, and I'm happy. That was the limit of my thinking.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/obituaries/2019/01/20/joe-jackson-who-received-medal-honor-for-rescuing-three-men-vietnam-dies/VL6S4AKbYAXsxBxBQ1Ra3J/story.html>

A summary of WW II Related Movies / Series Released in 2016

WW II is still written and filmed about worldwide – and some of the societal perspectives is interesting when made in non-English speaking countries.

<https://www.argunners.com/war-movies-series-released-2016/>

Reconstruction a Cavalryman of Napoleon's Army

Wounded in the face, but lived, he died of other unrelated illness and was buried in a mass grave in 1812. Now they have made a digital view of what he looked like.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/danvergano/war-of-1812-soldier-face-reconstruction>

Aviation Watches – Created out of Necessity

Pocket watches are cool – but not practical when flying a plane with both hands and needing to know how long you have been flying. Thus the first wristwatch was created.

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/style/watches/01/26/19/high-time>

How Contagious Diseases Changed History

Some for the good – some for the better – depending if you lived or not.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/570491/epidemics-that-changed-history>

Authenticating Churchill

Finding a real letter / photograph of Winston Churchill can bring 6 figures.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanraab/2019/02/05/how-we-authenticated-this-autograph-of-winston-churchill-and-how-it-nearly-ended-up-in-the-trash/#5c73aa563b82>

The C96 -A Space Aged Mauser

Some firearms are timeless, and defy trends and are always useful.

https://www.claremoreprogress.com/sports/mauser-c-a-good-blaster-at-your-side/article_3e9a6c22-2673-11e9-a4ad-6f5064c5ecba.html

National Park Service Gets a new Fort

Built for the Spanish American war it is now part of the National Parks system.

<https://residentnews.net/2019/02/01/north-florida-land-trust-turns-over-spanish-american-war-fort-to-national-park-service/>

POWs in Louisiana

What to do when 30,000 Germans and 50,000 Italians surrendered in North Africa – send them to the USA.

https://www.iberianet.com/opinion/bayou-wordsmith-wwii-germans-in-our-midst/article_34c84ca8-2765-11e9-af6c-1375ef183846.html

IJN Hiei Found off of Savo Island

The first IJN battleship sunk by the US during WW II was found in 2018.

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/natural-wonders/major-wwii-shipwreck-discovered-japanese-battleship-sunk-by-us-found/news-story/8ce293b6598f2f00458705dc7b8a540d>

UXBs Closed Ciampino Airport in Rome Italy

Three bombs left over from WW II were discovered while working on the parking aprons.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2019/0207/1028184-rome-airport-bombs/>

Indian POWs IN PG 63

The North Africa battles saw prisoners on both sides routinely taken and shipped to POW camps. Those sent to Italy were, at times, able to escape. Most had to wait till the Allies liberated the camps.

<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/prisoners-of-aversa/>

120 Years Later – The Words the Same the Meanings is different and Still Raise Anger

The term “concentration camps” have different meanings now than back when it was coined before 1900. The US used the word “Internment Camp” for people locked up during WW I and WW II. Countries who locked people up without planning to feed them lead to lots of deaths due to ineptitude. That was the case, along with some malice, of the Concentration Camps used during the Boer War of 1899-1901.

<https://citizen.co.za/news/opinion/opinion-columns/2085852/concentration-camps-in-the-south-african-war-the-facts/>

Some Medals are Worth A Lot

If they were awarded to a famous person, the price goes up to be out of reach but the rare few who have tens of thousands of dollars lying around.

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/fife/837640/medals-of-fife-born-dam-buster-sell-for-20400/>

Fort Alcatraz? Before a Prison it was a Fort

Using high tech radar team finds the fort beneath the prison.

<https://expo.syracuse.com/news/g66l-2019/02/4e1a32a3416b4/binghamton-researchers-find-hidden-military-traverse-at-alcatraz-island.html>

“Ding-Hao” The only Fighter Pilot MOH Winner James Howell Howard

“While the P-51 Mustang is still widely regarded as the “best” American fighter of World War II, the aircraft has only one registered Medal of Honor recipient in the European Theater- and to make things interesting, it’s worth noting that the recipient of that award was 1) born in China, and 2) learned to fly in the Navy.”

<https://warisboring.com/remembering-james-howell-howard-only-p-51-mustang-pilot-awarded-medal-of-honor/>

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS;

Next Chapter meeting May 11, 2019

Doors open at 10 AM at the

Beaverton Elks Lodge

3464 SW 106th Ave

Beaverton, Oregon 97005-1941

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

Treasurer 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 one year 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.