

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

B-26 Pilot Found due to Local German Historian

2nd Lt. Lynn Hadfield was killed in March of 1945 when his A-26 was shot down in a mission to Dulman Germany. In December of 2018 Adolph Hagedorn, a researcher in Germany, believed he found the crash site that could be linked to Hadfield's aircraft and informed the USA.

<https://kutv.com/news/local/utah-wwii-veteran-laid-to-rest-in-bluffdale>

Surviving the Bataan Death March

Sometimes it is luck that allows you to survive. 92 Years after walking 60 odd miles after surrendering to the Japanese in 1942, Summie Riley gets a Congressional Gold Medal.

When you are a POW you get promoted and back pay if you survive. 40% of all men who surrendered / captured by Japanese troops were killed by them.

http://www.portlavacawave.com/news/around_town/courage-finally-honored/article_fe59b67a-4bfe-11e9-b752-034fc0eef57d.html

The USS Wasp – Sunk by Treaty

The 1920s Washington Naval Arms treaty is what doomed the USS Wasp to be lost in combat in 1942. Honoring and comprising ship design to meet treaty obligations made the USS Wasp vulnerable to even light damage.

At least it got the B-25s to Japan.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/uss-wasp-worst-us-navy-aircraft-carrier-world-war-ii-49107>

B-24 Lost on a Ferry Flight Found Off of Bermuda

There were many air routes to send aircraft to Europe, Newfoundland, Iceland, Ireland; Bermuda, Azores, North Africa; and Florida, Brazil, Africa. This plane crashed after takeoff and was found by a college research team.

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/wreck-of-us-wwii-b-24-bomber-discovered-74-years-after-it-plunged-into-the-sea-off-bermuda>

1000 Plane Raid in 1942

Using every available bomber that could reach the Cologne, Germany, the British staged a massive military and morale building event by sending 1,046 bombers to hit the city in an attack that lasted less than 90 minutes of bombing time. Since the city was the target, it can be stated that it was the largest single bombing raid of the war.

The USA sent over 1,000 bombers many times into Germany, but they had MULTIPLE targets that they hit, not a single "target" like the British had for their "de-housing" campaign.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/history/cologne-germany-largest-bombing-raids?rebellitem=2#rebellitem2>

Teaching Kids How to Shoot - WAVE Carolyn Scott

Unlike Germany, the USA went to war on December 8 using everyone for the war effort – including women, minorities and legally discriminated blacks – winning the war allowed them all (within some limitations of course).

"Carolyn was a good shot. She had grown up traversing the state with her parents while her dad oversaw the installation of phone lines. He taught Carolyn to shoot." Teaching people how to use firearms was normal back in the 30s, vastly different than today.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/karinabland/2019/03/28/arizona-great-grandmother-carolyn-scott-taught-sailors-shoot-planes-world-war-ii-karina-bland/3299323002/>

Bazookas Charlies L-4 to Fly Again

Thought lost, it was actually in Austria flying since WW II – now in Utah undergoing restoration to fly again in 2020.

"Powers' plans for restoring the plane include structural fixes, like replacing wingtips and a carburetor airbox, placing new polyester fabric on the plane's body and wings, and having Apacki's daughter and a graphic designer, Erin Pata, who lives near Santa Barbara, repaint the original "Rosie the Rocketeer" logo on the fabric."

<https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/7048928-151/la-pine-man-restoring-plane-flown-by-bazooka>

Balloon Busting in WW I – Not for the Faint of Heart

The best known Balloon Buster of WW I for the USA was Frank Luke, he got 14 of them (and 4 aircraft) before getting killed – in 10 days.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/history/barrage-observation-balloons-ww1-fighter>

Statistics to Save Airplanes – and Crew

Some of the most documented aircraft battle damage is those of the B-17s that returned to England with damage – and still airworthy. But how do you figure out why those aircraft that DID NOT return were shot down? That is where statistical analysis comes in – and common sense – comes into play.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/history/abraham-wald-survivor-bias-ww2?rebellitem=4#rebellitem4>

Sometimes Bad Luck Happens

Some true stories from several wars, and peacetime accidents.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/03/28/that-time-a-navy-jet-shot-itself-down/>

Middle River Depot – Where B-26s were Once Built – Lives again

Built during WW II to supply B-26 Martin Maunders all over the world, the US Owned plant was sold in 2007 as surplus and had been unused ever since. Now it belongs to a new developer who has multiple use plans for it.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2019/04/01/blue-ocean-buying-2-5-million-square-foot-middle.html>

North Korea Still Honors Some International Rules

After much stalling, negotiations, and face saving, North Korea returns the remains of POWs who died in their custody.

<https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/local/middlesex-county/2019/04/01/remains-army-veteran-killed-korean-war-finally-coming-home-nj/3179719002/>

Still Fighting the Naval War of 1898 Disputed Victory

A book review about the Naval War of Spanish American War of 1898.

<https://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/1790>

Fighting Joe Wheeler – A fighter for the Troops

A West Point Graduate, he first served the South during the Civil War but in 1898 was put in as a General for the USA during 1898 War. He is one of the few ex-Confederate officers to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

<http://www.augustamagazine.com/2019/03/27/fighting-joe-wheeler/>

Key West – A Navy Site Since the 1820s

Pirates, planes and ships all have Key West as a base of operations.

<https://keywest.floridaweekly.com/articles/flying-high/>

Magnet Fishermen Find Boer War Era Mortar Round

They hooked more than what they expected. And like most UXB personnel, they promptly blew it up instead of disarming it for a museum exhibit.

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest/live-boer-war-bomb-found-in-river-aire-by-magnet-fishermen-closes-leeds-city-centre-roads-for-hours-1-9681489>

U-352 2nd U-Boat Sunk by US Gains 33 Prisoners

Sunk off of Charleston by the USS Icarus, out of the 48 U-Boat men abort only 33 were rescued and given POW status.

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/features/the-uscg-cutter-icarus-and-the-first-german-prisoners-of-wwii>

Protecting Old Monuments in Arkansas

When they were created things were different, and now people want to tear them down even though the meanings behind the monuments are different now than when erected.

<https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2019/04/03/on-second-try-senate-passes-bill-to-protect-statues>

The Peace Arch of Canada and US

A unique site where you don't have to have a passport to enter or leave the park, near Blaine Washington.

<https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2019/04/06/a-monument-to-peace-history-of-the-peace-arch/>

War Saves Lives

A soldier takes time to train, saving their lives allows them to fight again. Medicine advances to save soldiers which in turn helps us all.

<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/brandon/2019/04/04/prairie-doc-how-war-advances-medicine/3372243002/>

Death Rays – Still In Sci-Fi but Practical Spin-offs are around Us

Ever since the idea of using a ray to disable enemy ships or kill people started up before WW I, the quest has been on to create it. But when their efforts failed, they created other useful tools along the way.

<https://slate.com/technology/2019/04/death-ray-history-jeff-hecht-excerpt.html>

Vimy Ridge 100 Years Later

It was a very well planned attack that captured the ridge that had been held by the Germans since 1914.

Editor's note: I visited and walked the battlefield in 1997. Some parts of the trench lines were no more than 75 feet apart)

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/vimy-ridge-anniversary>

On The Cutting Room Floor – Robert Paul

A pioneer that never shouted his name from the roof tops since he was so busy making movies is re-discovered.

<https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/etcetera/film/robert-w-paul-muswell-hill-film-pioneer-ian-christie-1-5979989>

The Cup Turneth Over

Retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, the last of 80 Doolittle Raiders who made the daring U.S. attack on Tokyo during World War II, died Tuesday April 9, after walking into the emergency room at a military hospital in San Antonio. He was 103. In the Air Force Museum there is a display with the names of all those who flew on the raid – one by one they were turned over when they died.

https://gazette.com/ap/national/world-war-ii-s-last-doolittle-tokyo-raider-dies-at/article_0122cbdc-a570-593c-8098-e6dcf86dc1eb.html

The Super Dreadnaught Iron Duke

It fought only 1 batt, Battle of Jutland, in its whole career – and sat out WW II.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/meet-battleship-iron-duke-great-britains-best-world-war-i-battleship-52267>

Fighter Jocks – Are their Days Numbered?

The era of drones, cyber warfare, and other on ground jobs putting fighter pilots as niche players?

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/04/13/why-the-the-days-of-fighter-jock-culture-may-be-numbered/>

Spruce Goose Wings Clipped

Paul Allen's Startolaunch now holds the record for wingspan flight.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/stratolaunch-flight-longest-wingspan-1.5098063>

At 108 Julia Kabance can talk about WW I and her WW II Service Still

Kabance joined the Army on March 17, 1943. Kabance spent 33 months in the Army, doing clerical work and for a time, serving as a driver until an officer realized there was just one woman among the drivers and decided that could be dangerous for Kabance to be alone around so many men.

http://www.esubulletin.com/news/year-old-woman-among-few-native-american-wwii-veterans/article_c425363a-5bcd-11e9-9c08-1bbf5614a160.html

Armored Flight Decks – Standard on British Carriers

Unlike their American cousins, who used wood on the decks, British flight decks were armored and thus could withstand bomb damage that would have knocked out a US carrier for repairs for months.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/armored-aircraft-carriers-great-britains-secret-world-war-ii-wonder-weapon-52852>

Filmed While Being Shot Down - Lawrence Mabey

In 1940 Lawrence Mabey was a tail gunner in a Wellington sent to bomb Berlin during the Battle of Britain. When the rest of the crew bailed out, he was stuck alone in the

bomber and he ended up bombing Berlin, crash landing the plane on a road – and was filmed doing so by a German Fire Brigade who put out the plane’s fire and rescued him at the same time.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/112062102/kiwi-flies-bomber-solo-to-strike-at-berlin-during-world-war-ii-mission-gone-awry>

Flying the Hump – Using Wrecks as Checkpoints

One of the most dangerous tasks in the CBI was flying supplies to China. The crews and planes lost would have put a regular bomber squadron out of action for months.

<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2019/04/22/world-war-hump-pilot/3471267002/>

Honor and Burden – the VC

Winning the VC is one part, what happens afterward they never trained for.

<https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/earning-the-victoria-cross-is-a-burden-as-well-as-an-honour/news-story/f52c04f08b8d1e842a32b29cc7109431>

Fighting to the End - Pvt Arthur Hackney

From his sign-up August 12, 1914 till he was killed outside Amiens in August of 1918, he was in some of the worse battles of WW I.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northland-age/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503402&objectid=12223432

Norththhope Flying Wing Proptype, N-9M Crashes

Owned and restored by Planes of Fame in Chino California, the plane crashed and was destroyed killing the pilot.

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/04/23/world-war-ii-era-flying-wing-crashes-in-california-prison-yard/>

Documenting a Fighter Ace After His Death

Killed while on a training flight in 1946, a reel of 16mm gun camera film sets a student into the documentary film role.

http://www.standard-journal.com/article_56cbe59c-688a-11e9-a120-0f233f251c10.html

A Short History of the Panama Canal

Shortening the trip from Atlantic coast to the Pacific was both an economic and military goal when the US set out to built it. Practice attacks against it by the US military in the 1930s help inspire the Japanese to attack Pearl Harbor in 1941.

<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/economics/flashback-friday-a-short-history-of-the-panama-canal>

Fast Transport Ship named for Guam

Named for the Island that was ceded to the USA due to the Spanish American War, the ship looks like an oversized LST from WW II.

<http://www.maritimeherald.com/2019/new-high-speed-transport-vessel-christened-by-the-united-states-navy-in-japan/>

Alaska Airlines Repaints A/C For Honor Flight Duties

"The patriotic paint scheme on a 737-800 ETOPS aircraft was conceived by a group of the airline's maintenance technicians. This is the second aircraft designed with the "Honoring Those Who Serve" livery; the first was a 737-900."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/2019/05/03/alaska-airlines-livery-hails-military-honor-flight-memorial-day/1090454001/>

Polish Air Force – Not Destroyed in 3 Days in 1939

With tensions high the Polish air force moved aircraft from well known bases to unmarked secret airfields in the country and fought for 3 weeks before forced out to Romania and becoming internees.

"{The sacrifice of those Polish aviators is commemorated by a monument at the Polish air force museum in the beautiful fortified city of Krakow, along with the last surviving P.11 fighter."

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/not-true-germany-wiped-out-polish-air-force-three-days-1939-55742>

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/>

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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 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.