

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

D-Day – 6 June 1944 – in 2019

The upcoming anniversary of the Northern Europe invasion of WW II will have loads of C-47s / DC-3s on hand to have paratroopers jump from them using WW II era style parachutes – on June 5. June 6 there will be no air activity.

<https://www.remembernormandy2019.com/>

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-dday-75th-anniversary-squadron-trip-oxford-20190518-k535nyev55edna3rjgjhrtz6wy-story.html>

D-Day at Talladega Marksmanship Park

Beaches of Normandy will spring to life at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's Talladega Marksmanship Park, starting with an M1 Rifle maintenance clinic, a New Shooter clinic and opening ceremony at 4 p.m., Thursday, June 6. Rifle and pistol matches will be fired Friday and Saturday and the event concludes with a Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match and awards Sunday, June 9.

<http://thecmp.org/world-war-ii-aircraft-heavy-light-equipment-and-history-displays-to-dominate-d-day-event-at-cmp-talladega-june-6-9/>

Climate Change To Hit Your Air Travel Pockets in EU

Like “congestion pricing” for roads to reduce vehicle traffic, the EU is going to likely raise fuel taxes 20 to 35%. “A more likely scenario if that more airlines go bust and those that remain are consolidated into larger entities.”

A direct effect will be that only the rich will be able to afford air travel – like it was in the 1930s through the 1950s.

https://www.mro-network.com/maintenance-repair-overhaul/fuel-taxes-impact-aftermarket?NL=SPD-01&Issue=SPD-01_20190520_SPD-01_89&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_4&utm_rid=CPEN100005112878&utm_campaign=19759&utm_medium=email&elq2=a74779974bdc40a0bc181d9b227407f1

A Short History of the WW II Air Corp Cargo Plane – the C-47 and Spin-Offs

An old saying is form follows function – and before WW II a lot of functions were placed on aircraft – and the design teams altered planes to meet the new functions.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/ugly-looking-plane-won-world-war-ii-57187>

How April 18, 1942 changed Naval History and WW II

The "Doolittle Raid" of 16 B-25s had an impact, in Japan and in the USA, way out of proportion of the damage the 16 tons of bombs dropped on targets in Japan actually had.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/these-30-seconds-changed-history-forever-think-world-war-ii-and-aircraft-carriers-57337>

When you Lose 1 A/C per 10 sorties what do you have – An IL-2 in 1941

By the end of the war the IL-2 was very effective – but still ½ of the rear gunners who trained for it died due to lack of armor for them.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/russias-il-2-sturmovik-flying-tank-no-plane-has-been-built-19315?nopaging=1>

A Radioman on the USS Yorktown

Communications is the link all military units throughout history have in common. Flags and banners were common for over a thousand years before telegraph and radios came into being. However, there were always people who either carried the flags, used them to send message before the age of radio – and there were always in the nerve center of action.

The air traffic control tower at Spokane International Airport is named in honor of Ray Daves.

Amazon link: [Radioman: An Eyewitness Account of Pearl Harbor and World War II in the Pacific](#)

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/wwii/battle-of-midway-story-of-a-yorktown-survivor/>

A C-47 in Artic Russia – Only Recovered in 2016

Having crashed in 1947, this Lend-Lease aircraft is the only C-47 still in Russia.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/07/world/europe/russia-lend-lease-douglas-airplane.html>

The Bonapartes Rise Again

Jean-Christophe Napoleon Bonaparte is a direct descendant of Napoleon, and is set to marry this October – to a direct descendant of the Austrian Empire.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-7005037/London-based-heir-Napoleon-marry-great-grand-daughter-Emperor-Austria.html>

“Ew” – Scrabble It!

What does Scrabble have to do with ciphers? Both use frequency analysis to crack codes. “The distribution of Scrabble tiles was set by the inventor of the game, Alfred Mosher Butts, by frequency analysis of the occurrence of letters in words of varying length in the New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, the Saturday Evening Post, and dictionaries.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/express-sunday-eye/speakeasy-the-alphabet-of-coding-5719276/>

Outtakes Create “Cold Blue” Movie

When William Wyler was making “The Memphis Belle” they shot hundreds of hours of film then left a lot on the cutting room floor to make the movie. Since it was made for the US Government all of it was owned by it – and left in the National Archives to be found again.

“Soundman Ben Burt (Star Wars series, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Blade Runner). During that screening, Burt confirmed to Nelson that he and Lucas had watched Wyler’s Memphis Belle over and over again while they were creating the original Star Wars battle scenes.”

“If you see a shot from a certain angle you’ve got stand next to a B-17 and record the sound from the same angle,” Nelson says. “You can’t mess around with history. If you’re publishing for the ages you gotta get it right.”

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a27442948/cold-blue-b17-documentary/>

Model Aircraft Flight Rules – May 2019

A summary as provided by Bill Whitsell of my Barnstormer RC Club

New FAA regulations are in effect as of May 17, 2019.

1. All flights must be for recreation -- no mixing part of the flight as commercial and part of it as recreation.
2. We must comply with the AMA Safety Code you or your spotter standing next to you must keep the aircraft in visual line of sight.
3. We must avoid flying near manned aircraft and give way to all manned aircraft.
4. We must NOT flying over groups of people.
5. We must not fly under the influence of drugs or alcohol
6. [NEW] We must not fly in controlled airspace without FAA authorization: note that Barnstormers is in Class D airspace because of Aurora airport.
7. [NEW] We must now fly below 350 feet above ground level.
8. [NEW] It appears that we are now confined to a radius of operations around our field of 660 feet centered on the geometric center of the runway. Note: This appears in a spreadsheet published by the FAA, but does not seem to be spelled out as a specific restriction -- so this may not be a regulation....yet. But assuming it is a regulation, here's a circle 660 feet in diameter:
- 9.

10. [NEW] In the future we might be able to get waivers from the FAA using the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system currently used for authorizing commercial flight operations under Part 107. The FAA is modifying the LAANC system for use by recreational pilots.

11. [NEW] Also in the future, when the specific test has been developed, we must pass a knowledge and safety test and have proof of passing the test available for law enforcement officers and the FAA Administrator should he or she visit. There appears to be no lower age limit for the test.

12. We must register as recreational pilots with the FAA (\$5 for three years), get a registration number, and place that number somewhere on the outside surface of the aircraft.

Nine Spanish Inventions – Including 1st all Electric Submarine

Their inventions are just not advertised as well others.

<https://interestingengineering.com/9-world-changing-inventions-from-spanish-inventors>

16 Facts About the Atomic Bombs of WW II

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the two atomic attacks in WW II.

Here are some true little-known facts about this event.

https://infosurhoy.com/cocoon/saii/xhtml/en_GB/news/16-facts-you-didnt-know-about-the-bombing-of-hiroshima/

Holocaust Victims Found in Brest, Belarus

A mass grave was found while building a new housing development. 1214 victims were discovered, most with bullet holes in their skulls. 1941 and 1942 was the timeframe when most Jewish victims were shot in the then USSR lands captured by the NAZIs.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/more-than-1200-holocaust-victims-discovered-in-mass-grave-laid-to-rest-in-belarus/>

Evading Capture by the Germans in May of 1943

Pilot 1st Lt. Theodore "Ted" Melvin Peterson was shot down on the way to St. Nazaire. He bailed out 1000' above the ground.

<https://blog.fold3.com/shot-down-over-france/>

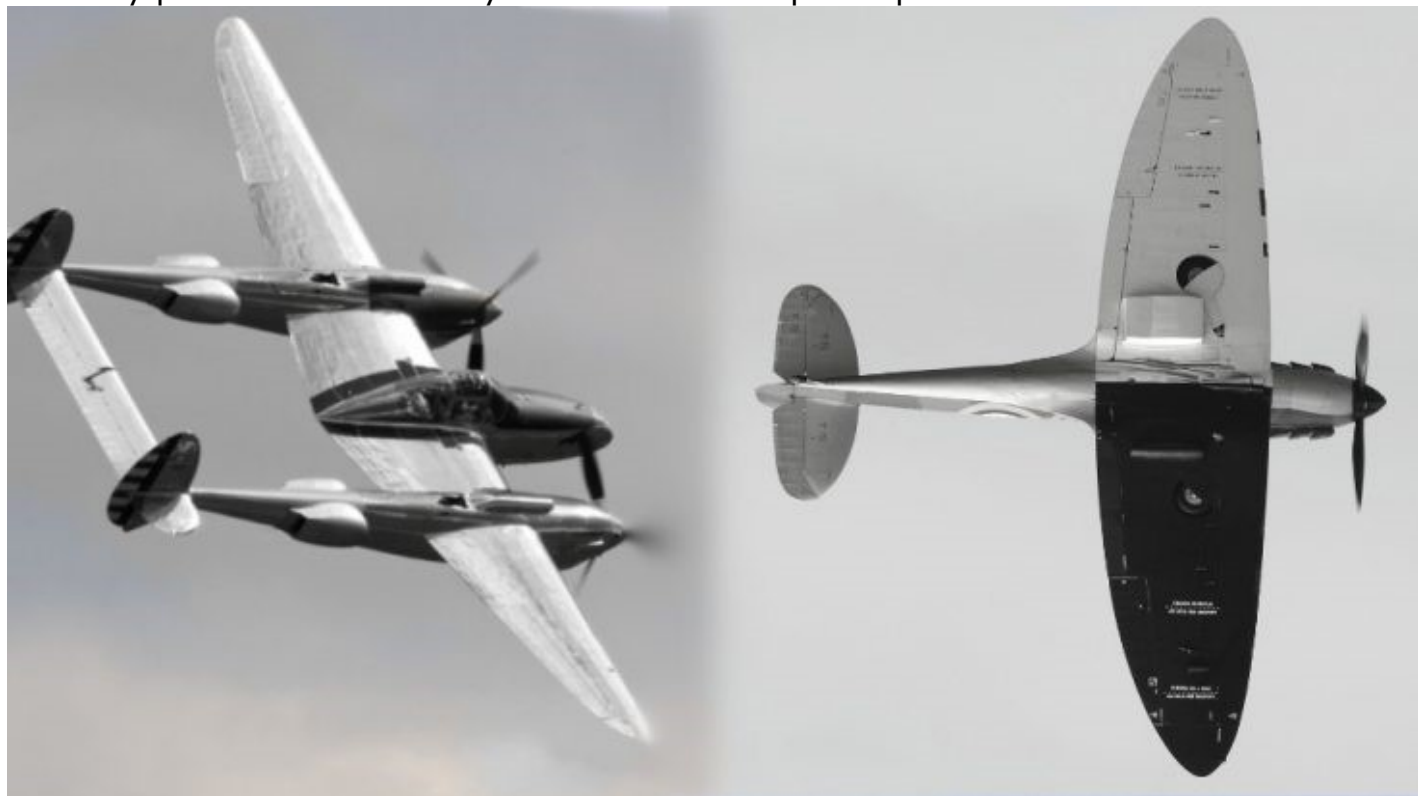
When There Really Were Militias It Made a Difference

During the war of 1812 the British raided and burned river and ocean ports and towns. This town put the word out and thus had more militia than the attacking forces – so the British never attacked.

<https://cohasset.wickedlocal.com/news/20190519/cohasset-narrowly-avoided-british-attack-during-war-of-1812>

Shot Up By A P-38 Lightning

The only problem is that Harry Freeman was a Spitfire pilot!



A YouTube interview with Harry on how it came to be he was shot up by that P-38.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvljmKUrNow>

Sieges – A Truism Throughout History

The medieval era had lots of sieges, but the age of sieges is not over. The Boer war, and current modern ones, still have them.

The relief of Mafeking in the Boer war is one.

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/baden-powell-and-the-relief-of-mafeking/>

If you Have Some Old Military Medals . . .

But they have to cover a few wars. Those of Sir Humphrey Walwyn are expected to sell for £30,000+. He served Boer War, WW I and WW II.

A Short Analysis of Operation Valkyrie

There were many plots to Kill Adolf Hitler starting in 1938; the only one that came the close to killing him was the July 20, 1944 bomb.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/operation-valkyrie-why-plan-kill-hitler-and-save-millions-failed-57922?page=0%2C2>

11th AF Bombing of Japan

It is often overlooked that the 11th AF, based in Alaska, did bombing missions to Japan. Not many did and it was a very hazardous undertaking. This one man did and managed to get shot down and evade.

https://www.thedailystar.com/opinion/columns/backtracking-the-early-years-oneonta-man-could-finally-tell-story/article_e7c57be3-59a4-5ab1-b15f-56e90d277755.html

Hellcat Being Restored in New Jersey

It was being used for training at a California airbase when the pilot ditched it 12 miles off San Diego because of engine trouble. It was rescued from its watery grave on the ocean bottom in 1971, said Pensacola museum historian Hill Goodspeed.

While practicing at Cape May Airport future aircraft carrier deployment, 42 pilots lost their lives in crashes in and around the airport in Hellcats, Avengers and Corsairs.

<https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2019/05/22/naval-air-station-wildwood-aviation-museum-world-war-ii-hellcat-fighter-exhibit/3747959002/>

WW II Corsair ID'd as Wreck of 2nd Lt. John McGrath

Shot down while attacking Japanese troops I a tow, his remains were recovered and given to the US in 1988 but was listed as unknown then.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/WWII-researcher-Sea-wreckage-is-plane-of-MIA-13895553.php>

Researching Crashes in Germany

Being local has its advantages. Reading about air battles then able to go to the location of them of both the targets and the aircraft location wrecks gives a whole new perspective. The Internet has made it easier to assemble the details – you don't have to spend years traveling to archives to read one bit of info at a time.

Peter Schiller, Bismarckplatz 6 b ; D-24629 Kisdorf Germany; has spent years researching every a/c crash site of the RAF and US AF for all of April and May of 1945.

Two Samples below:

3.4.45 Mission 8AF 924 to Kiel
B17G-95-BO No 43-38871 96BG 339BS
named „Ractup“, was hit by AA but managed
to fly to Sweden, Malmö-Bulltofter a/f, interned.
Pilot Lt McFarland. No MARC due to interned.

100BG -1 Mission 8AF 924 to Kiel
B17G No. 43-38992 of 351BS. MACR 13717
Lt. Baldwin. Target Kiel, could not release bombs,
made to direction back, was short on gas, was hit
by aa fire over Friesian Islands, Crashed on dutch
island Texel, Watermolenweg, Hoornder Nieuwe-
land. 8 KIA 2 POW.

He sent me a PDF of all his research and it will be posted onto our 8thafhsoregon.com web site. - Tom

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS;

Next Chapter meeting August 10, 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.