

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

Flying in the 386th BG

The B-26 Martin "Marauder" was a very fast medium bomber that flew from the deck to 18,000 feet. Most of the time they flew around 12,000 and unescorted – and at the best altitude for German medium and heavy flak effectiveness. One such flak scored a direct hit on a 386th BG 553 Bomb Squadron B-26 bomber on November 5, 1943 flown by Capt. Ray D. Williamson.

https://lebanon-express.com/news/brownsville-wwii-bomber-captain-s-sacrifice/article_0f2293f8-96ff-5eee-a845-78eef99e8abb.html

A Darby Ranger - Donald W. VanArtsdalen, Dead at 99

Not waiting for the US to get into the war, he joined the Canadian Army and was stationed in London during the Battle of Britain and Blitz till he transferred into the US Army in 1942.

<https://www.philly.com/obituaries/federal-judge-vanartsdalen-donald-world-war-veteran-20190524.html>

Bronson Burner Driver

"I wanted the Marines. I was scrappy, 135 pounds, so the Marines sounded okay. I guess they didn't like my attitude. I was told, 'Then we will put you in the Army and send you to hell.' That's exactly what they said."

A 14th Armored Division tank with sandbags all around as extra "armor."



Was I hit? Which time? Yeah, we got hit. The first time I was the only one that got out alive. The whole turret was blown off and I went out through an escape hatch.

The British nick-name for the Sherman was "Bronson" – since the tanks used gas engine and when hit they "brewed up" like a Bronson burner.

https://www.rockdalenewtoncitizen.com/news/veteran-s-story-from-delivering-newspapers-to-delivering-victory/article_0df58592-7e53-11e9-8b6f-4bee6b18347e.html

Merrill's Marauders – The Jungle version of The Long Range Desert Group

In 1943 there was not much the Allies could do in the CBI on the ground – hence this unit was formed to attack the Japanese behind the “official” front line. Led by Gen. Frank Merrill, who at age 39 became a brigadier general — the youngest since George Armstrong Custer in the Civil War, and they brought the war to the Japanese in Burma. <https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/merrills-marauders-world-war-ii-burma/2019/05/27/id/917695/>

Pvt. James Robinson – At 12 Joined He the Military

What makes this unusual is that he was a slave at the time and was allowed to joined to fight in the Revolutionary War, then fought in 1812 in New Orleans, and was finally freed in the 1830s and lived to be 115.

"Over 5,000 African Americans served in the Revolutionary War, and Robinson is one of the most consequential figures of the period."

<https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/27/151-years-late-revolutionary-war-vet-honored/1252732001/>

MOH For Killing a Horse?

“Allen Walker encountered three Army Mexicans riding in the desert near the border. Private Walker killed one of their horses, and in their haste to flee they left behind a saddle bags containing plans for an insurrection in Texas.

For this daring deed, Captain Bourke recommended the Allen Walker receive the Medal of Honor.”

But he stayed in the military and went on to fight in the Spanish American War, Philippines and WW I.

<http://www.vevaynewspapers.com/allen-walker-switzerland-county-native-medal-of-honor-recipient/>

A Boer President Gets Paid at Last

A maquette of the 1896 Boer president Paul Kruger in top hat, presidential sash and hallmark beard was sold for R10.46m. The full size bronze of him is in Pretoria.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-05-22-paul-kruger-statue-sells-for-r10-46-million/>

The Weather War and Ireland

WW II battles revolved around the weather – the ability to use it for or against an opponent altered outcomes many times. D-Day was one such battle – and the Neutral Irish weather service was used to allow D-Day to occur on 6 June, 1944.

<https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/television/irish-weather-forecaster-who-helped-win-the-war-profiled-in-new-rte-documentary-38145773.html>

The British P-14 Rifle – Lessons Learned

“British engineers quickly rechambered the Pattern 1913 in the standard .303 British caliber, which resulted in the Pattern 1914.”

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/p14-rifle-gun-isnt-sexy-it-changed-course-history-59412>

Auction Houses And Memorabilia

4 vastly different types of artifacts went to auction – and all came out winners.

<https://www.antiquetrade gazette.com/news/2019/five-militaria-auction-highlights-including-a-second-world-war-v1-flying-bomb-rudder/>

Book on an Irish General in Britain’s Service

Before Ireland broke away from the UK, many Irish joined the British Military. Some made it to high rank like General Edward Bulfin.

Bulfin saw active service in the Boer War, went to France with the BEF in 1914 in command of a brigade, doing well in several actions, most notably the defense of Ypres. In 1915 he commanded a very green division with some success, again at Ypres. He was then assigned to raise and train the new 60th Infantry Division, which he commanded at the Somme in 1916, and then took it into action at Salonika briefly, and then in Palestine.

Barnsley, Eng.: Pen & Sword / Philadelphia: Casemate, 2018. Pp. vii, 294+. Illus., maps, stemma, tables, append., notes, biblio, index. \$49.95. ISBN: 1526722607

Amazon link: [Haig's Tower of Strength: General Sir Edward Bulfin – Ireland's Forgotten General](#)

A short Concise Summary of the Battle of the Coral Sea

The first carrier vs carrier battle in history was a Japanese tactical / paper victory. However the resulting battle damage to the Shokaku and Zuikaku left them in repair yards forced changes in Japanese battle plans, which meant they were not at Midway. Faulty appraisal of combat damage during battle to America’s carriers at Coral Sea – thinking they hit two different carriers and put each out of action when they only hit the same carrier twice then hit the Yorktown, and the USA’s ability to repair ships must faster than the Japanese, meant the Yorktown was at Midway with its 80 plus aircraft, which made the Midway victory possible.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-death-1-us-navy-aircraft-carrier-helped-win-world-war-ii-60222>

Book: Wounded Tiger

This follows how the lives of both Mituso Fuchida, the Japanese Naval Lieutenant who planned, trained and lead the Pear Harbor battles, plus many others in the air, and

Sgt Jake DeShazer who was one of the 8 Doolittle Raiders captured and survived to return to Japan as a Missionary, tells their stories of how their lives progressed during the war of themselves and their families throughout the war and immediately thereafter in Japan.

Amazon link: [Wounded Tiger](#)

Kaga and Izumo – Newest Japanese

The largest ships in the Japanese Self Defense force they are the same size of WW II Fleet carriers.

<https://time.com/5597046/japanese-aircraft-carrier-kaga-izumo/>

The Ki-43 “Oscar” The Japanese Army’s “Zero”

Officially the Hayabusa -Peregrine Falcon – was the land Army’s main fighter. Like all aircraft which were designed pre-war the idea was a WW I style aircraft whose pilot used skill and the plane’s agility to shoot down the enemy aircraft – which left it highly vulnerable to enemy fighter due to light weight construction and woefully under gunned.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/was-imperial-japans-best-world-war-ii-fighter-america-feared-it-60597>

"I was glad when I got my 65 missions in," he said. "I knew I'd get to come home."

In WW II US aircraft combat mission tours varied by both type of aircraft and where you were flying. If you were in a B-26 Marauder with the 9th Air Force – it was 65 missions. Buddy Kunkle finished his tour in early 1945.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2019/05/28/year-old-wwii-veteran-prosperity-remembers-flying-missions-during-his-service/>

Restoring a C-47 in Canada

The aerial workhorse of all allied nations, and even for Japan since they had a license to build them before the war, the cargo, passenger and paratroop versions flew the whole world – and some still do.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/dc-3-plane-restore-quebec-1.5143160>

Modern Ships and Fire – Still a Hazzard

All modern ships can still catch fire – especially aircraft carriers.

India’s ship had a fire on board that left 1 dead – after he was overcome by fumes while fighting the fire without proper equipment.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/india%E2%80%99s-only-operational-aircraft-carrier-caught-fire-china-thinks-it-knows-why-60352>

100 Year Old Army Veteran has one regret - not meeting Civil War veterans when he was a child in the 1920s and '30s.

A man joins the Army in 1940 to fight Hitler – and is sent to the CBI.

<https://foxsanantonio.com/news/nation-world/100-year-old-wwii-veteran-gets-help-to-fly-to-d-day-commemoration>

Plaques of History – Not Always True at First Writing

The Winder Building on 17th Street in Washington DC is an example. What was passed down as fact and put onto the building was sort of close – but not factual.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/there-are-a-lot-of-myths-about-dcs-winder-building-the-truth-is-impressive-too/2019/06/01/32642530-82e7-11e9-95a9-e2c830afe24f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3169b24f85b6

Napoleon's of Baltimore

Given a change, maybe anyone can be found to be descendant of someone famous – sometimes true.

https://www.cecildaily.com/our_cecil/six-degrees-of-cecil-s-napoleon-complex/article_e28ddde8-c44f-538a-874d-6cf499f2de97.html

Digitizing Victorian Movies One Frame at a Time

The BFI - British Film Institute – set about restoring 500 movies made during the lifetime of Queen Victoria.

“Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897 can be considered the first mass-media event, with 11 films surviving from those made by 40 cameramen from 20 rival companies.”

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/victorians-in-pictures-british-film-institute-digitises-archive-of-more-than-500-early-silent-films>

In 1899 China Declared War on 8 Nations – and 55 Days in Peking Began

From the USS Oregon (only the mast remains in Portland Oregon, mostly unwanted and unliked due to it being military) and the USS Newark, US Marines marched to Peking to defend the foreign legations there.

A good first hand account of the relief of Peking can be found in the book Reilly’s Battery. They sailed from the Philippines to be the artillery for the relief column.

Amazon link: [Reilly's Battery: A story of the Boxer Rebellion](#)

https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2019/05/us_marines_invaded_china_119_years_ago_today.html

The Rough Riders – Not All Were Rough

A new book(Amazon link) [The Crowded Hour: Theodore Roosevelt, the Rough Riders, and the Dawn of the American Century](#)

When Theodore Roosevelt raised his regiment not all of them were cowboys – “but also a lot of Ivy League football players. The No. 1 and the No. 2 tennis player in the country quit tennis to join.”

Interesting to find out how many Ivy League graduates join the military now-a-days.
<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/03/729191893/risens-the-crowded-hour-examines-roosevelts-rough-riders-in-war>

Even in Death Paperwork Needs to be Done Correctly

An IG audit of military cemeteries showed that not all paperwork is done correctly – or correctly. “After inspecting some 4,141 graves at 16 military cemeteries, there were 108 errors found, including missing headstones, incorrect birth and death dates, and improper placement of grave markers.”

Some of the errors go back to the Spanish American war! The report’s conclusion was to have better training and more standardization of processes at all sites.

<https://americanmilitarynews.com/2019/05/military-cemeteries-across-us-missing-headstones-and-incorrectly-marked-inspections-find/>

Then and Now: 2nd Jump into Normandy

Tom Rice of San Diego jumped a 2nd time 75 years after his first – but this time as a tandem jump in daylight and the only shots of him were by cameras.

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/national/97-year-old-wwii-veteran-parachutes-out-of-plane-on-75th-anniversary-of-his-d-day-jump>

Father & Son Duos who Won the MOH

Only twice has this occurred and highly unlikely it will ever happen again.

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1868266/medal-of-honor-monday-army-1st-lt-arthur-macarthur-jr/>

GIB – Guys in Back – Supply and Support

WW II was a segregation war – whites were in the front line fighting and all non-whites were assigned as support troops and in the rear – but still died at times.

Some of the most dangerous jobs, and most disliked – were given to blacks. This included ammunition ship loading and unloading and cleaning up the battlefields – which mean picking up the dead of both sides.

Of the 16 million who were sworn into active service only 3%, 496,777, are still alive.

“Author Andrew Brozyna says the norm overseas was three or four people behind the lines for every soldier up front.” [Editor’s note actually the real ratio is: US ratio was 7:1, British 6:1, Germans 6:1, Russian 4:1, Japanese around 3 to 1. A US Rifle division was around 16,000 – 3,600 in infantry regiments who did the fighting, 1,200 in artillery – rest support troops.]

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2019/06/06/d-day-75-years-allied-soldiers-normandy/1339002001/>

Digging up a Medal

Prior to WW I most medals awarded to people were personalized with their name. So, finding a medal before WW I makes it easy to find out who the original owner was. Thomas Sines Sr. lost his Spanish American War medal sometime after 1945 and was found in the ground this year.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20190611/sarasota-family-reunited-with-lost-spanish-american-war-medal>

With the 406th Fighter Group Behind Patton

The 9th Air Force was the tactical air force of the ground Army. After D-Day it moved to existing airfields in Europe, but often they had to make their own. They seldom stayed at a single site for more than a few weeks before packing up and moving again.

https://www.news-journal.com/news/local/longview-wwii-veteran-recalls-d-day-launch-providing-air-support/article_5ad4d456-861b-11e9-a831-838376cd57f3.html

Presque Isle Air Museum

Getting to Europe during WW II you had only a few choices for an airplane: Southern route to Brazil in South America, hop the 1700 miles to Cape Verde, then up into North Africa; put the planes on a ship and let them get there by boat, or fly the Northern Route via Maine, Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland then land in Ireland. The last stop in the USA was Presque Isle Army Air Field.

<https://thecounty.me/2019/06/17/news/business-news/pi-air-force-base-was-crucial-launch-point-for-europe-bound-aircraft-during-major-wars/>

The Financial Cost of US Wars

Adjusting known costs into 2019 dollars, this article lists the cost of the major wars the USA has participated in. WW II is still the most expensive war of the US. However, there are many factors that we do today, like life insurance, unlimited medical coverage, and education coverage that never occurred in prior wars so this study is still not apples to apples.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/13/cost-of-war-13-most-expensive-wars-in-us-history/39556983/>

National Parks Service Battlefield Preservation Funds

Not much money in the overall 4.1 trillion dollar Federal budget, but it gave grants of \$499,705 to protect Civil War battlefields in Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia.

<https://augustafreepress.com/national-park-service-awards-499705-to-protect-battlefields-in-alabama-mississippi-virginia/>

What US Air Force Fixed Wing Aircraft Can Carry a Pilot, Repair tools and a passenger and land on a football field – Nothing

Going big can gain you efficiency in long haul operations. But having a lot of medium or small cargo planes ones give you flexibility and redundancy. Finding the balance

between the two is a contest problem when someone wants to limit money and people who fly them.

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/06/featherweight-airlift-for-want-of-a-nail/>

Digging Up P-38 Parts in Ireland

What happens when you get lost at night in 1942 – you bail out over land and let your plane crash where it may. Second Lieutenant Milo E Rundall, aged 22, from Iowa, bailed out successfully after he got lost on an evening flight from Langford Lodge, on the eastern shores of Lough Neagh in the North.

In 2019 students using ground penetrating radar found more parts of his plane.

<https://www.thesun.ie/news/4276851/world-war-two-plane-parts-monaghan/>

A New “Midway” Film Due in November 2019

The first big budget film was released in 1976 using outtakes from Tora Tora Tora and their own aerial filming to tell the story. However it did not have the edge of the seat impact due to the style it was filmed and the story lines it used. With CGI the actual attack sequences may be more real than what they did back in 1975. Since then a lot more has been learned of the Japanese plans, the decisions they made, and other items that created the battle that was, plus the way the Americans came to fight the battle they wanted and not the one the Japanese Navy wanted.

Amazon link: [Midway](#) movie

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2019/06/26/midway-exclusive-first-look-roland-emmerich-all-star-wwii-film/1563788001/>

MIA from the 14th Air Force ID'd

2nd Lt. Toney W. Gochnauer, 24, of Amarillo, killed during World War II on Jan. 25, 1944, was accounted for on May 13, 2019. As Co-Pilot of a B-24 on a supply run from Kuming China to India it went missing in bad weather. Locals in the area reported debris and a wing in 2017 which was passed onto the US who sent a team to investigate and recovered remains.

<https://abc7amarillo.com/news/local/amarillo-world-war-ii-airmans-remains-recovered-from-china>

A Short History of the 8th AF and The War Against Germany

How the war was fought and planned had its roots in the 1920s and early 30s in the budget halls of Congress. The ability to fund the war, and build both the 1920s version of strategic bombing and the new reality version in 1942 of how to fight against Germany and Japan, allowed the old to live longer than necessary and the new had to be implemented by a change of command philosophy.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-hitlers-air-force-beat-americas-best-years-until-happened-64211?page=0%2C1>

Arizona Men Who Helped Put a Star on the US Flag

Men from Arizona, Ivy League Schools, and the Spanish American War of 1898 are intertwined in History. July 1, 1898 is not commemorated nationally or anywhere really, but it is the date the Rough Riders made history.

<https://asunow.asu.edu/20190620-arizona-impact-asu-rough-riders-teddy-roosevelt>

The Peking Relief Expedition of 1900

How 8 different nations planned, deployed and worked together to get to Peking in time to rescue those trapped is remarkable. In a time when everything was done by Morse code and telegraphs this united nations rescue mission is remarkable that a combined force was assembled, deployed and was successful and in less it takes now to draft a memo to ask for a study to do something at the UN.

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2019/7/1/men-and-guns-of-the-1900-china-relief-expedition/>

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS;

Next Chapter meeting August 10, 2019

War Bride! An English War Bride Tells Her Story

*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.