

# Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society

## *History News for September 2019*



**History News → Readers, where's your story?**  
***Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others through our 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter is on the last page.***

### **Marksmanship Competitions Still Exist**

It is getting more difficult to actually practice however. If you live in the UK you cannot practice for the Olympics in your own country – the laws bar you from owning the .22 competition rifles so I think the UK team goes to Sweden to practice. In the USA You still can own and use firearms – though states are putting excessive fees on ammo in order to force all but the rich from owning any firearms. Like any skill you have to practice all the time. If you can, going to Camp Perry is the place to actually compete nationally against others in the USA.

<https://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/story/news/local/2019/07/08/camp-perry-opens-national-matches-resounding-first-shot/1671409001/>

### **A Canteen from Normandy**

Found while cleaning out a house the owner was easily identified since he had carved his name and ASN into it!

[http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=580a43b0-a887-44f2-a644-a16ec1cc2588](http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=580a43b0-a887-44f2-a644-a16ec1cc2588)

### **Paul Allen's ME-262 Almost ready for Flight**

This Messerschmitt Me-262 was converted from a fighter into a photo recon version with cameras in the nose instead of the normal 30 mm cannons. It was captured by US forces in May 1945 soon after coming off the assembly line in March of 1945.

<http://warbirdsnews.com/warbird-restorations/fhcams-me-262-warpaint-unveiled.html>

### **How History Works**

"Revisionist Claptrap" the best insult available to those who don't understand how history works!

Take our chosen area of interest, the air war over Europe in WWII. The history of this series of events has been revised constantly in the 75 years plus since it took place. A slew of official histories published during the war all lack major details due to operational security. The raft of autobiographies published in the twenty years after the war all told the story from the participant's point of view but always put a spin on things, often unintentionally. Historians started to combine these sources and write about the time period. However, these early attempts are now shown to be limited due to a lack of available material. Through the 70s and 80s further books appeared as researchers studied the documentation available in the US, UK and Germany. Again, as more material became available as Germany was reunited and material that the Soviets had captured became accessible. More information was declassified through the 90s which allowed the study of the period to again move on. Anyone who has

studied the war over Europe must realize that its history has been constantly revised. The events that took place are the events that took place but our understanding of them has developed and in some cases changed. You might not agree with someone's opinion of how things happened but even then, you are only choosing to believe one revisionist view over another revisionist view. I am not including views such as Holocaust denial in this. That is not revisionism but plain fraud and a blatant misrepresentation of events to suit one's (extreme) political viewpoint. I would be interested to hear other's views on revisionism. - Mike Murray

## **From Cold Storage**

Landing where you did not want to has allowed some aircraft to survive.  
<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/aircraft-wrecks-that-flew-again/>

## **Airplane of the Year**

Taking a old beat up aircraft and making it a pristine – better than factory – takes a lot of time and money. But it is worth it at the end when you get to use it.  
<https://www.airspacemag.com/airspacemag/airplane-year-180972630/>

## **The A-B-Cs of the CBI**

A-rations - fresh food

B-rations - Unprepared packaged food

C-rations - canned pre-cooked food

- It was almost always C for those in the China-Burma-India combat operations area.

Walter Mach was one of those ground who went to the end of the supply line of WW II.  
<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/connections/2019/07/10/world-war-ii-veteran-walter-mach-recalls-cbi-theater/1350553001/>

## **Camp Ruston – POW Heaven**

One of the largest, out of 3,000 or so built to house German, Italian, Russian and US POWS, it had some rather unique prisoners.

[http://www.hannapub.com/ouachitacitizen/tempo/community/pow-camp-victory-gardens-on-tap-thursday/article\\_dd264e8a-a326-11e9-967a-dbffe60c9605.html](http://www.hannapub.com/ouachitacitizen/tempo/community/pow-camp-victory-gardens-on-tap-thursday/article_dd264e8a-a326-11e9-967a-dbffe60c9605.html)

## **Women in the Mexican-American War of 1848**

Women have always been part of war, but since those who write the history often highlight their own exploits and contributions and those of their fellow soldiers, women are often written out of it. The US-Mexican war was one where women were written about their contribution during the conflict.

<https://www.vnews.com/Out-and-About-Women-played-a-role-in-the-Mexican-American-War-27015897>

## **Buffalo Soldiers to Cuba for War but Cannot Purchase Water**

Camping at Camp Wire in 1898 came from the West, but they were in the segregated South and had less freedom than on the Plains. Trying to rename a park due to their short term transit on the way to Cuba.

<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/lakeland-hears-case-for-naming-lake-wire-s-freedom-park-after-buffalo-soldiers>

## **A Drone Takes to the Air**

Not just a modern one – but a WW II Radio Controlled Plane. 75 years after being made, it flies again. Model OQ-2 was designed by movie actor Reginald Denny and built by Radioplane Corp. in California. (There was one in Tillamook Air Museum last time I went there.)

<https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/Antique-shop-drone-again-cruising-the-sky-14114004.php>

## **Old Crow Mustang – Ford version**

A custom Ford Mustang GT done up in the colors of Bud Anderson's P-51 "Old Crow" was auctioned off at Oshkosh.

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/cars/ford-and-roush-old-crow-mustang-gt/>

## **The Bucks Stop Here – Space Buck Rogers Anyway**

NASA training took place around the country – but thinking that Bucks Co PA has a destination of Astronauts? Yep, it was.

<https://whyy.org/articles/former-astronaut-training-ground-in-bucks-county-could-become-a-museum/>

## **Don't Ignore Pain**

When you have a pain, any type, it means your body is telling you something is wrong. A British Sgt ignored it for years, even as he complained to others about it, and died over dinner.

<https://www.lep.co.uk/retro/preston-army-sergeant-dies-from-wound-sustained-in-battle-years-before-1-9893860>

## **Van Gogh Of Lincoln**

Not a painting to be found by the younger brother of Vincent, but he still had an interesting life and traveled the world.

<https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/lincoln-news/revealed-vincent-van-goghs-brother-3119363>

## **Major General Joe Wheeler – Two Countries Two Wars**

He as a General in the Confederate Army, a good one, and when the Spanish American War broke out he was still a General in the US Army – and still a good one – fighting in the front line in Cuba.

<https://www.wcmessenger.com/articles/citizen-soldier/>

Am Alaskan Glacier Gives Up Its Plane at Last

The Military C-124 crashed into the glacier in 1952, but it was impossible to get to the site and recover anything till recently. As a criminal investigative officer for the US Army he successfully prosecuted in 1946 three US officers who had stolen more than \$30 million worth of jewels and gold belonging to the royal German Hesse family.

<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/eugene-smith-cavan-world-war-2>

## **Finding the Titanic was Easy**

Finding a single aircraft in the Pacific ocean is going to be much harder when Robert Ballard goes in search for it.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/07/bob-ballard-found-titanic-can-find-amelia-earhart-airplane/>

## **Lesson From History – Guadalcanal**

Lessons can be learned if you study it – and adapt the same strategy using modern equipment – ideas do not really change. The Chinese – Communist - Navy recently published a study this did about the US / Japanese battle of 1942/43.

<http://theconversation.com/a-world-war-ii-battle-holds-key-lessons-for-modern-warfare-117572>

Technology is Making Toys More Authentic

Plastics, chemistry, CNC machines are combining to make toys more realistic out of the box than ever. Plastic models have been around a long time, and it takes talent to make them look “real”. Some modern toys though look real right out of the box.

<https://www.geek.com/culture/toy-tuesday-the-most-authentic-world-war-ii-toys-1796222/>

## **Engines are not Cheap**

Want to help out a C-47B take to the air? \$100,000 will get a rebuilt engine and installation costs for it.

<https://www.timesonline.com/news/20190726/air-heritage-museum-seeks-help-to-repair-vintage-wwii-plane>

## **Around the World in a Spitfire**

Don't know if it will take 80 days, but they are going to fly an official around the world flight in a 76 year old fighter plane. Two pilots will share the 90 segmented workload and adventure.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2019-08-chocks-round-the-world-spitfire-flight.html>

## **Military Jargon in English**

Six common phrases that originated in the Military.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/6-everyday-phrases-you-wont-believe-have-military-origins-2019-8>

## **Survivor's Bias**

The USA did lot's of number crunching during WW II. IBM built and produced specialty EAM – electronic accounting machines – for all sorts of projects – to record and then analyze data from U-Boat sightings to aircraft damage.

Wald believed that these planes were getting hit in the engines just as often as the fuselage or wings, but because the bombers that got hit in the engines didn't survive, no data could be collected from them. Lacking data from the aircraft that didn't make it back had skewed the numbers to show the exact opposite of what they had been looking for.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/history/how-the-allies-saved-bombers?rebellitem=3#rebellitem3>

## **Dorothy Olsen, WASP pilot in World War II, dies at 103**

“Olsen flew about 29 different aircraft. Her favorite was the P-51.”

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/08/12/dorothy-olsen-wasp-pilot-in-world-war-ii-dies-at-103/>

## **New Orleans stunt pilot Franklin Augustus killed in plane crash with Nancy Parker**

At 69 he was taking local reporter Nancy up for a ride when the accident occurred. He was president of the Lake Charles Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

[https://www.nola.com/news/article\\_8dff2046-c06f-11e9-b1c7-eb38a8ef952c.html](https://www.nola.com/news/article_8dff2046-c06f-11e9-b1c7-eb38a8ef952c.html)

## **Island Hopping Strategy Still Valid**

Diplomat island hopping is a lot easier than the WW II version, though when you land at Pohnpei Airport you get out and look up at the Imperial Japanese anti-aircraft batteries, trenches, and pillboxes remain on a jungle ridgeline 1.5 miles away from runway as did SOC Pompeo got to see when he got off the aircraft.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/08/15/to-counter-china-in-the-pacific-america-reboots-the-island-hopping-campaign-of-world-war-ii/>

## **CAF Dixie Wing Gets a PT-17**

Every wing needs a yellow peril trainer.

<https://thecitizen.com/2019/08/18/caf-dixie-wing-adds-stearman-pt-17-to-wwii-fleet/>

## **Bean Bag Messaging Comes Back**

How to ensure a message /order is delivered to a ship and not overheard using modern communication methods – drop a bean bag.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/08/15/navy-dropping-bean-bag-messages-ships-it-did-evade-wwii-enemies.html>

## **Milton Dienes – 9<sup>th</sup> Photo Recon Tech**

“At one point, we were processing up to 14,000 pictures a day.” When he was discharged, he was allowed to take 50 photos – including ones he took at Nagasaki.

[http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/news/documenting-destruction-meet-the-philly-area-man-whose-war-photography/article\\_7928b3b0-be2d-11e9-8e4c-ff82aa3a3973.html](http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/news/documenting-destruction-meet-the-philly-area-man-whose-war-photography/article_7928b3b0-be2d-11e9-8e4c-ff82aa3a3973.html)

## **Visiting the Springfield Armory Museum**

Free to visit if you can survive the drive through Massachusetts.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/springfield-armory>

## **History Melted Down**

Wales is a country that does not allow firearms and they periodically campaign to get people to turn in firearms. “We had one First World War rifle and one Boer War era rifle handed in . . . before being destroyed in a furnace.”

<https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/17843680.34-guns-handed-north-wales-police-gun-surrender-campaign/>

## **Pearl Harbor Drydock No 1**

‘Began operation in 1919 with its flooding, was given a Hawaiian blessing during a Wednesday ceremony and named Keaonamano, which translates to “The Realm of the Sharks.”’

<https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/pearl-harbor-dry-dock-attacked-by-japanese-bombers-in-1941-marks-100-year-milestone-1.595260>

## **3D Printing Heating Up Ice Research on Aircraft**

Make a wing, get ice on it, photograph it, then print the ice to put on a real wing for accurate testing.

<https://www.avweb.com/aviation-news/nasa-using-3d-printing-to-study-aircraft-icing/>

## **The Modern Sniper Though Trial and Error**

Once the rifle was created back in the 1500s there were those that had a knack for it, and they worked alone to shoot at the enemy when the enemy thought they were safe. During the American Revolution the British officers often reported that NCOs and officers were often the first shot during an engagement with the rebel Americans. The US Civil war, and the ability to create scopes on rifles moved the fieldcraft along. The

Boer war and WW I further increased the sniper specialty but WW II is what really moved it from a nice to have to a specialty field where people were put through courses and taught how to snipe the enemy.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-world-war-ii-ensured-sniper-was-born-kill-75876>

## **A Gold Medal Push for Merrill's Marauders**

Fielded into Burma in 1944, the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, code-named "Galahad," became known as Merrill's Marauders, after their leader Brig. Gen. Frank D. Merrill and news reports came back to the US and UK after their raids into Japanese territory.

[https://www.northfulton.com/alpharetta\\_roswell/georgia-urges-support-for-medal-honoring-merrill-s-marauders/article\\_168970d0-c86b-11e9-8604-b3dfa28d46b7.html](https://www.northfulton.com/alpharetta_roswell/georgia-urges-support-for-medal-honoring-merrill-s-marauders/article_168970d0-c86b-11e9-8604-b3dfa28d46b7.html)

***Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS;***

***Next Chapter meeting November 3, 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/>*

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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.