

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for January 2020



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.

The US WW II Heavy Tank That Never Saw Combat

The M103 was designed to fight against the AXIS heavy tanks – but it never fought against any heavy tank.

“...the Germans had found that while they didn't lose many heavy tanks in combat, they abandoned a lot more during retreats: towing a broken down seventy-ton King Tiger from the battlefield was no easy task.”

Amazon Link: [Firepower: A History of the American Heavy Tank](#)

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/meet-m103-americas-heavy-tiger-tank-was-late-world-war-ii-104142>

The Cows in France are to Blame

The years 1314, 1315, and 1316 were the wettest on record over a 700 year span and it was all due to the methane that the cows that were being raised in France produced. They caused the flooding which created famine that occurred after the excess rain.

[Global Warming - Medieval style.]

<https://phys.org/news/2019-12-europe-worst-famines-devastating.html>

The German Horta Flying Wing – Stealth by Design or Accident?

The Ho-229 never made it past the V1 flying prototype stage by the time the war ended, but on paper it was impressive and in one mock fight it outdid the Me-262.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/nazi-germanys-stealth-fighter-could-not-stop-hitler-losing-world-war-ii-104517>

Star Wars, Jawas and the Boer War

When Star Wars was created it needed props – and people either used what was around or created new items. One of the props used by the Jawas (and Tusken Raiders) was the British 1903 Pattern Leather Bandolier. This leather bandolier was created due to the mis-use of the cheap cotton single use bandoliers that were intended to refill cartridge belts, but instead were actually worn by the Cavalry and thus the 303 rifle cartridges fell out. Because of this problem, this belt made its way to Tatooie.

A famous military pistol that made its way to Star Wars to Han Solo was the Mauser C-96 Broomhandle pistol. With a few additions it became the standard Rebel Blaster. See IMA's web site for full info on the bandolier.

<https://www.ima-usa.com/products/original-british-wwi-wwii-p-1903-five-pocket-leather-cavalry-bandolier>

Don't want to Fly Commercial? A P-51D is up for Sale

1944 North American P-51D Mustang "Rosalie". 1903 TTSN. V-1650-7 w/ Rolls Royce 720 Heads & Banks. 115 SMOH with 25 hours Since Top Overhaul including new pistons by Roush Aviation. \$1,995,000.

<https://www.platinumfighters.com/n51tc>

Oshkosh Photos

One of the best places to go and see some incredible, and rare, flying aircraft is at Oshkosh.

<https://talk.newagtalk.com/forums/thread-view.asp?tid=878804&mid=7748728#M7748728>

St John's River Find – An F4F Wildcat

There were over 10,000 US aircraft accidents during WW II. Those over water were seldom recovered, or even looked for. This one has been a river since that time.

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2019/12/09/grainy-sonar-image-leads-to-discovery-of-wwii-aircraft-in-st-johns-river/>

Aircraft You Seldom Get to See – Since They are in Storage

Things take up room, and the bigger they are the more room they take. When you have hundreds of aircraft, and room to store only a few dozen, the rest are stored for some future rotation- like once every 40 years.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2019/12/11/air-space-museum-gets-facelift-its-famous-planes-get-thorough-exam/>

Three Wars and 409 Combat Missions - Col. Charles McGee

For a US combat pilot, that is a lot. Many Germans, and Russians, exceeded that number. He holds the US record for combat missions.

<https://ricochet.com/704509/100-years-three-wars-409-combat-missions-living-memory/>

You Do not Need a Degree to have a Career

Hillcrest Aircraft donates \$100,000 to Lewis-Clark State College career and technical center.

Vocational schools have always been around, but he push since the 1960s saying that EVERYONE needs a college degree, and the resulting disparaging looks that COLLEGE professors have toward technical degrees, has discouraged a lot of people from going to them. Some school districts still know that having a practical vocational knowledge and ability to do actual physical work has value.

https://lmtribune.com/northwest/hillcrest-aircraft-donates-to-lcsc-s-career-and-technical-center/article_a69f0e81-8c77-5458-9614-530276bd2a25.html

4 Decades of Aviation Support

Joining before the USA entered WW II in 1939, Lou Arnold worked on the aircraft themselves in designing, testing, and improving them – including the Norden Bombsight, the U-2 and SR-71 aircraft.

“Arnold believes he has the most precise solution. The U-2 was in some ways a delicate aircraft because of the super-wide wingspan that lifted it to great, classified altitude. The Soviet missiles detonated near enough to the aircraft without hitting it “to push it through the sound barrier where the aircraft came apart.””

<https://www.aerotechnews.com/blog/2019/12/09/100-year-old-veteran-pioneer-on-u-2-project/>

Mageshima Island to Become a “Malta” of the Pacific for the USA

Initial built during WW II for aircraft, this island, just north of Okinawa, will now become a US Air Base. The existing bases used by the USA has been subject of noise and other complaints by Japanese nearly the existing bases.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7781053/Island-bought-Japan-146M-militarys-unsinkable-aircraft-carrier.html>

NIMBY Noise of Aircraft

Like a lot of things in the USA, you build it they will come – then they complain about it after they move there.

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2019/12/12/congressman-neguse-introduces-aircraft-noise-reduction-act/>

Russians Against the Japanese in 1939

The USSR fought a short war land against the Japanese in 1939, Khalkhyn Gol is the best known land battle since Gen Zhukov was in charge and won it, but before and after that battle, the USSR, like the USA in 1941, sent pilots and supplies to fight against the Japanese who had invaded China.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/13/c_138629419.htm

Old is New – Whole Blood Battlefield Transfusions

When a person is wounded severely, they lose blood, and to replace the lost blood fresh blood is needed, so having the medic carrying pints of blood in cold storage, is the next best thing than to having to take it from other combat troops actively fighting.

<https://www.legion.org/security/247860/marine-program-could-get-more-troops-battlefield-alive>

National WW I Memorial Starts Construction in Pershing Park

There is a small memorial, totally unofficial, in the woods just off the Mall in DC, and you have to hunt to find it, but in a few years there will be an official one near the White House in Pershing Park.

<https://www.bisnow.com/washington-dc/news/construction-development/construction-has-begun-on-the-national-world-war-i-memorial-in-dc-102263>

UXBs in Italy

Like their counterparts in northern Europe, unexploded bombs are elsewhere from WW II. Brindisi is a port town on the Aegean side of Italy and British bombers paid them a visit in 1941 – and some bombs are still there.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/15/italy-more-than-50000-evacuated-in-brindisi-after-ww2-bomb-found>

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS;

Next Chapter meeting February 8, 2020

Alice Miller is the tentative scheduled speaker. She has a vast array of early aviation uniforms that she owns and will have on display.

*Doors open at 10 AM at the
Beaverton Elks Lodge
3464 SW 106th Ave
Beaverton, Oregon 97005-1941
<http://www.beavertonelks.org/>*

Take Highway 8 - aka Canyon Road, to get to 106th Avenue. 106th is on the north side of Canyon road. The entrance to the club is ¼ mile down the road on the right – a very small sign points to the entrance.

Secretary 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.