

# "Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society *History News for February 2020*



**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.***

## **Wargaming U-Boat Tactics During WW II**

From 1939 till March of 1942 German U-Boats were winning the war in the Atlantic, and most other areas of combat. This changed when a retired British naval officer, who had been forced into retirement, was asked to come back, to help figure out why the U-Boats were winning.

<https://time.com/5772665/uboaat-wargames/>

## **Valiant Air Command Shows Off Midway Victors**

The Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum, located at 6600 Tico Road at Space Coast Regional Airport, is proud to display three of the aircraft types that flew in for the Americans in the Battle of Midway June 3-6, 1944.

The preparation for the battle started many months before the actual days of combat. Putting B-26s, B17s, PBYS, F4Fs and F3Fs onto the atoll and setting up search patterns for the aircraft (and the submarines) laid the foundation for the fleet to win.

The museum also has the only flyable F-82 "Twin Mustang" which scored the first kill of the Korean war for a US pilot in 1950.

<https://spacecoastdaily.com/2019/12/valiant-air-command-warbird-museum-proudly-displays-aircraft-that-won-the-battle-of-midway/>

## **A Short History of the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt**

A prototype, XP-47B, flew for the first time on May 6, 1941. Many teething problems were encountered in getting the new planes operational, and the XP-47B crashed on August 8, 1941. But deliveries of P-47B models to Army Air Forces squadrons began on March 18, 1942. The 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, based in England, were the first unit to become operational with them on April 13, 1943. The 56<sup>th</sup> flew the model until the end of the War.

"After his initial flight, Blakeslee griped to Flight Cmdr. James E. "Johnny" Johnson, the RAF's leading British-born ace of the war, that the bulky, *low-slung P-47 seemed reluctant to leave the ground and anxious to get back on it.* It was the largest and heaviest piston-engine fighter ever to have served with the USAAF."

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/republic-p-47-thunderbolt-amazing-fighter-helped-america-win-world-war-ii-107356>

## **The F-4 Phantom – Still Serving Air Forces After 60 Years**

The early Phantoms could carry 18,000 pounds of munitions—three times what the huge B-17 bombers of World War II typically carried. The weapons officer [the GIB – Guy In Back] in the rear-seat could operate the plane’s advanced radar, communication and weapons systems while the pilot focused on flying.

They are still active in the Greek and Turkish Air Forces.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/f-4-phantom-might-be-over-60-years-old-its-not-done-yet-106831>

## **Crew Chief of a C47**

“Before the airplane was started, we had to turn each propeller 14 times. (Because they were in a circle, some cylinders were upside-down.) Turning the propellers, and thus turning the cylinders, drained all the oil from the cylinders. If an engine started with oil in any cylinder, it would jerk the whole engine apart and would require a complete overhaul.

In February 1944, we flew from Baer Field to Macon, Georgia, then down to West Palm Beach, Florida; Puerto Rico; British Guiana; and Belem, Brazil, before crossing the Atlantic to Ascension Island and Roberts Field in Liberia, Africa. After Liberia, we flew to Marrakesh, Morocco.

It was a long haul. Twice we flew 11 hours without stopping. We put 8,464 gallons of gas through our plane, #43-15050, and it took us 19 days — 81 1/2 hours of flying time—to go from Florida to England.”

“Lieutenant John North was platoon commander, and we discussed jump speed and altitude. Since a group [the pathfinder planes] led by Charles Young had gone ahead, we had to have an altitude of greater than 1,000 feet above ground level. North requested that, if possible, we would descend to 500 feet above ground level (normal altitude for our jump was 600 feet) so his stick would have only one swing before landing.”

“I didn’t much care for B-24s; most of them had leaky gas tanks, and that gas dripped down into the bomb bays. Before landing, the bomb bay doors had to be opened hydraulically to remove the gas fumes before lowering the landing gear. If the landing gear was lowered first, it created electrical sparks that could ignite the gas fumes in the bomb bays. I had seen a B-24 pilot lower his landing gear with the bomb bay doors closed, and his plane blew sky high.”

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/i-went-through-world-war-ii-hell-crew-chief-c-47-107256>

## **Shot Down, Captured, and Escape – John Katsaros**

In March 1944, 20-year-old Haverhill native John Katsaros was aboard the B-17 bomber Man O’ War when it was shot out of the sky on a mission to destroy an aircraft factory in Frankfurt, Germany. He wrote a book about his escape.

- Amazon link  
[Code Burgundy: The Long Escape](#)

[https://www.newburyportnews.com/news/local\\_news/local-veteran-returns-for-battle-of-the-bulge-commemoration/article\\_2137fb76-1b21-5c6e-9bcb-c0f72f7cbc45.html](https://www.newburyportnews.com/news/local_news/local-veteran-returns-for-battle-of-the-bulge-commemoration/article_2137fb76-1b21-5c6e-9bcb-c0f72f7cbc45.html)

## **Theodore Roosevelt's Animals**

The hero of San Juan Hill, President, and National Parks maker has some animal species named in his honor due to his exploits of being an avid hunter and establish precedents of both game hunting and land preservation.

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/610387/animals-named-after-theodore-roosevelt>

## **The Moro War**

"Precious few today have ever heard of America's Moro War, fought from 1899 to 1913, but it was, until Afghanistan, one of America's longest sustained military campaigns." As Lieutenant Benny Foulois—later a general and the "father" of Army aviation—reflected, "The Filipino insurrection was mild compared to the difficulties we had with the Moros."

<https://www.nationofchange.org/2019/12/18/remembering-americas-first-and-longest-forgotten-war-on-tribal-islamists/>

## **Movie Review "1917"**

After the Somme offensive of from July 1 to Dec of 1916, the Germans decided to shorten their line and pulled back to a new defensive position that they had been working on for months. 1917 takes place after the Germans pulled out of their Somme lines to the new line in the spring of 1917 — the height of the war.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/12/24/21034001/1917-review-movie-sam-mendes-wwi-world-war-i-george-mackay>

## **Gas Masks of WW I**

Chlorine gas had a telltale smell and green color. Troops knew instantly that the gas had been deployed. To safeguard against it, allied troops used rags or towels covered in urine to protect their lungs from the gas. The thought was that the ammonia in urea was somehow neutralizing the chlorine to keep it from killing them. That wasn't it at all. Chlorine just dissolves in water, so no chlorine would ever pass through the wet pieces of cloth on their face. They could have used coffee, and the trick would have still worked.

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/gear-tech/improvised-gas-mask-wwi?rebellitem=2#rebellitem2>

## **Unusual – But Prevalent – Army Jobs in WW II**

Most people know that WW I was the big first widescale the industrial war and that WW II was modern – but old jobs still persisted during WW II.

<https://connectingvets.radio.com/galleries/photo-gallery-odd-military-jobs-during-world-war-ii>

## **111 Missions in a Mosquito**

Turing 100 on December 29, 2019 he also got a medal for his exploits in WW II. But the New Zealand medal itself, the Defense Service Medal, has only been in existence since 2011, Streatfield explained. It was created to honor New Zealand's Vietnam veterans, who had come home without recognition. To be fair to other veterans, the air force extended presentation of that medal to every veteran since 1945 with three years' service.

<https://taskandpurpose.com/unsung-heroes/the-decorated-wwii-vet-who-flew-dozens-of-deadly-missions-in-a-balsa-wood-plane>

## **The 1826 Egnog Riot at West Point**

How did the modern version of discipline at West Point get to that point – too much whiskey in the early 1800s.

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/12/the-necessity-of-a-rigorous-example-discipline-west-point-and-the-eggnog-riot/>

## **Lessons from the USS Franklin Combat Damage – Ship and Leadership**

One of the most famous photos from the USA Pacific battles is that of the USS Franklin after a July Dive bomber hit it while the deck was full of planes ready to be launched – like what happened to the Japanese Carriers at Midway. Design changes, and ships crew, made sure that it did not sink – but the captain almost did.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-bad-captain-can-almost-sink-your-aircraft-carrier-110901?page=0%2C1>

## **A Lady Lex Diary – November 1943 till Tokyo Bay**

Melvin's fragile pocket-sized diary provides a first-person account of the U.S. Navy's historic "island-hopping" campaign during World War II — particularly the climactic end stage of the Pacific War — as viewed by an ordinary sailor more concerned with staying alive than grand strategy.

[https://www.thesunchronicle.com/foxboro\\_reporter/news/local\\_news/foxboro-soldier-s-diary-provides-first-hand-account-of-navy/article\\_793b3d99-2723-5b50-8dac-76111d15dbad.html](https://www.thesunchronicle.com/foxboro_reporter/news/local_news/foxboro-soldier-s-diary-provides-first-hand-account-of-navy/article_793b3d99-2723-5b50-8dac-76111d15dbad.html)

## **1815 Battle of New Orleans – Every Year**

Every January 8<sup>th</sup> you can watch Andrew Jackson defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

[https://www.nola.com/entertainment\\_life/article\\_e543af1c-2022-11ea-8009-ab2f70186361.html](https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/article_e543af1c-2022-11ea-8009-ab2f70186361.html)

## Monument Errors That Are Still Around

People have erected monuments to commemorate events and sometimes they get dates and names wrong – and are never corrected.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Troy-s-military-monument-bears-Revolutionary-War-14942810.php>

## Duxford IWM – 200+ Aircraft AND Tanks!

Anyone going to Duxford needs at least 3 days to really take it all in – if you do it fast. [I first went there in 1982, and you could wander everywhere and it was all very casual.]

[https://www.pvnews.com/lifestyle/travel-with-a-difference-see-more-than-world-war-ii/article\\_41aeb13c-2b47-11ea-92bd-978ae21f21a0.html](https://www.pvnews.com/lifestyle/travel-with-a-difference-see-more-than-world-war-ii/article_41aeb13c-2b47-11ea-92bd-978ae21f21a0.html)

## The B-32 Hobo Queen - Last Plane in Combat Against Japan during WW II

The B-32 was a heavy bomber competitor to the B-29 – and lost out to the better performing and production savvy Boeing bomber. However, 116 B-32 were still built and one group went to war with it.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/american-b-32-bombers-kept-fighting-japan-even-after-world-war-ii-had-ended-111451>

## MIA 2<sup>nd</sup> LT William McGowan ID'd

Shot down June 6, 1944 near St. Lo France, a new team traveled to site and recovered his remain in 2018. He is to be buried in Normandy on July 26, 2020.

<https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/news/4856380-Remains-of-missing-World-War-II-pilot-from-Benson-identified-in-France>

## WW II Restitution – Poland Caught Up In Paying Victims

“Not long ago, there appeared US Congress Resolution No. 447, which is relative to the role of Poland in World War II. This draft law empowers victims of the Holocaust to claim compensation for property they lost during the war on the territory of Poland and enables the U.S. State Department to support non-governmental organizations involved in the restitution of lost Jewish property.”

Poland’s citizens were both victims and benefitters of the war (depending on the dates involved) and where they were.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/01/19/why-warsaw-denies-historical-facts-about-world-war-ii/>

## “Flak Bait” Restoration

The average life of a B-17 in 1942 was 17 missions, This B-26 went on over 200 missions. Now in the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., the plane is being pieced together and restored for eventual placement among the museum's other famous aircraft.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/world-war-ii-bomber-flak-bait-is-being-brought-back-to-life-at-the-smithsonian-1.615802>

## **B-25 Bomber Found in Poland**

Shot down on January 19, 1945 it was one of 861 B-25s sent to the USSR using the Lend-Lease law to aid them in defeating the NAZIs.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/wreckage-soviet-wwii-bomber-remains-found-poland-68448785>

## **Short Stirling Found in Netherlands**

Short Stirling Bomber BK716 was lost on a mission in 1943. It was found in a lake near Amsterdam in January. British planes that are lost with crew is a war graves site and cannot be disturbed, unlike other nations planes when discovered.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-51249752>

## **An F-15 Eagle Gets a B-17 Paint Job**

At the 173<sup>rd</sup> Fighter wing's Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base in Oregon the F-15 Eagle gets a Fortress make-over to honor 2nd Lt. David Kingsley who lost his life over Ploesti in a B-17.

<https://taskandpurpose.com/unsung-heroes/f15-wwii-paint-job-honors-medal-of-honor-hero>

## **Flying Aircraft Carriers Are Here**

X-61A "Gremlin" drone is launched from a C-130, flies a mission, then is hauled back inside the C-130 like what they did when Airships, like the Macon, were in the inventory.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a30612943/gremlin-drone-first-flight/>

## **Rear Area Troops During the Boer War**

Most people only think of the frontline firing troops during any war, but the people behind the troops are also involved to get the needed supplies to the troops. During the Boer war the distances involved, and the lack of real front lines during most of the war, meant that the RE – Royal Engineers - were even more important to move to supplies.

<https://www.goexpress.co.za/2020/01/24/rebuilding-bridges-during-the-anglo-boer-war/>

## **Magnet Fishing Rivers and Oceans**

Sometimes you are not looking for fish but you could get a real bang for your efforts.

<https://www.dewsburyreporter.co.uk/news/people/bomb-squad-called-dewsbury-after-magnet-fisher-pulls-out-world-war-two-mortar-canal-1377533>

## Runners in WW I

Communication runners carried messages between both tactical and command units. Carrying a message could last a few minutes to get to a destination or could last hours depending on the distance – and danger – being faced. Adolf Hitler was a runner during the 4 years he was on the front line.

<https://www.history.com/news/world-war-i-runners-1917>

## War Dogs of WW I

By the end of World War I, Stubby had served in 17 battles and survived at least two life-threatening injuries—including shrapnel in his chest and leg. The rugged little canine would become the first dog to be given rank—Sergeant—in the U.S. Armed Forces. Donald Aiello, president of the United States War Dogs Association, points out that Stubby was not even an official "war dog."

<https://www.history.com/news/dog-heroes-world-war-i-photos>

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

***Next Chapter meeting May 9, 2020***

*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 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue. 106<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.