

"Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society *History News for March 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.

This "Milk Run" is way late since I spent most of the year moving from Oregon to Florida. However, now that I am here, 2030 miles from Beaverton Oregon in St Cloud Florida, I am going though and creating all the missing Milk Runs. I never stopped collecting articles. So until I catch up, every few weeks another issue will come to your email box. Tom Philo your editor.

Last British Battle of Britain Ace Dead at 101

Sgt Paul Frames, Flying Hurricanes, was in France flying at the start of the War gaining 1 confirmed and 1 probable.

Stationed in Southern England during the battle he shot down a Ju-88.

"I gave him a couple of bursts and he crashed at Gatwick just on the point between the airport and the racecourse. It was particularly poignant for me," Farnes continued, "because I landed and the station commander took me over to meet the pilot of the German aircraft. I went to shake hands with him, but he wouldn't shake my hand. One of the gunners was all right, but the other was killed."

As of February 2020, now only 2 British pilots from the Battle of Britain are still alive.

https://www.unionleader.com/news/paul-farnes-last-surviving-ace-of-the-battle-of-britain/article_fc283a98-110f-58eb-8914-80c701f6bb72.html

Return of the P-51 – Not!

Jets are expensive and complicated and to train a pilot for the multi-mission role that is now expected of jets, and the advanced avionics and targeting required to hit things at such high speed is way more expensive. So back in the 90s the idea was floated to bring back a modern version of the P-51 for low level missions using a proven platform.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/aerial-comeback-attempted-return-p-51-mustang-117386>

Volunteers at the Museum of Aviation in Georgia restoring a B-17

This is a multi-year, like 8 years, project to get it back to factory fresh condition.

<https://www.13wmaz.com/article/news/local/museum-of-aviation-b-17-restoration-project/93-766e785c-6f95-4cc5-9b74-7051cc4587f0>

The National Warplane Museum gives up the movie version of "The Memphis Belle"

The rear B-17F is at the Air Force Museum and is fully restored. This a/c was used in the making of the 1991 movie. “. . . Faced with the prospect of a 100-percent increase in insurance premiums, the rising cost of spare parts and labor and the \$1,000 in fuel it guzzles every hour . . .” if ended the lease of the a/c.

https://www.thelcn.com/news/local/national-warplane-museum-ending-lease-of-iconic-movie-memphis-belle/article_35c934ac-44fa-55aa-953a-88937398e588.html

Former POW who met the me-262 Jet Ace who shot him down, dies at 94

Flying as a gunner in a B-17 in the 848 Squadron in the 490th BG(H) out of Eye England in 1945 he was the sole survivor of his B-17 when it was shot down by the Ace Alfred Ambros. They met in Germany in 2004.

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/a-wwii-prisoner-of-war-that-survived-a-plane-crash/article_07378184-450d-11ea-9f15-2372e03ff548.html

3 POWs to be Get a Plaque in Hanau Germany

Captured after their B -17s were shot down and turned over to the Gestapo, Tech. Sgt. Warren George Hammond, Staff Sgt. Joseph Eugene Prokop' and, one of whom was Jewish Tech. Sgt. Charles Bernard Goldstein, the Gestapo chief became enraged and ordered all three to be shot. 90 minutes later they were.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/02/03/german-city-honor-wwii-airman-new-details-his-death-emerge.html>

The Solomon South Pacific Strategy as Executed – Not as Prewar Planned

The South Pacific, and the whole Japanese war in the Pacific changed when the US & Australia went onto the offensive in the Solomons. No planning for it was done it just had to happen the way it did and it changed how the US fought the whole war.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/smaller-midway-fighting-japan-solomon-isles-was-critical-winning-world-war-ii-119231>

Freeing Up Men for War in all Trades and Skills

Like England, and the USSR, when the USA went to war women were used to replace men in every industry there was. It was based on skill where they served and one where they did well, though there were few of them, was in Air Traffic Control.

https://www.kmov.com/news/retired-women-s-air-corp-dispatcher-turns/article_20b23c9c-414f-11ea-b582-ebfa4594b3b0.html

B-17 over Denmark – in 2019

Overflying Denmark to bomb Germany was a regular occurrence during WW II. In 2019 the only flying B-17 in Europe, Sally B based at Duxford England, visited Denmark.

<https://sldinfo.com/2020/01/the-sally-b-in-denmark-in-2019/>

A Short History Of Napoleon

A single person can change history, its been seen many many times. But some people really change it.

Some changes he instituted: Strong central government; Catholics, and welcomed Protestants and Jews on equal footing. Napoleon's reforms brought financial security along with political and social stability

<https://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/napoleon.htm>

Famed Mercenary “Mad Mike” Hoare Dead at 100

An accountant by trade after serving in WW II, he moved to South Africa and by chance became a mercenary to fight communism in the Congo.

His unit was nicknamed “The Wild Geese” and a movie was made with the same title using some of his exploits as the basis of the movie.

<https://fox2now.com/news/mad-mike-hoare-ex-accountant-who-became-world-famous-mercenary-dies-aged-100/>

Book Review: Useless Mouths

Logistics is an essential need that is not overlooked in military circles. Logistics is also what enables modern society to exist as it does. This all goes back to the military thousands of years where they had to figure out how to ensure troops got what they needed when they needed it. When the side that failed to ensure that all the goods it needs to win did not get them it lost.

The book details how the BEF of 1939/1940 and the supply system troops there fought successful rear actions against the Germans after Dunkirk and also left France largely intact in a series of other “Dunkirk’s” you do not hear about during the 1940 Battle of France.

<https://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/1945>

Amazon link: [Useless Mouths: The British Army's Battles in France after Dunkirk May-June 1940](#)

As Actor As in Real Life

Book review: Newcastle and Tyneside in the Second World War: the People’s Story, is £11.99 from Tyne Bridge Publishing.

There are lists of actors who after time in the military became actors. Some actors in the military mirrored their training in movies. One actor was British Anthony Quayle. Trained in Northumberland to act as resistance if the Germans invaded he ended up playing such a fighter in “The Guns of Navarone”.

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/how-film-star-once-part-17645573>

Amazon link: [Newcastle and Tyneside in the Second World War](#)

Buffalo Soldiers and the Philippine Insurrection

Segregation within the USA Military, as well as other nations, was not uncommon for most of world history. Part of the time it was cultural where it was common to recruit from one tribe or ethnic since those tribes THEMSELVES often would discriminate based on different religions or tribal views. The USA, besides from the Revolutionary War, had always grouped people by ethnic or origin into military units. After the Spanish American War there were lots of blacks in the Military – and they sent them to the Philippines.

<https://daily.jstor.org/the-jim-crow-army-in-the-philippine-american-war/>

Replacing the M4 Sherman after WW II

The M4 “Sherman” was a compromise of production, transportation bottlenecks (too wide and they cannot be shipped through the tunnels of the Appalachian or Rocky Mountains), and time. Told they were better than any German Tank they would come across it was true – in 1942. Fielded in 1943 and 1944 the design of the medium tank was outclassed by German improvement in tanks and shells.

“Allied tankers, including Harris, who had three Shermans shot from under him during the war in Western Europe, the nine savage weeks of fighting in the Normandy hedgerow country and the following dash across France proved the Sherman was far from the equal of the German Tiger, Panther, or even the outdated Panzer IV.”

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-americas-mighty-m26-pershing-tank-fought-against-north-korea-120141>

John Ford Movie Director and OSS Agent

Well known for making movies he helped make training films for the OSS – where he has a speaking part. Got his SAG Card.

<https://sofrep.com/news/a-spy-and-a-gentleman-john-ford-oscar-winning-hollywood-director/>

A Short History of the Essex Class Carriers

None of the 24 built were sunk during WW II or any other war. The last one was retired in 1991. 4 are floating museums.

<https://news.yahoo.com/why-no-essex-class-aircraft-090000351.html>

Tuskegee WW II Veteran Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee at the Smithsonian

Originally retired as a full colonel after a career in the Air Force, President Trump approved his promotion to a 1 Star General in 2020.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/you-could-fly-to-mars-100-year-old-tuskegee-airman-charles-e-mcgee-aims-to-inspire-at-smithsonian-event/2020/02/08/f98b081e-4aa0-11ea-bdbf-1dfb23249293_story.html

Which is the Better Merlin – Rolls-Royce or Packard?

During WW II Britain could not build enough of everything so they let out contracts to build war material for them in the USA. Packard got the 1.2 tons of paper designs to build the Merlin engine and did so in numbers and quality that is hard to believe. By the end of the war, the Merlin 66 was making 2,050 hp compared the 1,030 hp in the Merlin II of Battle of Britain era.

"Of the total of 168,068 Merlin variants built, Packard produced 55,523. Rolls-Royce did even better at 82,117 (32,377 at Derby, 26,065 at Crewe and 23,675 at Glasgow), and Ford of Britain ultimately built 30,428 at its Manchester facility."

<https://www.autoweek.com/car-life/classic-cars/a30763715/rolls-royce-vs-packard-who-built-a-better-merlin/>

Amazon link: [Merlin in Perspective: The Combat Years \(Historical Series\)](#)

Hero's and Icons TV Network Brings Back WW II Shows

The 1950s and 1960s, and some into the 70s, had shows about WW II. Classic was 12 O'Clock High and in the 1970's Black Sheep Squadron. They now air on this cable TV network.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS;

Next Chapter Meeting: **UNKNOWN**

*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.

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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.