

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

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.

## **WW I Helmets vs Modern**

They may not stop all bullets, but against shrapnel and blast effects they actually work really well.

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/wwi-helmets-protect-against-shock-waves-as-well-as-modern-helmets-scientists-discover>

## **Tunnels and Spies during the Cold War**

Sometimes life is more surreal than fiction.

[https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/calendar/betrayal-in-berlin-the-berlin-tunnel-and-the-mole-in/event\\_84c1da0a-4c47-11ea-a14b-3797c0edf38f.html](https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/calendar/betrayal-in-berlin-the-berlin-tunnel-and-the-mole-in/event_84c1da0a-4c47-11ea-a14b-3797c0edf38f.html)

## **1806 – Russia Come to the Aid of Prussia**

When Bonaparte started the war with Prussia in 1806, and defeated them on the battlefield, Prussia did not surrender since they knew an unlikely ally, Russia, was coming to help.

<http://www.globaldomainsnews.com/in-which-battle-the-russians-for-the-first-time-defeated-napoleon>

## **Start of WW II – Date is really Unknown**

The exact date is always in question. Did it start on Nov 11, 1918? The day Japan took over parts of China? Marco Polo Bridge? Ethiopia? It depends on where you are looking. For most it may be Spain when Hitler, Mussolini, USSR send advisors to help Franco's side of the civil war. And some iconic photos came out of it.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/photo-might-be-real-start-world-war-ii-128662>

## **Aviation Scholarships are Still Around**

Flying is actually very easy – it is all the rules, ATC and glass cockpit programs you have to learn that makes it hard. Scholarships is one way to jump start your career.

<https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2020/february/27/red-tail-dream-alive-in-alabama>

## **And when you have to land sometimes you have to scratch some paint**

[https://www.azfamily.com/news/pilot-executes-picture-perfect-belly-landing-at-phoenix-goodyear-airport/article\\_4a9c9b5c-5cb0-11ea-9053-33c47fbd4cb3.html](https://www.azfamily.com/news/pilot-executes-picture-perfect-belly-landing-at-phoenix-goodyear-airport/article_4a9c9b5c-5cb0-11ea-9053-33c47fbd4cb3.html)

## **Operation Chastise – The Dam Buster Raid**

One of the most famous and innovative raids during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War it inspired a movie, and a movie remake that has not happened yet, and many many books about it. Here is a book review.

“. . . The villain here is Arthur Harris . . . blames him for hypocritically taking a share of the glory, having been against the dams raid in the first place. . .”

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/operation-chastise-review-myth-busting-the-dam-busters-11582675531>

Amazon link: [Operation Chastise: The RAF's Most Brilliant Attack of World War II](#)

## **1919 Aviation Movie “Stunt” that went wrong and make it into the Film**

Sometimes stunts go wrong, and when filming you keep rolling, and the unplanned stunt still makes it into the film. The Grim Game” aviation movie was one. However, the film has been lost so no one can actually see the film, but it was written about.

<https://www.dailybulletin.com/2020/03/02/pomona-man-defies-gravity-in-miraculous-1919-movie-stunt/>

### **Restoring Aircraft in Alabama**

Sometimes it takes a long time to restore a plane to flying condition. Some people will spend decades getting it just right for that one plane. In a museum however, you have multiple planes and it could take your whole life to restore them all.

“It hadn’t had any upkeep in years, so we’re having to start from scratch, take it all the way back down, [strip] the paint off,” said Edison, of the aircraft the museum acquired five years ago. “Some portions had fabric covering, so we had to buy that and put the new fabric on. It [also had] some sheet metal damage [in need of] repair, so it’s been challenging.”

<https://www.birminghamtimes.com/2020/02/technician-zachary-edison-not-rewriting-history-restoring-it/>

## **The Wilson Dollar**

Never heard of it? It was very minted in limited quantities and has often been counterfeited. Active presidents, nor living, cannot be on any US currency. Course once gone they can be put on US currency – its hard way to make a buck – but Woodrow Wilson was alive, thought not President, when these coins were minted- but they were not official US currency so it was allowed.

<https://coinweek.com/counterfeits/the-1920-wilson-dollar-a-counterfeited-rarity/>

## **Fort Alcatraz**

Lots of places around the world that are now tourist destinations were once military forts, strongholds, or outposts. Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay was one such place.

<https://celebspulse.com/alcatraz-escape/>

## **Marines Sink Their Tank Battalions**

The WW II era style tank battalions are going away. The mission focus has changed so the need for them, and all the back-end support required to put them onto a beach, means they are no longer needed.

“. . . mission is to be a flexible naval infantry force. To control islands and shorelines, assist the navy in boarding ships, raiding, directing shore fires, and in general be able to very quickly be dropped into somewhere by naval assets and cause absolute havoc on the ground.”

<https://gatdaily.com/marines-are-retiring-their-tank-battalions/>

## **91 Mission 9<sup>th</sup> AF Pilot Lt Bob Trombetta**

Assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> AF 366th Fighter Group as a ground attack pilot, as well as air to air when needed, he flew his missions in the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter.

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/santa-rosa-world-war-ii-pilot-bob-trombetta-dies-at-97/>

## **B-25 Makes An Emergency Landing**

A B-25 with the nose art of *Old Glory* did an emergency landing in a dirt field in California. From the looks of it they did a wheels-down landing and they hit an irrigation ditch which ripped off the starboard engine.

Leaving the gear up or down is always a decision you will love or hate – depending on the outcome. In water always gear-up. Any plowed or unknown type land – best to go gear up and skid it in based on WW II accident reports.

<https://www.planeandpilotmag.com/news/the-latest/2020/09/22/b-25-crashes-in-california-under-mysterious-circumstances/>

## **Los Banos Internment Camp**

In 1942 a 17-year-old Norma Saunders was captured by the Japanese and spent the next 3 years as a POW/Internee under the Japanese rule.

By January 1945, food rationing was so severe — one cup of rice a day — that prisoners were dying almost daily from starvation and malnutrition.

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local\\_news/family-to-mark-th-anniversary-of-matriarch-s-liberation-from/article\\_591c5eed-dda1-5cb0-9554-45ed348a3968.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/family-to-mark-th-anniversary-of-matriarch-s-liberation-from/article_591c5eed-dda1-5cb0-9554-45ed348a3968.html)

## **Build A Model and go to the Naval Academy**

The model that is. Scale modeling is hard work, and given the paucity of photos in the 1700s, getting it right is hard. This person did get it right. But an Air Force veteran built a War of 1812 ship and so it sails . . .

“Jim Twohig of Sun City built his first model ship — a replica of the flagship used by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry to win the battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812 — so well that the model will soon find a home at the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland.”

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/novices-model-of-historic-battleship-bound-for-naval-academy-museum-1966889/>

## **The USS Constitution gets a new Commander**

The USS Constitution is the oldest still commissioned ship in the US Navy. Naval personnel train on it year-round. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and captured 33 opponents.

<https://whdh.com/news/new-commander-takes-the-helm-of-uss-constitution/>

## **Masonry Forts around New Orleans Crumble With Time**

Concrete was not -re-discovered till the late 1880s (Romans knew how to do it but they never wrote down the formula) so until then, all forts were out of rock held together with porous mortar. And that does not last.

[https://www.nola.com/entertainment\\_life/article\\_54ad55c2-58ce-11ea-b89f-6f80d8746eff.html](https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/article_54ad55c2-58ce-11ea-b89f-6f80d8746eff.html)

## **WW I Hand Grenade Found on UK Beach**

And, of course, after they determined that it was inert, they promptly took it away and blew it up and destroyed it – instead of it going into a museum.

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/world-war-one-hand-grenade-found-on-beach-in-uk>

## **Pope Pius XII Archives somewhat opened**

He was the Pope during and after WW II. “More than 150 scholars have applied to study documents covering his papacy, which lasted from 1939 to 1958. Typically, the Vatican waits 70 years after the end of a pontificate to open its archives to scholars.”

There has been speculation that his administration did little during the war, or even helped some high ranking NAZIs flee Europe after WW II.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/02/811170588/vatican-opens-archives-of-world-war-ii-era-pope-pius-xii>

## **Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Archivist 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS of Oregon  
Tom Philo  
3713 Mystic Pl  
St Cloud, Florida 34772-8261  
[archive@8thafhsoregon.com](mailto:archive@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.