

“Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for June 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.

Snipers as a Dedicated Military Profession Came of Age in WW II

When firepower first came into use it was dangerous and slow to use on the battlefield. However, after a while some specialization occurred. Some really good soldiers were tasked with shooting the enemy when in siege conditions. In the British Army they were “Green Jackets” showing they were not the regular line infantry. From the late 1600s thru the First World War they came and went out of the armies as a recognized specialty – WW II though saw them come again and remain as a dedicated specialization within Armies.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-world-war-ii-gave-birth-modern-day-sniper-128412>

Garage Built – Flying Spitfire Now on Display

When you have time on your hands – and a large enough garage – you can build anything. Bill Pratt built a ½ scale flyable Spitfire.

“The wing was 23 feet long, so I built it diagonally in my garage, and built the rest of it (there), also”

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/entertainment_life/article_9a894dd6-51c0-11ea-921a-7779cbaa7ccd.html

Hunting for a B-25 Raises more questions about the Hunter

Having raised \$44,000 to go to hunt for a missing B-25 from 1943 the person left without two people for the trip – which got the attention from the Federal Government since it concerns military personnel missing from WW II.

Any US remains cannot be transported and once discovered turned over to the nearest US Consulate or Embassy.

<https://www.dispatch.com/news/20200303/mountaineer-searching-india-for-wwii-crash-returns-with-remains-questions>

Want to Live in An Aviation Apartment – Go to Henderson Texas

Renting an apartment is easy – but having it pre-styled to a theme is harder. For aviation you can go here and rent one inspired themed by aviation.

https://www.fox5vegas.com/news/airplane-inspired-luxury-apartment-complex-opens-in-henderson/article_14012a4a-5d6e-11ea-bd6e-83711d8e8d5d.html

Monument Repair in Windsor England

Starting in the 1800s monuments were being built around the world recognizing soldiers after most major wars - in almost every country. (The Terra Cotta army in China was for the Emperor – not the soldiers.)

Like any building it needs to be maintained and the Boer War one in Windsor England needs repair.

Meanwhile in the USA Socialists/Marxists/Communists are tearing down monuments to soldiers and statesmen.

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/255k-repair-to-boer-war-monument-urged-to-respect-sacrifices>

3rd Time A Charm – Capturing Sevastopol in 1942

The Naval port in the Crimea had been built up as a defensive base since the early 1800s and the Czar and then the Communists had done some improvement also. It took the Germans three tries, specialized siege weapons, and a 10 months from start till capture.

<https://www.ilawjournals.com/a-third-assault-on-sevastopol-how-hitler-managed-to-take-the-city-of-russian-sailors/>

There were many “Kursk” style Engagements on the Eastern Front Kursk was the biggest, but many times tank vs tank battles happened and more often than not the Germans won tactically – but still had to retreat. Voronezh battle was one such “Prokhorovka”.

<https://www.ilawjournals.com/voronezh-prokhorovka-who-won-it/>

Zara Steiner Historian of WW I Dead at 91

Almost like Indiana Jones - Digging through Items to get documents:

“He took me into a very dusty room and opened cabinets that had clearly not been cleaned for decades,” she wrote. “Out fell, along with bound volumes, packets of papers, tied up in pink ribbon, which dropped on to the floor as well as envelopes of pictures covered in dust. ‘Oh dear,’ he said, ‘you had better have a look.’”

“That,” she added, “was how I began as a researcher.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/05/books/zara-steiner-dead.html>

A National Guard Armory in Chicago

Eighth Regiment Armory once housed the a National Guard unit in the U.S. that was only black.

Before the Spanish-American war individuals, and states, could raise their own combat units and then loan them to the US Government. This is what Theodore Roosevelt did to create the Rough Riders. Chicago did the same thing except it was a total black unit.

The did not fight in Cuba, but they fought, under French control, in WW I. The US had two Black divisions in WW I – but they were given to the French, used French Arms, but US uniforms, since the US Government did not want them in with General Pershing AEF.

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/whats-that-building-the-eighth-regiment-armory/1ed373dc-cb45-45e7-9088-1331b49b1306>

Burying Quentin Roosevelt

As an Aide de Camp to a General you get to do all sorts of sundry tasks that are often not recognized but need to be done. Once in a while you get to do something significant.

<https://www.wxpr.org/post/alexander-lytle-and-quentin-roosevelt#stream/0>

ECM – Electronic Counter Measures - Now you see me Now you don't

Between WW I and WWII ECM ideas and tactics started to be researched. There was not much money so it was very primitive – mainly signal jamming. During the Normandy Invasion it became more sophisticated – US aircraft went off Pas de Calais and spoofed German radar into seeing an invasion coming their way – and it was just 1 aircraft.

Now Russia is coming up with a way to jam – spoof sonobuoys to allow their subs to hide from prowling aircraft.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/32584/russian-submarines-getting-electronic-warfare-buoys-that-jam-sonobuoys-dropped-by-enemy-aircraft>

Honor Soldiers by Visiting the Battlefield and Cemeteries

Reading about historical battles, and even social battles, you can only learn so much. It takes a visit to the actual site to really understand what you have read about most of the time – unless you are really good at reading topological maps and weather reports.

<https://www.dailypress.com/viriniagazette/opinion/va-vg-ed-vg-monuments-0318-20200316-vxrbauj65ba3zof4gcuizrkzji-story.html>

WW I Nurse Who Died of the Spanish Flu in 1918

WW I was a war where women were actively recruited to serve in the Military. Before that they could volunteer but were NOT military though they served with them.

Florence Eastman died at age 24 of the Spanish Influenza in 1918 while supervising nurses and orderlies in a hospital on Long Island.

The Spanish Flu was different in that the healthier you were the more likely you were to die from it. The young and old survived more often once they got the flu than 18 to 45-year-old people.

<https://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20200312/florence-eastman-was-only-woman-from-mattapoissett-to-enlist-in-world-war-i>

Draft / Volunteer Statistics for the USA WW I thru Vietnam

World War I	Sept. 1917 – Nov. 1918	2,810,296
World War II	Nov. 1940 – Oct. 1946	10,110,104
Korean War	June 1950 – June 1953	1,529,539
Vietnam War	Aug. 1964 – Feb. 1973	1,857,304

These number do not reflect the number of people **IN** the military – since there already were people in all the branches before the start of the wars – it only reflects the number who went into the services from when it was officially recognized as starting.

<https://www.sss.gov/history-and-records/induction-statistics/>

Cutting the Airwaves With Mosquito Aircraft

One of the many ways that the British let Germany know that they did not own the skies over Germany during WW II was sending aircraft over Berlin – in Daylight in January 1943.

<https://www.airspacemag.com/military-aviation/world-war-iis-strangest-bombing-mission-180974470/>

Dead Reckoning In the Pacific

Flying missions over the oceans during WW II from carriers was fraught with deadly possibilities. When you took off a carrier you only knew where it SHOULD be a few hours later if NOTHING occurred during the task force while you were gone.

“Flying on dead reckoning, trying to find a moving carrier group in a very large ocean, made it a white-knuckle return trip,” he said. “When we arrived where I had calculated the carriers’ position to be, I saw nothing for three minutes and had visions of 60 splashdowns in the ocean.”

Another day for Lt. Commander Henry Rubner flying off the USS Lexington during WW II.

<https://fusion.inquirer.com/obituaries/naval-aviator-henry-hank-rubner-decorated-world-war-two-dive-bomber-died-20200320.html>

How the “Flying Tigers” Got their Teeth

Not an original idea by the AVG they got it from a photo of British P-40s in North Africa – but the British got it from a photo of a German Me-110 flying over Athens.

<https://www.airspacemag.com/military-aviation/when-shark-bites-180974484/>

James Bond “Q” Type Camouflage in WW II

In some of the James Bonds movies the car “disappears” when being looked at in daylight – but it can be done and was in some cases during WW II.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/worth-try-how-navy-wanted-cloak-its-world-war-ii-warships-134302>

Ice Cream and the US Navy

The first ice cream machine was put on a battleship in 1906 and it was for all the crew not just officers. British Navy personnel always liked going aboard US Ships in WW II – it was the only place they could get free ice cream during the war.

DDs like earning a reward for rescuing downed fliers from carriers:

"The USS Melvin prided herself in her treatment of these air going sailors. When it came time to transfer the pilots to their carrier it was the custom to receive 20 gallons of ice cream in return - ice cream is a hard to get luxury at sea."

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2020/03/21/ice-cream-has-special-place-naval-aviation-history-hill-goodspeed/2871952001/>

A USSR G-5 Torpedo Boat Comes up for air after 78 Years

Sunk in 1942 during the German capture of Sevastopol, it was located and raised from the sea floor. It did not rust away since it was made from duralumin.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/hisutton/2020/03/19/world-war-two-torpedo-boat-sees-daylight-after-78-years/#46f22bcd4726>

How The French Revolution and Liberal Mindset Changed the Middle East

Once Napoleon became the ruler of France he embarked on the conquest of Europe – and Egypt – to spread the word of Liberal ideas to all. And the legacy of the 1798-1801 campaign reverberates still.

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/SpecialReports/Napoleon-Middle-East-legacy-invasion-French-Revolution/688342-5502730-2fvqav/index.html>

1st Combat Mission – Battle of the Bulge in a Scrap Pile Sherman

Private Harry F. Miller was a replacement gunner for a M4 Sherman medium tank – and his first engagement was stopping the spearhead of the 1st SS Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

"We would go past a bombed-out building and we knew there were dead bodies in there," he recalled. "That's a smell you never forget." Dead bodies were one of three odors he identified with war. "That," he explained, "and horse shit and gasoline."

Manure piles stood in almost every German town and farm.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/tank-gunner-had-front-row-seat-battle-bulge-138827>

Royally Sleeping in Dungeons – During the Blitz

"She said after hearing the air raid sirens, the trio would rush down to the dungeons of the 11th century palace. Writing in her book, The Little Princesses, Marion revealed they would sleep in the gloomy dungeons, which were filled with bugs and had no heating."

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/fabulous/11277696/queen-sleep-dungeons-windsor-castle-blitz-bombing-world-war/>

Sam Steele in the 2nd Boer War

The Boer War of 1898-1901 was a transitional war where modern rifles, new and old tactics intermixed (sieges, mobile warfare, armored trains and scorched earth and concentration camps) at the turn of the 19th into the 20th century.

It was one where people from all over the British Empire were used in the war as separate units under a single British commander.

And there were lots of volunteers – both military and private in the war.

“In 1900, Conan Doyle “picked up his stethoscope, that he had laid down ten years before, and volunteered for a hospital in South Africa, in the midst of a Typhus epidemic,” in support of the British forces. Conan Doyle also wrote several books, in the years that followed, justifying the British actions against the Boers – and it was those political books, not his creation of Sherlock Holmes, that earned Conan Doyle a knighthood from King Edward VII.”

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/sherlock-holmes-the-boer-war-and-sam-steele-tracing-the-connections-2207346>

Private Enterprise Made - And Saved - the USA

The ability of individuals to create wealth, pursue their own ideas and invent without government saying that they cannot, has allowed the USA to become what it is. A centrally controlled, socialist / communist country always restricts what people can do and thus inventions. Communist / Socialist nations do not invent – they only copy what free enterprise type nations have created.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/wars-arent-won-by-government-alone-11585757653>

P-40 Versus The IJN & IJA Over New Guinea

Pre-war pilots were good pilots at flying – but were trained in bad tactics of modern air combat. Those US pilots that started WW II who fought from the start had to learn to ignore their prior combat training on how to win in the air or they died quickly.

1st Lt. Donald F. Lee, Jr. was one of those who learned to fight differently from the way they were taught.

New Guinea was not the “end of the supply” trail, that distinction was the CBI, but they did get their Christmas packages – in May.

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2020/03/10/p-40-fighter-pilot-fighting-for-his-life/>

Radios in WW I Aircraft

Most people only think of radios between the war and WW II – but radios were used in observation aircraft in WW I.

“During the summer of 1915, Prince’s group successfully tested the first air-to-ground voice communication using an aircraft radio telephony transmitter.”

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-history/dawn-of-electronics/in-world-war-i-british-biplanes-had-wireless-phones-in-cockpit>

Women War Correspondents

There have been some, but few are remembered and they had to be exceptional and already famous before they were allowed into combat zones in the past. Britain’s Clare Hollingworth was considered one of the first war correspondents. On September 1, 1939 “She telephoned the British Embassy in Warsaw to report the invasion, though

she had to hold the telephone receiver out of the open window so the sounds of war could be heard and her story believed."

<https://lithub.com/women-in-war-on-great-correspondents-past-and-present/>

Building the B-24 bomber during WW II "Story of Willow Run"

On YouTube this is a film made by Ford during WW II. The factory was started in 1940 and the first bomber did not come off the line till 1942 – at a rate of one every 3 days. Considering that each person had to be trained, all 24,000 of them, on what they are doing and fabricate the tools to even make the parts, it was pretty darn fast. The factory is still there, part of it is now a museum. It was built in an "L" shape – to avoid having part of it going into a different county with a which would have charged Ford for the whole building with a much higher tax rate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2zunkteYbGQ>

Two DC-3s Vandalized at Cape Cod Airfield

Two WW II combat certified DC-3 "Dakotas" were damaged by people unknown who damaged by crushing the elevator on one aircraft and a trim tab on the other. Cost to repair will be over \$15,000. Damaging an aircraft is an automatic felony.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/04/13/wwii-planes-vandalized-cape-cod-airfield.html>

Re-Inventing the Jericho Trumpets from the Ju-87 Stuka by CIA in the 1950s.

The JU-87B Stuka had a pair of air driven sound sirens fitted to it for psychological warfare against ground troops. During the 1950s the CIA thought of re-doing it – but could not find an original siren so they could avoid the costs of developing one.

"In a meeting on May 12, 1958, another individual the CIA consulted, who's name is redacted in the handwritten document, pointed out that the Ju-87's iconic whine while diving actually came from its structural design and that the Germans themselves had only made limited use of the Jericho Trumpets, despite them being a popular point in any discussion about the Stuka."

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/32966/cia-tracked-down-a-nazi-scoured-museums-to-build-an-aircraft-siren-to-scare-the-hell-out-of-people>

Top Polish Ace of WW II Stanisław Skalski

He commanded the 601 County of London squadron after serving in the 316 and 317 Polish squadrons. Returning to Poland he was arrested and convicted to death on trumped up charges – normal for any person who fought in the west and then returned to their home, now communist controlled country, after the war.

"I was eating soup when they took me from my cell. When I came back after my trial I could easily finish it, as it was still warm," Skalski said.

His death sentence was commuted and then let out after experiencing beatings in prison for 8 years.

<https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/polands-most-outstanding-wwii-flying-ace-sentenced-to-death-by-stalinist-kangaroo-court-70-years-ago-today-11816>

Killing or Capture General Rommel in 1941

A plan to kill or capture "The Desert Fox" almost worked – but fate intervened and the Fox escaped the hounds. This real exploit inspired a movie in the 1960s.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/fail-how-british-special-forces-missed-general-rommel-beda-littoria-143937>

How "The Trail Of Tears" Came to by the Federal Government

Telling a false narrative by those in charge is nothing new. This is how the native Indians of the south, who had largely assimilated into the US way of life, were expelled. Modern Democrats are still practicing the same tactics.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/05/claudio-sant-unworthy-republic-trail-of-tears/609097/>

Book Review – Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans

Technically fought after the war was over (it took months for messages to get from England to the USA) this new book by Brian Kilmeade details how the battle came to be and the General who led its defense.

Amazon link: [Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans: The Battle That Shaped America's Destiny](#)

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/04/book-review-andrew-jackson-and-the-miracle-of-new-orleans-by-brian-kilmeade-and-don-yaeger/>

British Olympic Rower from 1912 and Ypres Battle - Medals Sold Off

The person selling them had them for over 40 years. Capt Kirby, of the 5th Battalion, London Regiment, was wounded in battle on the Western Front in November 1914. He recovered and took part in the Battle of Ypres, but died from illness in March 1917 aged just 30.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8201043/Medals-UK-rower-beat-Germans-1912-Olympics-dying-World-War-One-emerge-sale.html>

How to Join Naval Aviation

Feightner watched a Navy pilot land his plane, stride through the hangar in a gleaming white uniform and step inside a yellow convertible, where he gave a "big smooch" to the blonde behind the wheel and sped off down the road.

Opening of the new "Top Gun" movie? No, how the future Rear Adm. Edward "Whitey" Feightner decided to join the Navy in 1941.

Adm. Feightner later catapulted off carriers in an F6F Hellcat, skip bombed a Japanese supply ship, survived a harrowing reconnaissance mission that left 170 holes in his plane and took down three Zeros over Taiwan. In addition to the nine confirmed planes he shot down, he was credited with four "probables."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/edward-feightner-world-war-ii-ace-who-helped-develop-navy-jets-dies-at-100/2020/04/14/bfde0974-7d84-11ea-a3ee-13e1ae0a3571_story.html

Camouflaging Aircraft Factories in the US

At the start of the war most aircraft factories were along the west coast – easily hit by Japanese aircraft carriers if they wanted to raid them. So Hollywood came to build towns over the factories.

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2018/12/27/wonderland-the-fake-cities-on-americas-west-coast/>

WW I Resource Library

From "Down Under" comes this resource site. "A diverse collection of primary sources and learning material related to WWI".

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/schools-and-teachers/wwi-resources-classroom>

Hiding from the British during the Boer War

With time on their hands while trying to avoid being sent to concentration camps run by the British, these Boer women did what a lot of people do – put graffiti onto walls around them.

<https://theconversation.com/a-graffiti-wall-reveals-womens-stories-from-the-south-african-war-135372>

Surviving the Titanic

A tale of two firemen on the Titanic. Luck and fate saved one.

"Oh, but the sight was awful. I shall never forget it, for she broke in three pieces. I only hope that the wife and mother know by now, for the company sent a cable for us."

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/18386106.two-tales-titanic/>

Destroying a Zoom Factory

No, not the modern video Zoom one, but back in 1812 "Luddites" were protesting factory owners taking advantage of workers and not conforming to quality standards of the goods being produced in them compared to before factory automation.

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/04/this-day-in-history-1812-luddites-destroy-a-zoom-factory/>

8th AFHS National Online Virtual Presentations / Programs

Varies as to what day and time, multiple VPs per month.

Next VM: October 22 subject:

Target for Today

Thursday, October 22 at 2pm ET

on Facebook LIVE or ZOOM Webinar

You DO NOT need a Facebook account to watch!

Please click on the link button below or go to

<https://www.facebook.com/mighty8thmuseum/>

at 2pm ET on Thursday, October 22.

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.

