"Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society History News for August 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 now only somewhat late since 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 till I publish the in same month. Tom Philo your editor.

UK Tomb of the Unknown Solider

How it came to be was by a chance glance at a grave in France by Reverend David Railton.

https://blog.fold3.com/the-100th-anniversary-of-the-tomb-of-the-unknown-warrior/

Crime During War

Criminals always exploit any opportunity to make money. During a war, and especially during WW II where physical damage was inflicted by both artillery and by air bombardment, there was almost always an open wall to exploit. This podcase talks about Battle of Britain crime wave. <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cszmtw</u>

Polish Soldiers in WW II

So many Poles escaped from Poland after it was invaded that multiple fighter squadrons and Brigades of soldiers were able to be formed and fought under British control.

Two movies about them came out last year, *Hurricane* and [Amazon links] <u>Squadron 303:</u> <u>The Battle of Britain</u>, Poles in the Battle of Britain: A Photographic Album of the Polish 'Few' dealing with their flying during Battle of Britain.

https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/1285889/World-War-2-battleof-Britain-Poland-contribution-Tory-MP

A Gunner on CV-5 USS Yorktown

Hunting quail while growing up allowed him to be assigned a gunner on the Yorktown. https://www.patriotspoint.org/news-and-events/john-hancock-recalls-battle-ofmidway/

Using the London Tube as a Factory during WW II

Germany was not the only nation that built factories underground – England did it during the Blitz.

https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/secret-story-how-londonunderground-18371389

Monument to Move to Where it will not be Seen by Many

Tearing down statues and monuments I not solely the province of the USA. The statues of the President of the Orange Free State, before it was subsumed into South Africa, will be exiled off the campus to the War Museum in Bloemfontein. <u>https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/general/2296828/statue-of-boer-war-</u> <u>president-steyn-to-be-relocated-from-ufs-to-war-museum-in-bloemfontein/</u>

And In London - A Review will be done Before they Dump Status into the Thames not liked by The Mayor

Following the process to a predetermined outcome is not just the domain of Dictators – now it is institutionalized in western governments.

https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/will-sadiq-khan-have-to-knock-down-millicentfawcett-s-statueand elsewhere in the UK

https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1293504/topple-the-racists-racism-statue-mapblack-lives-matter-slavery-monuments-uk

Artillery Shells in Charleston

During construction objects are often found in old areas of any city. Civil War objects are often found but this time WW II shells were found. <u>https://abcnews4.com/news/local/world-war-ordnance-findings-in-downtown-</u> charleston-a-rarity

Parachuting Beavers

A movie has been made about parachuting an Elephant in Vietnam, but throwing beavers out of an airplane to move them is actually true. https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/208/idaho-parachuting-beavers-mccall-fishand-game/277-f3ee3ca0-f029-4744-9461-f256a84fbe6a

A 1930s Airport Abandoned – Hellenikon

Built far from Athens, so that it could expand easily, it was used for over 70 years – then abandoned.

https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/greece-abandoned-airport/index.html

Last Civil War Pensioner Dies at 90

She was a child of a Civil War Union Veteran who was living in a North Carolina Nursing home.

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/10/irene-triplett-last-civil-warpensioner-73-monthly-dies/5333830002/

Rep Pelosi wants A Democrat Hero - General Joe Wheeler's Statue -Removed from Congress Hall

General Wheeler led the division that stormed San Juan Hill during the Spanish American war. He also was a Democrat Congressman before he died in 1906.

https://www.al.com/news/2020/06/who-is-gen-joe-wheeler-lawmakers-want-statueremoved-wheeler-serve-in-confederate-and-us-armies.html

Burial Map at Antietam

There are maneuver maps, tactical maps, and position maps. Burial maps during the US Civil War was new, and a new one was found for the September 17 Battle at Antietam. Although historians are still performing analysis of the map, more than 5,800 soldier burials appear to be individually recorded, typically grouped by regiment. https://finance.yahoo.com/news/previously-unknown-map-showing-engagements-194200369.html

PV-1 Crash in the Florida Wilderness

Over 12,000 aircraft training accidents occurred during WW II. Over 6,000 of them had all or part of the crew die. U.S. military personnel were training at 40 airfields In Florida by the end of WW II. Most of these are now commercial airports. <u>https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2020/06/19/wwii-bomber-crash-site-floridawilderness-memorialized-77-years-later/3191149001/</u>

No 12 Squadron Stands Up

Originally formed on 14 February 1915 it has come and gone thought the last century. It is now again active to training British and Qatari aircrews. https://theaviationist.com/2020/06/20/first-british-joint-multinational-squadron-since-world-war-ii-stands-up-in-the-uk/

British WW II Singer Dead Vera Lynn at 103

Most famous for two songs: We'll Meet Again," and "The White Cliffs of Dover." <u>https://www.wcjb.com/content/news/World-War-II-forces-sweetheart-singer-Vera-</u> Lynn-dies-at-103-571337701.html

US Military Court Marshals

When rage overcomes military discipline the military eventually corrects and punishes those responsible. This occurred in the Philippines to General Smith. He, like the officers below him, used the Nuremburg Defense in 1902. It did not work then either. <u>https://www.portsmouth-dailytimes.com/features/lifestyle/50201/portsmouth-history-general-jacob-h-smith-the-philippine-wars-samar-campaign</u>

How Edwards AFB Got Its Name

All military bases are named after someone who was famous in battle – or died in battle. Often it is the latter. Some bases however are named after people who were killed by accident while in the military.

https://www.airforcemag.com/article/namesakes-glen-edwards/

A Short Summary of WW II in the Med

From the Mille East to the Straights of Gibraltar was a wide ranging and varied war. What worked in one area did not always work in another. And as always it changed with the technology being deployed during the war. https://www.worldwars.com/world-war-ii-mediterranean/

The Peerless Clipper – A B-24

Flying 25 missions in his B-24 named the Peerless Clipper in the 717 Squadron of the 449th BG(H) Laurence Durwood Sies completed those daylight missions then stayed on for another 27 – but this time flying at Night for the OSS.

His plane was lost over Styre Austria with another crew on April 2, 1944. "Miss Behavin" and "Superstitious Al-o-ysius" from the squadron were also lost. Only 1 crewman survived out of the 31 in the planes.

https://www.chattanoogan.com/2020/7/2/410855/Jerry-Summers-Laurence-Durwood-Sies.aspx

The Triangle Y Continues to Fly

In 1943 the USAAF introduced letter codes for each group to paint on the sides of their aircraft. Howver these were never big enough to see until you got within ½ mile of an aircraft so they also painted symbols onto the tails and wings – really large – that could be seen over a mile away to easily identify the bomber group that the plane belonged to. A large white Y was painted onto the 97th BG (H) which flew B-17s during WW II. Today the 97th still flies but with tankers to refuel other aircraft. <u>https://www.altus.af.mil/News/Article/2242299/the-triangle-y-behind-mobilitys-hometown/</u>

Wake Island Gets and Upgrade

Wake is a backup airfield / island for staging as needed. Like any airfield it needs maintenance and upgrades to keep up with the aircraft that may stop there. Wake was one of the best – though short lived – victories at the beginning of WW II. It held off the Japanese for 12 days, sunk two destroyers, before being forced to surrender. The Japanese commander who captured it was about to execute all on the Island – including civilian workers who were there doing construction, but the Naval Commander overruled him and so none of the 1000+ civilians were immediately killed. Around 180 died while in captivity.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle of Wake Island

https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/34404/big-airfield-expansion-on-wake-islandseen-by-satellite-as-u-s-preps-for-pacific-fight

Short Term Republics

From the 1300s till the end of WW I Nations, City States, Duchies, came and went frequently in all of Europe. Danzig was one such Nation that disappeared in only 7 years.

https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/in-napoleonic-times-danzig-now-gdansk-was-arepublic-not-a-lot-of-people-know-that-13947

Part of an Encyclopedia Sells for 6.5 Million

Since the volumes are from the Ming Dynasty they were worth more than the average set.

https://www.antiquestradegazette.com/print-edition/2020/july/2451/news/estimate-5000-sold-for-64m-lost-folios-of-chinese-encyclopedia-surface-in-paris/

Airlines for War

Between 1930 and 1940 many aircraft designs were created for passenger travel. Some were thinly disguised to get around treaties like in Germany, but elsewhere they were designed for passengers then re-designed to be used in war. The Italians created passenger aircraft due to the distance of Italy from south to north plus to get to Libya and other possessions they had at the time.

https://simpleflying.com/savoia-marchetti-wwii/

A Sherman Tank Gunner in Italy

Sherman's were a medium tank that was "good enough" and the US make a lot of them. The main problem was that they ran on gas and caught on fire easily. https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300057846/brothers-at-arms-recall-world-war-ii-bombs-malaria-and-poisoned-wine

The Franco-Prussian War – Another "Forgotten" War

Often overlooked in history classes – in the few schools where they still teach real history – it set the stage for all the following wars.

"France had always been the strongest state of continental Europe, and French regimes had repeatedly tried to expand their borders to the Rhine, to include areas that we today think of as properly part of Belgium, the Netherlands, or western Germany." "French treatment of some German regions was brutal to the point of near-genocidal, with systematic plunder and starvation, and Prussians long remembered the occupation of 1806 as a singular horror."

The French Commune of 1870-1871

When Paris was under siege the Leftist commune was in charge in the city. . . . Catholic grief and fury found material form in the towering Basilica of Sacré-Cœur, which was built to explate the sins of the Commune, and to commemorate the martyrs.

https://www.chroniclesmagazine.org/greater-than-the-french-revolution/

Formation Flying Still Exists – Just not Often



WW II saw thousands of planes in a stream, and either 36 or 48 planes of a group in formation. Now a large formation is 25 C-130s.

https://www.mcchord.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2277876/dyess-little-rockconduct-largest-formation-flight-in-c-130j-history/

The Two Year Battle of Rzhev

The Eastern Front in WW II had long lines of trenches – just like WW I – in many places. The war of maneuver was in the South, around Moscow to Leningrad static lines prevailed for over three years till the spring of 1944.

After the war: "In places the bulldozers shoveled up the bodies, but in other places the fields were just ploughed up, bones and all. You used to get the tractor going and then you'd look straight in front of you at some distant birch tree in order not to swerve on seeing what you were driving over in your tractor..."

https://www.rbth.com/history/332448-world-war-ii-battle-rzhev

McDonald's on Lake Champlain

After a 4 month rebuild opening day proceeds will help fund a Battlefield Memorial Gateway Project at Plattsburg. It ties in with the Battle of Plattsburg in 1814. https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/mcdonalds-reopening-to-support-war-memorial/article_341fc2f9-ab2b-5e65-8325-4733f38ad617.html

Making Cheese at the Bar

After WW II many fraternities were formed – and many private clubs were created to continue the party at the club that were on bases during the war. This post WW II building / club bar area will be converted into a classroom where only cheese fermented food will be had.

https://www.masslive.com/business/2020/07/cheese-supply-company-buysnorthamptons-world-war-ii-club-plans-classroom-in-bar-area.html

Dead at 100 P-51 Fighter Pilot Col Robert A Shawn

Shot down by the French while chasing a German Bf-109 the French General apologized and took out a 100 year old bottle of Cognac and drank the night away. Later that year Shawn flew his P-51 under the Eiffel tower. [There is a photo of a B-26 doing the same thing that year also.] He was buried in Arlington. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/world-war-ii-fighter-pilot-who-died-at-100-found-an-early-passion-for-airplanes/2020/07/24/d199e906-c773-11ea-8ffe-

372be8d82298_story.html

New Photo at Presque Isle Air Museum

Located inside the southern part of the terminal of Presque Isle International Airport is the museum.

https://thecounty.me/2020/07/24/news/community/air-museum-unveils-new-photoindicative-of-citys-role-in-wwii/

F4U Corsair Pilot George Edward McClane Dead at 100

He flew 102 missions during WW II in the South Pacific with 212 & 323 Marine Fighter Squadron.

https://spacecoastdaily.com/2020/07/obituary-world-war-ii-veteran-lt-col-georgeedward-mcclane-100-of-cocoa-beach-passed-away-july-19/

One of the Last Desert Rats Dead at 99

Francis Brindle served in the 7th Armored Division in Africa then up the Italian boot with the rest of the 8th Army.

https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/5847129/survivors-world-war-ii-desert-ratsdies-age-99/

Redefining A Memorial to Erwin Rommel

Political correctness takes over his monument. Like those in the US there are some who want to destroy it since it is easier to do than to take the monument in context of the world in the years he was born into.

https://www.indonewyork.com/world/Heidenheim-New-sculpture-is-intended-toencourage-discussion-of-the-Nazi-General-Rommel--h19918.html

Wreck of U-1021 Found off England

Sunk in March of 1945 it was found 180 below sea level. It is off the coast of Cornwall near Newquay Harbour.

https://www.foxnews.com/science/german-u-boat-sank-world-war-ii-spottedunderwater-pictures

Trench Fever in Denver

It got its name from soldiers having to live in the trenches during WW I and unable to stay clean for days at a time – it is transmitted by body lice. https://interestingengineering.com/rare-world-war-i-disease-hits-denver-colorado

3rd Lawsuit in the Collings 909 Accident

Another family has filed suit against The Collings Foundation in the aftermath of the B-17 909 landing short of the runway in soft ground and slewing into the de-icing facility. https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-second-lawsuit-filed-in-collingsbomber-crash-20200728-qnlrur3xcnf53iq6rsuu4at2ey-story.html

Four Ships that Never Leave Harbor

New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware are home to a dozen vintage sailing and military ships that offer unique experiences on sails, tours and even dining on board. <u>https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-</u> jersey/2020/07/31/historic-ships-new-jersey-philadelphia-delaware-new-york-sailtour-dine/5447218002/

9th Troop Carrier Command Pathfinder Lt. Col. Blair

There are pathfinders planes which are sent ahead of the bombers to mark CITIES for the British at night – usually DeHaviland Mosquitos – but he did the same thing in a C-47 to mark where paratroops are to be dropped into a field – but at 900 feet. <u>https://www.newstribune.com/news/news/story/2020/aug/03/late-missouri-governorformed-pathfinder-group-paved-way-d-day/836393/</u>

The Taft-Katsura Memorandum

How a person who has no authority to enter into an agreement with a nation can by using flowing ambiguous words on paper can change the fate of a different country. How Korea and Manchuria fell under Japanese control in 1905. https://www.cfr.org/blog/twe-remembers-taft-katsura-memorandum-0

On the Trail of General Grant

There are some 19 National Historic Trails in the USA. A group of people are trying to get another one created for General Grant.

https://www.fultonsun.com/news/local/story/2020/aug/01/campaign-begins-gengrant-trail/836247/

The Defence of Duffer's Drift

A "Sci-Fi" book written in 1904 about a soldier ordered to defend a river crossing and dreams its defense and fails each time. He awakens to each day to learn from his dream until he gets it right when it matters. [Sounds like the Tom Cruise movie] Amazon link: <u>The Defence Of Duffer's Drift - A Lesson in the Fundamentals of Small Unit Tactics</u> Sci-Fi is still here teaching US Military ways to think of future combat. <u>https://onezero.medium.com/the-u-s-military-is-turning-to-science-fiction-to-shape-the-future-of-war-1b40d11eb6b4</u>

Military Museum of SA

South Australia that is. Lots of vehicles, that run, on display. The list is vast and includes tanks, troop carriers, jeeps, gun trailers, machine gun carriers, motorcycles, trucks, command cars and buses. Around 250 vehicles.

https://www.speedcafe.com/2020/07/30/bucket-list-national-military-vehiclemuseum-edinburgh-sa/

Book Review: Churchill's Shadow Raiders

WW II was an electronic ware and each side stole from each other throughout the war. The British were just better at it.

Amazon link: Churchill's Shadow Raiders: The Race to Develop Radar, World War II's Invisible Secret Weapon <u>https://affiliate-</u>

program.amazon.com/home/productlinks/customize?asin=080654063X&request_sourc e=quicklinks&subflow=sp_____

61 Missions in a B-25 named "Jersey Bounce"

The B-25 Mitchell medium bomber was made famous by the Raid on Japan by General Doolittle. However, it flew in all areas of WW II and they were in the 9th and 11th AF in the ETO and MTO. Frank Pehrson was the Flight Engineer – top turret gunner in the B-25 in the MTO in the 489th Bombardment Squadron, 340th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps 57th Bomb Wing. They flew out of the French island of Corsica. "Some of the 340th greatest losses came on May 12 and May 13, 1944 when the German Luftwaffe launched two surprise raids on the Corsica air bases. The raids destroyed 65 planes, killed 24 soldiers, wounded 115, and blew up Allied gasoline stores. The German raids on Corsica were the last major success of the Luftwaffe in western Europe. Frank Pehrson was there to witness them."

https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2020/08/12/montana-world-war-ii-veteran-frank-pehrson-b-25-bomber/3342388001/

Roy Goon RAAF

Discrimination is a universal given around the world. Sometimes it is just done, sometimes it is in laws. Roy wanted to fly for the RAAF in WW II but the recruiters would not due to law in Australia that they had to be mainly European in origin. Instead he was training others to fly when he met James Fairbairn, the 'Minister for Air' at the field he was assigned to.

He ended up being a Wing Commander.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-14/roy-goon-victory-in-the-pacificday/12546132

Diving on Aircraft Wrecks – in Lake Meade Nevada

If you want to do a technical dive on a B-29 sign up with one of two firms that can guide you to the aircraft.

https://www.fox5vegas.com/news/two-companies-picked-for-guided-dives-to-wwiiplane-in-lake-mead/article_e019e2ea-db66-11ea-9232-a7b0ba4c8fec.html

The Men Behind the Planes

An air unit in WW II had 3 to 6 thousand men assigned to it – even though only around 500 were personnel who flew into combat. The rest were the ground crew, supply, repair, radio, armaments, security, food, office, weather, intelligence, photography, and many more.

Major Gen. Erbon Wise was one of those officers who did work on the ground – and in combat zones when needed. He was assigned to 8th, 9th and 12th Air Forces during WW II. He was on the ground with the 9th a few days after D-Day in June of 1944 building airfields.

https://www.americanpress.com/news/local/major-gen-erbon-wiseremembered/article_cae7c6ea-d870-5b40-a28f-bbefcaf3d571.html

Flying the Hump then Aircraft in the USA

One of the most dangerous ferry routes was from India to China. George A Haszel was one of those pilots.

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thenorthwestern/obituary.aspx?n=george-ahaszel&pid=196634903

Camp Huntsville – DAK 2nd Home

One of the first POW camps built in the USA was this camp in Texas. At least after being captured in North Africa they knew how to deal with the desert.

A few of the original buildings remain, and the land is used for cattle ranching. https://www.itemonline.com/news/local_news/walker-county-has-unique-history-withwwii/article_f201394d-79a8-5819-97ee-5cb71e445f3a.html

Rabid Dogs and Snakes – All part of The Burma Campaign

John Riggs had survived a lot by the time he was 25: Palestine, Greece, Tobruk then came Burma and being assigned to the Chindits.

"In East Bengal, John, now a Captain, found a dog bite had gone septic. He was simply bandaged up so maggots could clean his wound."

"A Rifleman's load was 57lbs, a Bren gunner's over 68lbs. Five days' rations, when they could find and retrieve air drops, weighed even more, meaning Bren gunners bore a back-breaking 84lbs, even heavier when wet."

https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/wwii-captain-bitten-rabid-dog-22518647

AA Gunner at Darwin in 1942

Lindsay Duft saw combat first hand – or face – since the Japanese planes flew so low he could see each pilot in the planes attacking them.

https://whtc.com/2020/08/12/australian-anti-aircraft-gunner-recounts-world-war-twobombing-of-darwin/1048726/

A Sherman Goes to Halifax

Built during WW II for the Canadian Army it was not sent overseas due the imminent end of the war. It spent time as a training tank then as a gate guard. It will be restored as a war memorial and put at the Halifax Armouries. https://globalnews.ca/news/7276337/halifax-world-war-2-historical-tank/

15th AF Re-Activated

The 15th AF, which was formed from units transferred from the 8th AF in North Africa in 1942 to the 12th AF which then became the 15th in the MTO, has been re-activated for conventional warfare – bombs and bullets.

HQ is now at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.. The 9th and 12th AF are now under it. <u>https://www.airforcemag.com/acc-revives-15th-air-force-for-conventional-ops/</u>

Being Shot Down in Japan – Life or Death was all Luck

There were many documented cases of aircrew being killed after being captured in Japan. Those that were not immediately killed owed their life to lucky and sometimes a phrase.

https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200819/p2a/00m/0fe/019000c

Researching History that You Lived Through

Having survived an air raid at his town (Kajiki - present-day city of Aira) in southern Japan he saw a memorial to those that died while he survived – and 1 name was missing. So, he started to research.

https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200815/p2a/00m/0na/018000c

German Soldiers in a US Military Cemetery

What happens when a POW dies – they are buried and since they are under US Military control they are buried in Military Cemeteries.

https://www.lenconnect.com/entertainment/20200825/blissfield-once-home-to-wwiigerman-pow-camp

8th AFHS National Online Virtual Presentations / Programs

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

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

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 106^{th} Avenue. 106^{th} is on the north side of Canyon road. The entrance to the club is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down the road on the right – a very small sign points to the entrance.

Archivist 8th AFHS of Oregon Tom Philo 3713 Mystic Pl St Cloud, Florida 34772-8261 <u>archive@8thafhsoregon.com</u> 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.