

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

CMP – WV Team Going Strong after 71 Years

The Civilian Marksmanship Program was created by Congress in order to ensure that people would have basic training in rifle and pistol marksmanship before the go into the military. The pre-military training would ensure that the Nation would have a cadre of trained personnel which would shorten the time to train them if they had to be drafted.

Most every high school had a shooting club till the 1990s. My own HS had a .22 caliber rifle range to practice when it was built in the 1950s. Carrying a rifle to school was a non-issue most everywhere.

[Editor: Most every Democrat controlled state and school board eliminated and barred marksmanship training long before school shooting occurred. Having an armory of rifles on campus would have shortened any attack since people would be trained and able to shoot back with weapons on campus rather than wait and hide.]

<https://thecmp.org/cmp-collegiate-rifle-team-feature-west-virginia-university/>

Landlocked Tennessee Creates a Submariner

War spurs innovation and during the US Civil War people created new tools on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. The North created Ironclads – the South the first practical submarine.

https://www.timesnews.net/opinion/blogs/tennessee-produced-confederate-submarine-builder/article_27eeeb62-df43-11ea-80ba-eb7dc937d362.html

Swimming With Ordnance

If you go to Maui you can take a boat ride to Snorkel in the Molokini Crater (go for the morning ride – not as rough). You are not allowed to touch anything when doing so but now even more reason not to – old WW II munitions that were found there.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/08/23/hawaii-plans-to-leave-underwater-world-war-ii-ordnance-in-place-off-maui/>

Get an Engineer Degree or Join The Fight

Ralph Cheli choose instead to join the us Army Air Corps and became a squadron commander in B-25s in the South Pacific with the 405th Bomb Squadron known as the Green Dragons. He led the attack, his 40th combat mission, in a low level raid on the airfield at Dagua, New Guinea.

"After Allied troops took over the prison[Rabaul], a mass grave was discovered for 31 soldiers, including Cheli. They had been executed on March 3 and 4, 1944, in what was known as the Tunnel Hill Massacre, or Talili Bay Massacre, according to his profile on the website [TogetherWeServed.com](https://www.togetherweserved.com).

<https://www.mcall.com/opinion/mc-opi-medal-of-honor-ralph-cheli-lehigh-muschick-20200829-qb37vv76dzfehl6idwna6ih7di-story.html>

How Many DC-3s – aka C-47 – Are Still flying?

With over 11,000 built, statistics state that there have to be a few. If you count them up there are really 172 still flying. And likely an equal number, or more, on static display.

<https://simpleflying.com/dc-3-operation/>

Wooden Legs And Steel Nerves – Douglas Bader

Stick and Rudder pilots need lots of leg strength to move the rudder pedals in order to control pre-jet era aircraft. What do you do when you lose your legs – you keep on flying.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/29/europe/british-world-war-ii-pilot-douglas-bader-intl-hnk-dst/index.html>

Vandals Smash Windows of WW I Train

Not just in downtown business have be damaged; an historic WW I train car was damaged at the Ft Benning Museum.

<https://www.wrbl.com/top-stories/national-infantry-museum-world-war-i-era-train-damaged-by-vandals/>

What Takes 500 Gallons of Paint and 24 Hours? A Carpetbagger B-24

The Like most aircraft how they are designed and expected to be used often changes when put to use. The B-24 was just one of many that did other jobs than its original intent.

"Our crew made four missions to Norway. On one mission our plane hit a tree. We were flying at a low altitude and the tree was growing from the wall of a fjord. On return to our base, we found branches stuck in the wing flaps of our plane. Just happy that we didn't hit the trunk of the tree."

Amazon link: [The Carpetbagger Project: Secret Heroes](#) [Warbirds in the Cloak of Darkness: The Amazing True Story of American Airman Robert Holmstrom and the Top Secret "Operation Carpetbagger" During WWII](#)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/operation-carpetbagger-snuck-oss-secret-agents-into-france-during-wwii-2020-9>

DC-3 VJ Flight Lets Them Meet Again

Going on an aircraft ride an old paratrooper talks with a fellow passenger – a person whose work camp he liberated.

<https://lbpost.com/news/holocaust-survivor-and-his-liberator-meet-after-75-years-at-vj-day-celebration>

Camp Perry – Rifle Training and POW Camp

Established in 1898 to train soldiers for the Spanish American War it is where National Rifle Championship Matches are held and during WW II German POWs.

<https://www.portclintonnewsherald.com/story/news/2020/09/08/wwii-german-italian-pows-had-good-camp-perry/5689691002/>

Wilmington, North Carolina World War II Heritage City

First so designated city in the USA. Wilmington built a LOT of ships during WW II.

“20,000 workers of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company poured out every ounce of their strength to build an astonishing 243 ships for the U.S. Navy.”

This is one company in a single shipyard.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-designating-wilmington-north-carolina-first-american-world-war-ii-heritage-city-wilmington-nc/>

Journey to Royal – An Ocean Sea Rescue

When shot down on land an aircrew had a good chance of survival once they got out of their aircraft. Shot down over an ocean and the chances go from near 100% to around 15%. If a crew went down then it was up to both air and ships to search and find them. British, German, and American forces had great rescue systems in place. But when shot down in the Pacific, it was a lot harder to the area, time and distances involved to be rescued. The Japanese never had a rescue service at all – if you were shot down you were on your own and only by chance were they rescued in the ocean. A new movie about a US S&R PBY using full size and scale models had been made. B-29 scale model with a 3-foot wingspan used in the movie on cables waiting to be filmed. Image copyright © 2020 The Misty Falls Motion Picture Company.



<https://www.vfxvoice.com/world-war-ii-rescue-drama-journey-to-royal-is-a-journey-in-effects/>

Women in Field Hospitals in WW I

The Crimea War saw women actually going to where the fighting was at to tend to the women. 60 years later, and a few more wars from of the British Empire, Women working in hospitals was the norm.

WW I saw a vast need of hospitals and women again went to the field. This book details them in the various battlefields of France.

Amazon Link: [No Man's Land: The Trailblazing Women Who Ran Britain's Most Extraordinary Military Hospital During World War I](#)

Survive the Boer War – Killed by Medicine

Being a British Officer from the 1500s onward meant that you rode a horse in order to be seen so to give orders. Major Jon Kemp rode his horse and had it shot out under him in the Boer War but medicine for his flu in First World War killed him.

<https://www.winsfordguardian.co.uk/news/18694497.brave-winsford-soldier-narrowly-escaped-shot-boer-war-remembered-pride/>

Evolution of Modern Tanks

There always has been "tanks" throughout history. Greek Chariots were the tanks of their day. The Romans had them also, plus they had their "turtle" which were man powered armored unit which allowed them to get to walls. During the Middle ages they had siege engine that were rolled up to walls to break them down. Then there were armored trains. WW I saw the modern gasoline powered tank.

<https://taskandpurpose.com/history/army-tank-history-evolution>

Oldest US WW II Veteran Lives in New Orleans

At 111 Lawrence Brooks is the oldest known veteran from WW II. He was assigned to the 91st Engineer Battalion which built airstrips, roads, and bridges in the Pacific Theater.

"He contributed the way any good engineer contributed. And today every soldier stands on the shoulders of men like Mr. Brooks. He was one of the trailblazers."

https://www.nola.com/news/article_855f8888-f546-11ea-bd37-0b0e83d13fa1.html

Hunting Subs in an Unarmed Light Planes

The Civil Air Patrol was formed to fill the gap when WW II started – not enough planes existed to patrol the eastern seaboard and the Gulf to hunt German submarines and the West Coast for Japanese subs. In stepped people with their own planes who went out in all weather to look for them. And some were killed while doing it.

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/delaware/2020/09/12/sea-scouts-swim-rescue-world-war-ii-civil-air-patrol-pilots/5702394002/>

Balloons to the Beach

One of the many units that landed on Omaha beach on June 6, 1944 was a barrage balloon company – an all-black unit – the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. Of the 26 Navy men on his ship – 25 were killed before they even made it to the beach. As a medic assigned to the unit Waverly B. Woodson Jr. spent 30 hours helping the wounded. His Silver Star is being recommended to be upgraded to the MOH.

Amazon link: [Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War](#)

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-waverly-woodson-medal-of-honor-bill-20200909-k7ivrxy6pjc5bocxuf2bm7deba-story.html>

New Exhibits at the Museum of Flight in Seattle

Pulling items from their collection they showcase some of the many artifacts and the stories behind them.

<http://warbirdsnews.com/aviation-museum-news/new-wwii-exhibit-opens-at-the-museum-of-flight.html>

From Destroying Bridges to Having One Named After You

Flying with RCAF before being transferred into the USAAF in 1942 and the 4th Fighter Group, Colonel Donald Blakeslee now has a bridge named in his honor.

"Today's fighter pilots, they shoot things down at miles away, they don't see each other, but these (WWII) fighters, these guys were in dogfights," Rogers said.

https://www.news-herald.com/news/sign-marking-fairport-road-bridge-dedicated-to-decorated-wwii-flying-ace-donald-blakeslee-unveiled/article_a7487dde-fa8b-11ea-9e57-73a0274acf9b.html

DC-3 Society Formed

The DC-3 Society also focuses on representing everything the DC-3 has accomplished in war and peace.

<http://warbirdsnews.com/warbirds-news/d-day-squadron-news-d-day-squadron-officially-launches-the-dc-3-society.html>

Two UXB Personnel Die in the Solomons

Disarming ordinance requires lots of knowledge: mechanical, chemical, design, operational quirks on thousands of types of munitions. UK citizen Stephen "Luke" Atkinson and Australian citizen Trent Lee were disarming a WW II shell in the Solomons when it went off as they were trying to defuse it.

"Ironically, the stabilizing chemicals added to an explosive mix are the first to depart from unexploded ordinance (UXO), thence making the explosive more and more unstable with the passage of time."

<https://blog.seattlepi.com/travelforaircraft/2020/09/21/solomons-ww-ii-legacy-cost-two-more-lives/>

Dining in a KC-97 – On The Ground

Building a diner is hard work – converting a plane into one is even harder.

<https://www.newsweek.com/i-built-restaurant-inside-boeing-us-airforce-airplane-1532350>

Qualified for the 1936 Olympics – But could Not Get There

"At that time in our history, athletes had to fund themselves," said daughter Linda. "Dad was first-born in the United States of an immigrant family. They simply didn't have the money to support him to be able to compete in the Olympics."

When WW II came around he did not have to worry about paying for transport – they shipped him to the CBI theatre.

<https://www.wibc.com/news/local-indiana/live-out-your-passions-the-107-year-life-of-ollie-cellini/>

USS Grenadier Found off the Strait of Malacca

Attacked by Japanese Bombers in 1943 the crew scuttled the submarine. In retaliation the Japanese tortured the surviving crew members for the next two years. Four Grenadier crew members died in Japanese captivity.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/19/us/uss-grenadier-found.html>

Squadron Leader Mahinder Singh Pujji DFC

Volunteering for the RAF in 1940 he flew mainly in the Far East during WW II.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/news/articles/raf-salute-world-war-2-sikh-pilot-on-the-10th-anniversary-of-his-death/>

B-17 Wreck Emerges from Icelandic Glacier

It crashed in 1944 but the whole crew survived. Now parts of it is visible again.

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/us-wwii-fighter-plane-that-crashed-into-icelands-glacier-resurfaces.html>

Graves from the War of 1812 Found in Vermont

At a construction site wooden coffins of possible soldiers were found in an 18th century barracks camp area.

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/9055-200925-vermont-military-cemetery>

“Last Speech” Photograph of McKinley

Taken by photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston (1864-1952) a glass negative is in a collection – but how can there be two glass negatives of the same image? The ‘last speech’ photograph was the model for the statue of William McKinley that stands on the steps of the McKinley National Monument in Canton.

https://www.richlandsource.com/area_history/behind-the-lens-she-shot-the-famous-photo-of-president-mckinleys-last-speech/article_7602012e-cb7d-11ea-a69d-ef70fc337343.html

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

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

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.