

“Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for October 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 a little late. In a few weeks another issue will come to your email and I will be caught up. Tom Philo your editor.

Front Row Seat For Ploesti

As a Bombardier on a Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber in WW II then Lt Dom D’Adamo had a great view out the front of the plane. Course the enemy also had a great view of him.

Assigned to the 389 BG(H) he had a thrilling view of the ground during the August 1, 1943 Ploesti mission.

“The chimneys were 212 feet tall. They wanted us to go in at 250 feet. So we wouldn’t hit those.”



He turned 100 in November.

<https://www.wtvr.com/heroes-among-us/100-year-old-richmond-veteran-recounts-surviving-one-of-wwiis-most-daring->

[missions?fbclid=IwAR3DxudyevfIswWLwZXnjXluiUbHQ8TB2hTgkkjAesP4bCLVrmbmFGW5CmM](https://www.facebook.com/IwAR3DxudyevfIswWLwZXnjXluiUbHQ8TB2hTgkkjAesP4bCLVrmbmFGW5CmM)

A Series of True Stories That Occurred in War

Tales of individual and groups on the battlefield of US and British Personnel
<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/three-stories-of-humanity-and-compassion-from-the-second-world-war-m-2.html>

The Ghost Ship During the Battle of the Bulge

A tale of a radio operator on a B-17 raid during the Battle of the Bulge.
Amazon link: [12 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Ghost Plane at The Battle of the Bulge](#)

Flying a B-29 Into Japanese Fighters

You know the enemy is close when the engine of a Jap fighter passes under you and the rest of the plane goes over you.
His unit had an overall 50% causality rate.
https://helenair.com/news/local/stories-of-honor-helena-world-war-ii-bomber-pilot-hugh-mcnamer-earned-2-distinguished-flying/article_6fb5fd41-efb-5b93-bbbb-f8861a2faeba.html

Tail Section of a Possible F4F Washes Up in St Augustine Florida

After a severe storm a corroded tail section of a Navy plane, easily determined by the tailhook in the retracted position, was found on the beach. It is being stored for right now. All Navy planes, regardless of when discovered or condition, remain property of the US Navy.
"F4F Wildcats were used at Lee Field in Clay County, which opened in March 1941, according to the Florida WWII Heritage Trail guidebook."
<https://www.staugustine.com/story/news/local/2020/10/01/possible-wwii-era-plane-part-washes-up-st-johns-county-beach/5878045002/>

An Easy Way To Remember You Daughter's Birthday

Dads can usually remember a life event like the birth of your first child. But if you are not there due to being away during WW II is not a memorable. This B-24 Co-Pilot found a way to make it very easy to remember.
<https://www.startribune.com/wwii-co-pilot-98-bailed-out-over-berlin-as-he-became-a-dad/572625871/>

Last Flight of an F-117 to Palm Springs

Palm Springs is not just a retirement place for people – aircraft go there too.
A Stealth Fighter F-117 will be retiring to the museum indefinitely. The jet arrived on September 22. Former F-117 pilot Ken Dwelle, participated in the arrival event. "I flew this very aircraft," said Dwelle.
<https://kesq.com/news/2020/10/03/fighter-jet-retires-to-palm-springs-air-museum/>

You Really only Solo Once

But you could count it as a solo each time you get checked out in a new aircraft.
Charles David Mason will solo again – 75 years after his first solo flight.

https://www.yoursun.com/venice/features/aviator-to-solo-again-on-75th-anniversary-of-first-solo-flight/article_aa6f3fa0-f218-11ea-acf1-9f63e8cba6c4.html

A Victoria Cross of The Crimea War

Instituted on the urging of Prince Albert to Queen Victoria in 1856, it was retro-actively authorized for the Crimea War of 1854-1855. This one went up on the auction block October 5 and it was awarded to Seaman James Gorman of HMS Albion.

<https://www.antiquetrade gazette.com/news/2020/very-early-victoria-cross-awarded-for-crimean-war-gallantry-features-in-london-auction/>

Deciphering Military Grave Markers

Like in all things government, there are rules and regulations on how things are done and it is no different for gravestones. The rules change over the years. The markers a veteran gets is all dependent upon the rules in force when they die.

https://www.redlandscommunitynews.com/news/deciphering-military-markers-in-hillside-memorial-park/article_e561c96a-03fd-11eb-bdac-e3a976702a63.html

Wreck of the Karlsruhe Found at the Bottom of the Baltic

Bombed and sunk by the Soviets as it steamed from Pillau back to Germany lines as it evacuated personnel from the closing Soviet armies.

Some speculate that the "Amber Room" which had been looted by NAZIs in 1941 was on board the steamer when it was sunk. 1083 were on board but only 113 were rescued from the 35 degree water. It sank in under 3 minutes.

<https://www.winknews.com/2020/10/03/divers-find-wreck-of-german-world-war-ii-ship-that-was-bombed-and-sunk-with-1083-on-board/>

Future Fleet Carrier Doris Miller

This would be the 2nd ship named after the Seaman Miller who was on the USS West Virginia when it was attacked in Pearl Harbor. His actions on that day has been featured in a few Pearl Harbor movies. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on that day. He was MIA on the USS Liscome Bay after it was sunk in 1943.

<https://www.washingtoninformer.com/aircraft-carrier-named-for-wwii-hero-doris-miller-now-on-drawing-boards/>

Col Charles Peery Gross

In charge of the Missouri National Guard unit during the Spanish American War, though the war was over before the unit was sent overseas, he started his career in the military at 14 ½ - during the US Civil War fighting for 3 ½ years in the Confederate States of America army.

"At the close of the war he surrendered at Little Rock and took the oath of allegiance to support the constitution of the United States, being at the time eighteen years of age."

[Editor's note: now most parents are afraid to let their children walk to the corner store let alone have the assault rifle of its day and fight in a war for 3 ½ years!]

<https://www.newstribune.com/news/local/story/2020/oct/12/former-confederate-commanded-missouri-regiment-spanish-american-war/844894/>

Buried Side by Side – Brothers Killed in WW II Combat

The movie *Saving Private Ryan* is a dramatization of an actual event. However, there are other documented cases where brothers actually died on the same day while serving in different units and are buried next to each other in US Military Cemeteries. This book tells their story.

Amazon link: [Brothers in Arms: Remembering Brothers Buried Side by Side in American World War II Cemeteries](#)

Italy's Attitude Toward Their WW I Captured Soldiers

More aligned with the attitudes of Japanese, and the Soviets view during WW II, they are to be forgotten and punished for being captured – even when it was not their fault for being captured.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_prisoners_of_war_in_the_First_World_War

Battle of Tippecanoe

William Henry Harrison commanded the US Forces while The Prophet, Tecumseh's Brother, commanded the Indians. It was a well fought and hard battle that was not expected to be fought. The Indians fought with the same military standards and ability as the Harrison Army. "the final casualty count was 68 killed and 122 wounded. The Indians, from what the whites could learn from the Indians who took part in the battle, had 45 killed and over 60 more wounded." Out of 950 and 700 respectively.

https://www.washtimesherald.com/community/naturally-speaking-battle-of-tippecanoe-was-savage/article_b2fa0894-098d-11eb-b05a-f3822f11a276.html

Scaring Flak Crews in WW II

"A Mitchell bomber crew, which had been bombing Italian rail communications carried a couple of bundles of leaflets and some wine bottles every time they went out to bomb. Questioned by a psychological warfare officer, who failed to find this particular plane on his schedule, one member of the crew replied: "This is psychological warfare, Mac. Before we hit the target we take a fake bomb run over the nearest flak crew and throw these bottles and the leaflets out. They whistle just like bombs and the flak crew takes cover. Then we go on and bomb as per schedule." "

Decoys to confuse the enemy was around then and still is used now. A 1945 study called *Paper Bullets* discusses Psychological Warfare.

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/10/swarms-of-decoys-disarmed-anti-aircraft-defenses-in-world-war-ii/>

The USS Barb Sails Again

The latest US Naval ship to carry this name is again a submarine. The 1942 Barb has the distinction to having been the only sub to have blown up a train while on patrol.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/navy-names-newest-submarine-after-legendary-wwii-sub-uss-barb-2020-10>

Flying the Homeward Bound Pennant

Some naval traditions are obscure and you have no idea why they are there – unless you are in the Navy. This article explains the Homeward Bound Pennant and when it can be flown on a US Naval ship.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37101/why-the-destroyer-uss-paul-hamilton-came-home-flying-a-crescent-moon-flag-and-a-long-pennant>

Detained AT Airport for Carrying a “Weapon” – His Medal Of Honor

Joseph Jacob Foss was a Marine Ace who fought during the Battle of Guadalcanal. On Jan. 11, 2002, Foss was attempting to board an American West flight when he was detained by security for a suspected weapon on his person. The suspected weapon, his Medal of Honor, was passed around by security personnel who were confused about what it was. Foss, who had to explain that it was his Medal of Honor, later said of the situation, “I wasn’t upset for me. I was upset for the Medal of Honor, that they just didn’t know what it even was. It represents all of the guys who lost their lives — the guys who never came back. Everyone who put their lives on the line for their country. You’re supposed to know what the Medal of Honor is.”

<https://www.austindailyherald.com/2020/10/50-states-50-heroes-ace-of-guadalcanal/>

National Museum of the US Army Opening Day

It officially opens up to the public on November 11, 2020. The museum is located about 20 miles south of Washington, D.C., on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

It has a 38 ton Sherman tank Cobra King on display. It was in action with Patton’s 3rd Army in Europe. It had been knocked out once by German AT fire in November of 1944. Old black-and-white photos show the Cobra King with "First In Bastogne" written in chalk on its side.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/10/18/national-museum-of-us-army-finally-has-opening-date.html>

Battle of Crete in 1941

In the movie Guns of Navarino, there is the classic mix of characters in the movie – which actually mirrored the real-life characters in the real war on Crete in 1941.

“Peter Fleming, brother of author Ian, who had attached himself to General Adrian Carton de Wiart, a man “with only one eye, only one arm, and — rather more surprisingly — only one Victoria Cross”.

“Few realise how easy and dangerous it is to mix sentiment with strategy.”

Amazon link: [The Guns Of Navarone](#) (movie) [The Guns of Navarone](#) (book)

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-10-17-the-art-of-war/>

Australian War Collection 3D Museum

3D Treasures features three-dimensional digital scans of 25 objects from the National Collection, each with curated information about the object's history and story.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/3dtreasures/>

Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE)

It came about over a period of 13 years from 1888 to 1901 when single round loading of the Lee-Enfield model was replaced with the SMLE model with a stripper clip style of loading. This is a short history of the rifle.

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2020/10/16/exploded-view-short-magazine-lee-enfield-mk-iii/>

Wedding Dress made from a WW II Parachute to Museum

Wedding Dresses are always special, but one made from pure silk that saved the life of the groom is something special. They are not often allowed to keep the parachute after

use. But this time flak pierced the side of the aircraft but hit the the tightly packed parachute and stopped a piece from killing him. Rendered useless - he was allowed to take it home.

<https://www.fox5ny.com/news/wedding-dress-made-from-wwii-cets-parachute-donated-to-cradle-of-aviation-museum>

Firing the PAK-40 Today

Video of a live firing the German Made (in 1943) PAK-40 Anti-Tank gun in the USA at a firing range and its history.

https://www.warhistoryonline.com/guns/firing-the-powerful-german-pak-40-anti-tank_gun-m.html

The Blue Angles Foundation

A 60-minute patriotic program fundraiser to raise awareness, and money, to help save the lives of wounded veterans.

https://app.mobilecause.com/e/6_Zm2g?vid=e2elo

Blue Angles Association Web site: <https://www.blueangelsassociation.org/>

Sometimes Words are Note Needed

When soldiers came back from wars often they just forgot what they did and moved on externally. Internally they always remembered.

https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/glimpse-of-the-past-blue-earth-man-among-world-war-is-quiet-heroes/article_c9690ea4-1f9f-11eb-8358-fbd7b896edb6.html

Hiding Your Ethnic Origins so you Can Fight

Discrimination comes in all forms and your last name can be one. This American hid his last name when he enlisted due to the standard practice of not allowing Mexican sounding names from serving in combat. He won the Medal of Honor.

<https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/first-san-antonian-to-receive-medal-of-honor-dies-in-world-war-i>

Surviving Iwo Jima with a Flamethrower on your Back

A video where Hershel "Woody" Williams tells how he fought on Iwo and survived attacking Japanese bunkers on Iwo. He celebrated his 97th birthday on October 2, 2020.

<https://biggeekdad.com/2014/08/iwo-jima-flame-thrower/>

Fashion and War

Long wars, where all the people in the nation are affected and are involved often have unintended consequences. WW I was one where people were forced to adapt to new requirements of work and fashion had to adapt to cloth shortages and retooling. This book looks into how War's practical fashion needs caused social upheaval during and after the war in France.

Amazon link: [French Fashion, Women, and the First World War](#)

Finding Crash Sites in Germany

With over 16,000 US planes, the British lost twice that amount, shot down over Germany it is a full time job.

<https://www.news9.com/story/5f92efc89ede1438a92b01ec/man-in-germany-searching-for-family-of-wwii-soldier-possibly-from-oklahoma>

8th AFHS National Online Virtual Presentations / Programs

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

Main web site: <https://www.mightyeighth.org/>

Calendar of events: <https://www.mightyeighth.org/calendar/>

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.

Archivist 8th AFHS of Oregon

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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.