

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

A Fine Pickle - Mildred Pickle - Cryptographic Machine Repair Technician

From repairing equipment that went flying to getting to fly in one of the planes the equipment was on.

“Pickle, 94, was the first woman cryptographic machine repair technician in the Air Force in the 1950s.”

<https://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/community/world-war-ii-b-17-bomber-makes-stop-in-cedar-rapids-20201023>

Family of a “Carpetbagger” Gets His WW II Medals

William Schack was assigned to the 801st Sqd of the 492 Bombardment Group which flew OSS Missions throughout Europe – From Norway to Greece – delivering agents and supplies to units on the ground. [Editor's note: I've been to the base in the UK that they flew out of. They also used B-26s – a very bad a/c to use but was faster, Lysanders and other aircraft depending on the mission.]

<https://www.cleveland.com/community/2020/10/rocky-river-wwii-veteran-honored-by-family-and-congressman-anthony-gonzalez.html>

B-24 Film Set in the South Pacific in Planning Stage

OSS Operations were also in the Pacific especially in the Philippines and islands west as well as China. A film about a mission that uses a B-24 is in the planning stages.

<https://deadline.com/2020/10/artic-helmer-joe-penna-world-war-ii-blessed-event-paramount-and-temple-hill-1234601037/>

Used Tires to the USS Yorktown

Even planes that will never fly again need new tires due to age. A/C on the floating museum USS Yorktown in Charleston harbor are getting new tires.

“It takes a lot of effort to go around and constantly re-inflate those tires.”

https://www.postandcourier.com/moultrie-news/yorktown-aircraft-receive-new-tires-thanks-to-generous-donor/article_4f31cd90-0a61-11eb-9499-6feb18872ad2.html

Bombing the Outer Banks

German U-Boats had a prime hunting ground on the shipping lanes along the outer banks during 1942-1943. A 100 lb bomb washed ashore from that era which was likely dropped against a U-Boat and missed.

<https://www.pilotonline.com/news/vp-nw-bomb-ashore-20201022-btt623lgorb7de4yt7anqnhc44-story.html>

Killed on a Test Flight

2nd Lt. Earl W. Smith was on a test flight in a P-38 after it had repairs and was lost off of Port Moresby in 1943. Recreational divers discovered it and it started the chain of events to positively ID his remains. [Over 12,000 aircraft were destroyed in non-combat accidents overseas in WW II.]

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/missing-no-more-oakland-pilot-killed-in-wwii-is-found>

Tom Cruise now an Honorary Naval Pilot

Due to his work in Top Gun, both of them, the US Navy has made both Tom and Jerry Bruckheimer Naval Aviators.

<https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2020/10/21/tom-cruise-and-jerry-bruckheimer-made-honorary-navy-aviators-ahead-of-top-gun-release/>

F-5 Tiger IIs

F-5s were used in the original Top Gun Movie as the aggressor squadron. Brazil still uses them and they have been upgraded. The 49th aircraft to the latest F-5M standard. It will re-enter service with 1^o/14^o Grupo de Aviação, the "Pampa" Squadron, based at Canoas in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37151/brazils-upgraded-tiger-iis-might-be-the-most-capable-f-5s-in-the-world>

Sgt. Okla E. Edgell Writes His Book

Shot down in 1945 and becoming a POW, he finally got around to writing his book at 96.

"His chest was slit down the middle from the crash. He had a piece of shrapnel go through his hip. His fingernails were burnt off. But Okey survived it and never looked back. He has no regrets."

The book is Self-published. Persons interested in purchasing "Some Gave All," may contact the Edgells at 304-816-3238.

https://www.timeswv.com/news/monday_news/at-95-years-old-okla-edgell-publishes-book-on-his-world-war-ii-experience/article_45334f1e-1725-11eb-b61d-e7552f6d13db.html

The Adrian Light Guards

Units were, and some still are, named after prior leaders and functions. In this case the unit called into Federal Service in the Spanish-American War, The Adrian Light Guards, the "Guards" combat Designation ironically they went to Cuba as actual guards.

<https://www.lenconnect.com/opinion/20201020/adrian-guards-in-spanish-american-war>

Hunting Down Origins of a Flag

Some flags have a easily discovered providence, some are more obscure. 252 stars on this flag have some questions that have not been answered.

<https://www.pe.com/2020/10/22/questions-swirl-over-flag-honoring-world-war-ii-servicemen-from-perris-valley/>

“Old Ironsides” Get some New History

Documents are found everywhere, and often significant ones are in private hands due to their origin. These 225 year-old documents have been sold and acquired by the foundation that maintains this ship.

“The collection belonged to Capt. James Sever, first commander of U.S.S. Congress, another frigate constructed at the same time as Constitution. It had been in his family ever since.”

<https://www.pilotonline.com/military/vp-nw-uss-constitution-papers-navy-museum-20201020-yweabia4wvdo5bdveexgedyan4-story.html>

Purchase What you need and Giving To Charity at No Additional Cost

Amazon has a new feature where as you buy things that you were going to buy anyway, a portion of the sale goes to a charity of your choice. You do it by using a different Amazon URL of <https://smile.amazon.com/> . You go there and pick from the list of authorized charities that you want the \$ to be given to. The *95th Bomb Group Heritage Association* is on the list. I belong to this group – they maintain the Red Feather Club at Horham at the old 95th BG Base in East Anglia.

F6F-3 Hellcat Moves to Stow Ma

After being stored at the Worcester Regional Airport for years it is now part of the collection at Stowe, Mass. The F6F joins 23 other planes, including three under restoration, at the museum.

<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/history/2020/10/29/wwii-navy-fighter-plane-seen-worcester-way-stow/6069697002/>

Bench Rest of History

Columbus Ohio is an inflection point for aircraft. Now when you want to ponder the aviation history of this city you can sit down and see it at your feet in the town of Whitehall.

<https://www.thisweeknews.com/story/news/local/whitehall/2020/10/28/memorial-bench-whitehall-community-park-depicts-aircraft-manufacturing-history/5998731002/>

Chicago’s Douglas Plant

WW II created many new aircraft plants all over the USA – usually built near railroads and rivers to ease transportation for incoming parts and personnel to work in the plants – course the planes could fly away.

A Partial cockpit of a C-54 build in Chicago is now part of a museum.

<https://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20201026/historic-maine-flyer-on-display-at-des-plaines-history-center>

Barber’s Point Museum About to Be Bombed

This time not by the Japanese, but by the Civilian Government who have stated they will chop up all the aircraft if the museum there cannot move them. Items there include: DC-8 passenger jet, a Coast Guard C-130H Hercules, two Navy P-3 Orion sub hunters, three A-4 Skyhawks, an F-4 Phantom and multiple Navy and Marine Corps helicopters and military vehicles, including 60-ton M-60 Patton tanks.

[The state is run by all Democrats who have a history of not liking anything military – unless they CAN pay a lot of money TO the state and the state does not have to pay anything to the military.]

<https://www.aviationpros.com/aircraft/news/21160128/vintage-aircraft-face-chopping-block>

12 Historic Airports in the USA and the World

Some of the airfields were built for WW II, others were built in the era of 4 engine prop planes – and then expanded.

<https://www.rd.com/list/airports-that-are-also-overlooked-landmarks/>

Army Pearl Harbor Survivor Harry Guilliams Dead at 101

Training new recruits on Hickam Airfield, actually on the runway, when the attack started he survived the strafing run of a A6M2 “Zero” since the synchronized guns had run out of bullets and only the 20mm cannon shells were left and they passed on either side of him.

https://roanoke.com/news/local/harry-guilliams-pearl-harbor-survivor-from-roanoke-dies-at-101/article_018421fa-1a16-11eb-88f6-13f289382d2e.html

BG Stewart’s Cessna 310 Now on a Pedestal

Not only did he fly B-24s in WW II (until he was grounded as being too valuable to be captured or killed) he also flew in movies, especially Flight of the Phoenix, but he also flew his own Cessna 310 N6775X. It was found and restored to be mounted on a pedestal at the airport named in his honor.

<https://www.avweb.com/aviation-news/jimmy-stewart-cessna-310-monument-dedicated/>

Planned Community Streets to Be Named After Military and Astronauts

A new planned housing development in Clinton Iowa will have the streets named after people from Iowa.

https://www.clintonherald.com/news/local_news/new-streets-will-bear-names-of-veterans-astronauts/article_dc3e40c2-1c60-11eb-8fa0-b77acaf7ce30.html

Battle of Britain Signature Book up for Auction

Signed by 107 RAF Pilots who flew in the Battle of Britain. The leather cover was cut from a mess chair after Douglas Bader was shot down so he did not come back to use it.

<https://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/18827544.douglas-bader-wwii-book-sell-stroud-auction-rooms/>

Survive WW II in Europe But no where to Go

This book talked about the “Displaced Person” – which was a common phrase for millions of people in Europe at the end of WW II. However, some were more displaced than other. Forced laborers from Western Europe went back home, those from the East

did not want to return to countries under control of the Soviets and most Jews were not wanted, nor wanted to, return where they were born before being sent to camps. A new book examines the million or so people who fell into the category of not wanting to go back to countries now under Soviet control nor allowed to emigrate to Western nations.

Amazon link: [The Last Million: Europe's Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/they-survived-world-war-ii--but-were-left-stranded-in-germany/2020/10/29/a99b2f50-d42f-11ea-8c55-61e7fa5e82ab_story.html

How Khaki Became Khaki Though British Wars in Warm Areas

Uniforms designed and used, often wool, is not well suited for sub-tropical and tropical climates. Military people are known to discard items they find as useless and innovate when practical. The soldiers stationed in India did both.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/meet-khaki-uniforms-original-camouflage-171875>

How a Tornado Saved DC

East Coast tornadoes are not rare, but some locations are not conducive to allowing one to form. Washington DC is in a section of land where it is very hard for them to form – but one did in August of 1814.

The battle that allowed the British to get to DC was the Battle of Bladensburg.

Bladensburg Junior High is built on the hill that the US forces tried to hold and failed.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/weather/2020/09/24/the-tornado-that-saved-our-nation-s-capital>

Battle of Surigao Strait – from the Fantail of a Destroyer

Over 200,000 sailors and aircrews were involved in this surface battle in August of 1944 near the Philippines. Carl Morgan got to see and experience this battle in the open from the fantail on duty as a medic.

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2020/nov/08/navy-medic-carl-morgansaw-actibiggest-naval-bat/535678/>

The Battle of Kursk – A Detailed Myth Deconstruction

Written by a person who lives at Prokhorovka, and works at the museum there, he has walked the grounds and able to look at the real records of the Soviet units involved and deconstruct what they did right, and wrong, as well as the known German records, and puts it into a book first published in 2005 and in English in 2018.

Amazon link: [Demolishing the Myth: The Tank Battle at Prokhorovka, Kursk, July 1943: An Operational Narrative](#)

Navy Museum Storage Site

Saving historical items always has a drawback – where to store the items. Then storing of some naval items, like boats and ships, takes up even more room. This storage site is where overflow items that cannot be put into the normal museum are kept. The US Navy is only 220 years old, yet what to keep, and when to put it on display, is always a logistical problem.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2020/11/10/navy-museum-artifacts/>

Spain Buys a Treasure Boat

After ignoring lost ships for a few hundred years, Spain has bought a ship to hunt down and recover the silver, gold and jewels that it stole from the New World which sand on the way back to Spain in order to pay for the current world.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/spain-treasure-ships-b1645088.html>

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.