

September Chapter News Update 'Quick Takes'

8th Air Force Historical Society of Oregon



From Tom Philo: Chapter Secretary.

To provide additional information to Oregon 8th AFHS members and those who have yet to join with meeting updates, an easy method to field questions to members, obtain answers from them, and in general to communicate more often to members in addition to the great work that Jerry does on the quarterly newsletter, I hope to put out an e-mail update as needed. If you have questions that you wish to ask to the e-mail audience please send them onto me at secretary@8thafhsoregon.com. There are around 80 people on the e-mail list.

This is ONLY sent to people who have given the chapter their e-mail address.

Newsletter

The chapter newsletter is sent to everyone in the chapter plus other chapters that we exchange newsletters with. In depth articles, photos, humor that should go to everyone and would be value to all should be sent to him. Jerry is always asking for material so you can send him all that you have.

November Meeting

Due to Veterans Day falling on Sunday the 11th, the Quarterly meeting is being held a week earlier than normal on Saturday November 3, 2007.

Web Site Update

Asides from the meeting notice and the meeting summary that Clint Gruber creates, I have not updated the site with any new archive material this year. I have around 15 more sets of material to scan then everything that has been loaned / given to the chapter will be online in PDF format when authorized.

Archive

Related to above, if you have material that you would like to be preserved, and put into the archive, either via a short term loan or permanently, please contact Tom Philo. For loaned material I will scan it quickly and give it back to you within a week. Putting it onto the web site takes a bit longer.

B-24 Photo Over Tours – Or ???

I did do some research of the famous B-24 that is in the Entrance into the Air Force Museum – the one showing a formation of Liberators dropping 500 lb bombs as they fly through two smoke trails from the lead bomber that they toggled on. The Air Force Museum director stated to me that his information is that it was taken over Tours France in July 1944. Course in July 44 we liberated Tours. He stated that the best way to confirm that where it was taken was to look at the river in the image and match it up. I used Google Earth and did what he had suggested. It matches up PERFECTLY with the river that runs through BREMEN Germany – when you are at 23000'. The normal high altitude that B-24s dropped at. (B-17s often flew higher than B-24s.) Now I have to write the curator there and get him to correct the caption under the wall-sized image. I have those photos on my web site. <http://www.taphilo.com/history/8thaf/crosseyedcharlie.shtml>

I had previously used Google Earth to research a strike photo that was listed as unknown in the chapter archive – and found it to be from a mission against the V1 / V2 base at Peenemunde.

8th AFHS Publicity Flyers combined with Application

The Board of Directors authorized the printing of a combined informational flyer / application form which was distributed in three booths during the Oregon International Air Show. The booths included The Veterans booth, the Military Booth, and the booth that National Combat History Archive had on the airfield. All three had publicity flyers in them. Around 250 flyers were taken by the public during the three day run of the show. Only veterans were allowed into the veteran's booth. An idea was that next year the chapter may have a dedicated presence there during the whole airshow. Would need at least 6 people over the three days. Comments?

"Oregon at War"

Is a one-hour documentary that will air on OPB on 27 September at 9:00 p.m. It explores the big picture and the personal stories of Oregonians during WW II. Gary Mortensen was involved in this.

Ken Burns WW II Documentary Airs In September and October

- * Episode One: "A Necessary War" — Sept. 23 from 8 to 10:30 p.m.
 - * Episode Two: "When Things Get Tough" — Sept. 24 from 8 to 10 p.m.
 - * Episode Three: "A Deadly Calling" — Sept. 25 from 8 to 10 p.m.
 - * Episode Four: "Pride of Our Nation" — Sept. 26 from 8 to 10:30 p.m.
 - * Episode Five: "FUBAR" — Sept. 30 from 8 to 10 p.m.
 - * Episode Six: "The Ghost Front" — Oct. 1 from 8 to 10 p.m.
 - * Episode Seven: "A World Without War" — Oct. 2 from 8 to 10:30 p.m.
- Each episode will re-air after the first showing.

Some strong language is in the documentary and TV stations are given a choice of two versions to air: the directors' version or the FCC fine safe version.

In Episode Two: "When Things Get Tough" cuss words abound as the language is part of battle footage in which an 8th AF vet describes what it is like to be shot at while in a B-17 airplane. In Episode Five called "FUBAR," people explain the acronyms FUBAR and SNAFU.

BTW, the 11th crewman of the B-17 – the press corps - is still going strong since they are using a B-17 crewman to describe these.

RAF Pilot Comment

Sir, I am a Royal Air Force Pilot, and have recently read the the few by alex kirshaw. I was unaware at the amount of foreign pilots that flew to defend our country and indeed the world. Over the last 8 years of my service career, I have always felt proud to be considered one of the lucky ones who were selected to fly for the RAF, but after reading The Few, it has reinvigorated my pride. I live in Las Vegas, where the RAF have a Sqn that fly Predator aircraft, which feels fitting after reading the book, so many years on we are now in America, playing a part in a war which brings a new enemy and threat to our world. I would like to take this chance to thank and express my gratitude to all of the pilots foreign and domestic, who fought so bravely during that battle, we owe you everything. Dave Cummins Flt Lt 39 Sqn

This was sent to me due to a page I have on my web site about American Pilots in the RAF during the Battle of Britain. I also list the numbers of other non UK pilots who flew between July and October 1940.

Evergreen Looking For Docents

With the opening of the Air and Space Museum next Spring, we are beginning to look for Docents. At this time we do not have a firm idea of how many we will need, but an estimate is between 10 & 15 per day. Contact Laurel Adams at Evergreen at lynda.wiegan@sprucegoose.org

Research Questions

I received these via e-mail:

94th BG Personnel Research Request

Dear Mr. Philo, I recently met a man that was in WW2, his name is Russell Jordan and he lives in Sherman, Texas, near me. I am interested in knowing more about his military career, all I know is he was in the 8th Army Air Corps, 94th Bomb Div. and he flew in the B-17G named "Sleepy Time Gal". I am making him a framed memento and it would be wonderful if I could surprise him with some or all of the patches he had. I have a recent picture, but I would like to have one of when he was younger. Without asking him, do you have any suggestions on how to get all of this info? I did go to the WW2 Memorial site and got just a paragraph on him, but no picture. Anything you have will certainly help. Thank you for your time, Robin Armoto. robin.armoto@tx.rr.com

96th BG Research Request

Hi, I love looking at your site for my Dad, he is 84 and living with me. But I can not seem to find his group in the 96th. It was the 338th squadron. Can you help me with this. His b-17 was called the Conga Babe. jane.pitcher@mchsi.com

Anyone have information about the Conga Babe crew?

B-26 Squadron Question

In 1946 or 1947, a friend of mine and I copied some 100 4X5" B&W prints and made a large number- several hundred prints to be used at a reunion. I have wondered for all these years what outfit the B-17s were from. The

photos were air to ground ofbombed out cities and air to air sqaudron shots. The tail identifier was an "R" in a triangle. The job turned out to be an intro to photo work and I spent 4 yrs Navy as a motion picture & aerial cameraman. I continued in the USAF as a camera systems man on B-52 AC. I would dearly love to have an answer. Best regards, John McDougall
Johnston RI jmcdougall2@cox.net

Anyone know what B-26 BG used the code letter R?

Air Medal Award Requirement

Does anyone have – in writing – the regulation (or can give an exact date) as to the number of missions when an Air Medal was awarded and if the number CHANGED during the war and when?
Also for the Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC).

P-39 Pilot

My uncle was killed in a P-39Q accident on 7-19-43 near Newark CA any ideas where I can get info on his base SF army airdrome or Mills field and his unit 328 fighter group/ 327 fighter sqd. Thank you Thomas
Post cody060@aol.com

The Dambusters

Jackson reveals today that he will produce the film, to be known as Dambusters, based on one of World War II's most daring feats when Royal Air Force bombers destroyed German dams using bouncing bombs. Most of the US\$50 million film will be shot in Wellington, where about 10 full-scale replicas of the Lancaster bombers used in the 1943 raid will be built by visual effects company Weta Workshop. Some filming is also likely in Britain.

Also, George Lucas is making a movie called "Red Tails" about the Tuskegee Airmen.

B-17 Agmer Y Yoke

I am looking for some info about a B-17 named Agmer Y Yoke, pilot Frank Peterson, that flew out of Bury St Edmonds in the summer of 44. My father was the navigator. Any info you have - wing#, group#, squadron#, or any other info would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Fred Armitage
Jr fredarm@earthlink.net

Name of a Song Needed

Song played by British Army when they march into Messina, in the movie PATTON. Thanks, I know it's not a real incident. Just would like to know the name of song. S.W. sjagirls3@aol.com

93rd BG

hi can you help me find some information on william hanrahan from 93rd bomb group hardwick airfield in norfolk any information would be helpful thankyou.ps we think he was in the travelling circus as a pilot from usa. woody-46@hotmail.co.uk

56th FG

Sir, My Dad served with the 56th Fighter Control Squadron at Mitchell Field Air Base located in Long Island NY. Do you have any information on this unit or can you tell me were to go to find information. Thank you Owen Levine MSG,Ret sonny01453@comcast.net

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