

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update February, 2009



February 2009 Meeting is **February 7**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Archive Stories Update



Lt Groce shoots the wingtip off a Luftwaffe ME-262 "Swallow" jet on 1 November, 1944.

Thanks to Wally Groce for loaning his original P-47 gun camera film to the Oregon Chapter so we could put a copy of it into the archives; George Brice for his scrapbook of his Army career (300+ photos and other items); Larry Bellarts for his last mission narrative, Col Bellarts also wrote a book: "[Bird With A Broken Wing](#)"; Eldon Bevens; Paul Armatrout; and Vernon Dickie – all contributed items that are now in our chapter's archive – and soon to be available online on the web site.

The collection, the items that I have scanned into digital format so far, takes up 4 full DVDs - 16 gigabytes of data. 725+ separate items have been scanned and preserved so far.

A single PDF file, like those storing crew photos of the men that flew in the 306 BG (H), may have 60 crew photos in a single file.

To all those that have contributed, thank you.

To those that have items that can be shared, please contact me, Tom Philo, to arrange a time for me to borrow your items to scan, archive, then return them to you; or you can donate them permanently to our chapter historical library. Scanning items allows them to be shared



Detail of P-47 SN 275549 taken by Lt Brice escorting his B-17.

without having to loan out the originals and risk further damage or loss of these irreplaceable items.

Tom Philo, Oregon Eighth Air Force Historical Society, Chapter Historian.

British WW I Veteran Sydney Lucas Dead at 108

He was drafted in 1918 as one of the last group of 18 year olds conscripted to fight in the Great War but he did not have to serve in the trenches since the war ended before he finished his training. He later served in World War II after he had immigrated to Australia but missed out in the Greece and Crete battles to an attack of appendicitis and his unit sailed without him. In 1942 he was discharged from the Army due to health reasons. He died 4 November 2008.

British WW I Veteran William Stone Dead at 108

This British sailor served at the end of World War One and throughout World War Two, he died on January 12, 2009. He served on the HMS Tiger during WW I. During WW II she served on many ships but the worse experience he had was during the Dunkirk evacuations where on the HMS Salamander he made 5 trips to the beaches getting off troops. He spent his whole time on the quarterdeck pulling up soldiers. Their sister ship, HMS Skipjack, was sunk with all hands and 200 evacuated soldiers next to his.

This leaves just three British soldiers alive from WW I: 112-year-old Henry Allingham, 110-year-old Harry Patch, who both live in Britain, and 107-year-old Claude Choules who lives in Australia.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/berkshire/7824999.stm>

War Brides went both ways

Full story: http://www.thepress.co.uk/news/4023655.Acomb_ex_German_PoW_dies/

Paul Hofschröder died in Acomb, York UK, on Jan 6, 2009. Paul was drafted at 19 in early 1940 into the German Luftwaffe as an Anti-Aircraft artillery person. He was in the French campaign of 1940, then went into Russia in 1941 and was wounded in 1943. After recovering from wounds he was sent to Calais France in 1944 where he was captured by the British after the city surrendered following the Normandy Campaign.

While still a POW in England he met Barbara, who routinely came to pick fruit at the camp, and married her while still a POW! They were married in October of 1948.

Paul stayed in England and became a British subject.

Want a picnic spot overlooking Cambridge?

A 2.5 acre plot of land, with a WW II pillbox on it, is for sale. You can not build anything on it (greenbelt land) but the pillbox makes a nice place to stay on any given day out in your own private park.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cambridgeshire/7762394.stm

Re-Release of Luftwaffe Attack movie on Forth, Scotland

"The Hour of the Eagle", A movie made in 1974 about the Luftwaffe attack on Forth anchorage in northern Scotland, was released to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the attack of October 1939.

One person, who helped make this movie, Stephen Begg, later worked on "Aliens"!

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Hour-has-come-for-new.4808611.jp>

World War II mine found in Forth

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7489323.stm

Last July 4, 2008 a British navy minesweeper, HMS Shoreham, in a routine exercise discovered a World War II mine off Inchkeith Island in the Firth of Forth.

They, of course, blew it up since it was in a shipping lane.

In March of 2008 a German bomb was found in central Coventry during a construction project. Coventry was bombed during the Luftwaffe "Baedeker" night raids in 1941.

Spy Story - Maj Paul Cyr

Reading a WW II made up spy novel, then reading about a true OSS spy, knowing that the story is true as compared to something that occurs in fictional movies - you have to rethink to what separates real from fiction is often when it occurs.

Major Cyr dropped into France in June of 1944, fought in land battles against the Gestapo and the Wehrmacht with the Free French Forces of the Interior (FFI), argued (in French) with a Luftwaffe pilot in a town over some topic; then after France was liberated went into China in 1945 and blew up the longest bridge over the Yellow River while a Japanese troop train was going over it.

This is a true to life TV movie waiting to happen.

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20090105/NEWS01/901050340/1002/NEWS01>

"Valkyrie" Movie

A premier occurred on January 21, 2008 in London, England and previously in Germany, but it did not open in the US till December 16.

This is the story of the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, carried out on July 20, 1944, by Count Claus von Stauffenberg, and told from his perspective. So far the most factual of all the stories presented in all the movies about the plot.

In the North Africa scenes they used P-40s which is historically accurate.

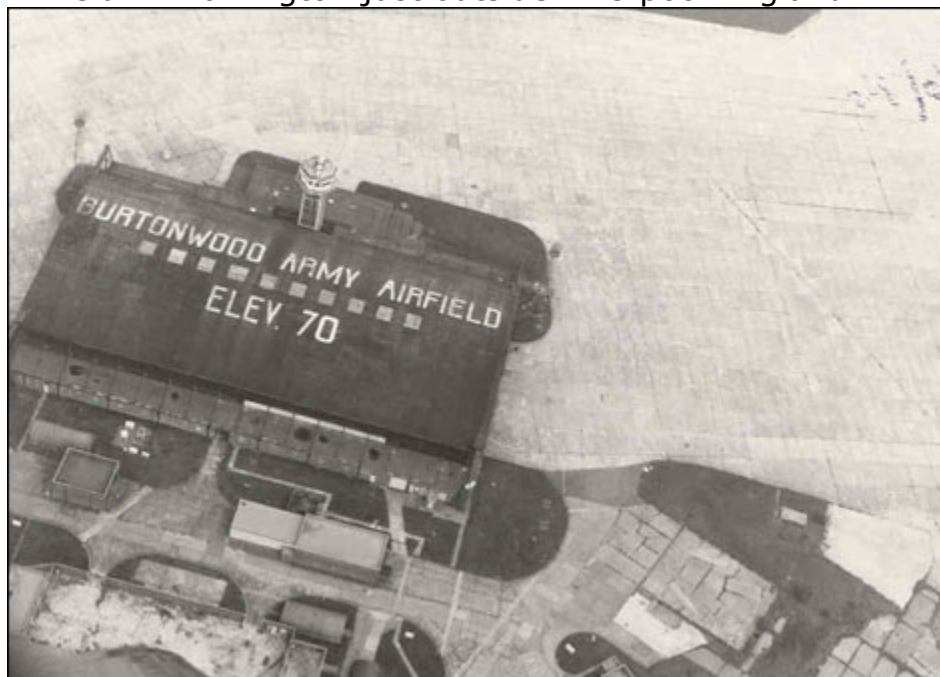
51 P-51B Mustangs to be Built in 2009 - Ford Car Mustangs That Is

<http://blogs.mustangandfords.com/6407404/miscellaneous/only-51-roush-p-51b-models-to-be-built/index.html>

"ROUSH® Performance continues their homage to the legendary World War II fighter plane with the 2009 P-51B™ Mustang, the second aviation-themed pony car from the Michigan-based manufacturer. This car, based on the 2009 Ford Mustang chassis, will be limited to just 51 numbered production vehicles in the 2009 model year."

Burtonwood Airfield

One of the primary reasons the 8th AF was able to carry out its mission was the supply line supporting the front line units. Part of that supply line was Burtonwood Army Airfield in Warrington just outside Liverpool England.



As aircraft from the US arrived into the ETO (European Theater of Operations) they stopped off at Burtonwood to undergo field modifications to make them ready for the much deadlier German Luftwaffe that operated in the ETO.

It was also a depot level repair center for aircraft damaged in combat – or accidents.

During the war its nickname was "Lancashire's Detroit". In 1943 when the air war really got underway till 1945 some 11,575 aircraft passed through Burtonwood. In addition over 40,000 engine and component parts were shipped to it for its use or for it to be sent onto other units. By 1945 over 18,000 personnel were stationed at the base.

In 2006 the last hangers there was torn down so that a housing development could be built on the land.

Flying Tail End Charlie in the 8th Air Force

Wilford Naylor, 490th Bomb Group, 851st Squadron, 8th Air Force

"So, I pulled out of the formation because I didn't want to blow up and take somebody with me. The crew chief jumped down from the top turret, and went down to the bomb

bay and shut off the fuel to that thing. Then he started transferring fuel out of the tank to other tanks, and I feathered the engines."

Naylor directed a carbon dioxide blast to the burning engine, and extinguished the remaining flame; but the plane was crippled with only three engines functioning.

"We dropped our bombs and followed the rest, but we were the last airplane in the 8th Air Force. A B-24 doesn't fly too good on three engines, so I was losing a little altitude trying to get home."

"I got down under the clouds and I could see the base and the coast because we were that close to the coast. So, I called the base and asked them to give me a straight-in approach. I said, I've got an engine out and running low on fuel."

"They stacked up a fire truck and an ambulance on the end of the runway I thought I was going to land on, so I had to go around to the other end to come in."

On the circle around, fuel ran out in the second inboard engine.

"I landed, and ran out of gas in the other two engines before I got off the runway. It was that close."

"Ordinance personnel were patting me on the back for bringing back the crew, and engineering and maintenance were cussing me for bringing back that bucket of junk."

http://lubbockonline.com/stories/011009/loc_376078971.shtml

WW II Film Quiz

- 1) In which 1967 film are some reprieved Death Row prisoners trained as a crack fighting unit and sent on a suicide mission into occupied France?
- 2) In which 1942 film, set in North Africa, do French patriots sing Le Marseillaise in an American bar to drown out a German marching song?
- 3) In which 1997 comedy film does an Italian father in a concentration camp persuade his son that the ghastly events around him are part of a game?
- 4) Which patriotic 1949 John Wayne movie follows the training of US recruits to capture a strategic Pacific island?
- 5) In which 1961 film does a commando team scale a Turkish cliff to sabotage two massive artillery pieces commanding the Aegean?
- 6) Which 1976 thriller, starring Michael Caine, concerns a plot to kill Churchill by flying German paratroopers, dressed as Poles, into Norfolk?
- 7) Which Oscar-winning 1998 movie begins with a grueling 25-minute sequence of soldiers being mown down on Omaha Beach?
- 8) Which 1953 movie, set in Hawaii before Pearl Harbour, portrays a passionate affair between Sergeant Warden and the neglected wife of his superior, Captain Holmes?
- 9) Which 1946 Hollywood movie follows the progress of three soldiers returning from war – one of them played by a real-life amputee?

- 10) In which 1987 French film, directed by Louis Malle, does a schoolboy discover that his friend Jean has been concealing his Jewish identity?
- 11) Which Rogers & Hammerstein musical features actual battle footage of WW2?
- 12) In which Ernest Lubitsch comedy of 1942 are the Nazis in occupied Warsaw out-smarted by a Polish theatre troupe?
- 13) What's the English title of the Oscar-nominated, 2004 German film about the last 12 days of Adolf Hitler in his bunker?
- 14) Which Billy Wilder film won William Holden an Oscar for playing a suspected collaborator in a concentration camp?
- 15) Which 1954 film, with a score by Eric Coates, featured an eccentric inventor and a famous raid by 617 Squadron?
- 16) Which much-televised 1963 movie features Donald Pleasance as "The Forger," James Garner as "The Scrounger" and Steve McQueen as "The Cooler King"?
- 17) In which 1973 Italian movie did a former SS officer and one of his child concentration-camp inmates re-kindle their sexual relationship?
- 18) In which movie would you hear the bracing advice: "No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country"?
- 19) In which film does Hermann Goering ask a top-ranking Luftwaffe brass, "Tell me what you need" to be told, "Herr Reichmarschal, give me a squadron of Spitfires"?
- 20) In which 1970 film, based on a classic novel, does Orson Welles, as General Dreedle, face the problem of where to pin a medal on a naked man?

1. The Dirty Dozen
2. Casablanca
3. Life is Beautiful
4. Sands of Iwo Jima
5. The Guns of Navarone
6. The Eagle Has Landed
7. Saving Private Ryan
8. From Here To Eternity
9. The Best Years of Our Lives
10. Au Revoir les Enfants
11. South Pacific
12. To Be or Not To Be
13. Downfall
14. Stalag 17
15. The Dam Busters
16. The Great Escape
17. The Night Porter
18. Patton
19. Battle of Britain
20. Catch-22

"It Happened Here" – a "What-If" Movie

What would it would have been like if Germany had defeated Britain in 1940? This film, completed after 8 years in 1964, explores this possibility. Now newly released on DVD.

On YMCA paper, a diary of POW Life: "Stalag XVIIB Diary,"

The YMCA sent to American POWs all sorts of items - including notebooks. Freddie Ward was one of those who got one after being shot down in his B-17 on July 28, 1943. Writing, in real small lettering, almost every day about the goings on in Camp XVIIB till the end of war marches in 1945, they now have been published.

Freddie Ward, pastor of Highland Park Assembly of God Church in Kilgore Texas, and his wife, took all his books and published it.

Unknown publisher (not listed in Amazon) so a copy should be able to be obtained directly from him at:

Highland Park Assembly of God Assembly of God 2400 S Henderson Blvd Kilgore, TX 75662

Full story: <http://www.military.com/news/article/pow-diarists-story-emerges.html?col=1186032310810>

German "Aphrodite" Projects

The Fritz-X and HS293 glider bombs were in operation for almost 2 years. If you go to the RAF Museum at Cosford, in Shropshire you can see them.

The following is from the museum's handbook: "The Fritz-X missile, also known as FX1400 and SD1400, was a high-angle glide bomb, radio-controlled from a parent aircraft and had no propulsion unit. It was designed for air-to-surface use, primarily against armoured shipping targets. The Fritz-X missile consisted of a standard amatol-filled 1,400kg bomb modified to permit the addition of four wings and a tail unit containing a radio unit and stabilising gyroscopes and, attached to the after end, a set of four fins in a 12-sided framework. The fins were equipped with radio-controlled spoilers."

"The radio-controlled German HS293 missile was a small mid-wing monoplane. The Luftwaffe formed a special squadron to assist in the development and trained a number of specialist radio operators. Notable German successes with the HS293 include the sinking of Royal Navy destroyers Inglefield, Boadicea, Intrepid and Dulwich. There were only ten survivors from HMS Boadicea, from a ship's company of 188."

Comments about them at:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article5390811.ece>

Axis or Allied: Most Popular Models?

"Analysis by the model maker Airfix has revealed that this year, German kits have made up around 55 per cent of the sales of all kits relating to the conflict. Around 1.4 million German replicas were sold, compared to 1.1 million Allied kits. "

The Luftwaffe now outnumbers the allied planes in production.

"The biggest selling German planes are the Messerschmitt Bf 109E, the Focke Wulf 190D, the Junkers Ju87 Stuka, the Dornier Do17 and the "Mistel", an experimental composite aircraft, in which a fighter was attached to a bomber.

The most popular RAF planes are the Supermarine Spitfire, the De Havilland Mosquito, the Hawker Hurricane and the Avro Lancaster. The P51 Mustang is the only US aircraft in the top ten."

This is in England, US air force numbers may vary.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/3868129/Spitfire-Hurricanes-and-Lancasters-losing-out-to-Nazi-foes-in-kit-toy-sales.html>

European City Of Culture this year is Linz, Austria

Linz is a typical Austrian city, nothing really outstandingly unique - so it goes back into history and pulls out a famous person who lived there and created this person as the theme for tourist visits this year - Adolf Hitler.

Tours of the underground aircraft factory, bridges where statues of German heroes were to be erected, Mauthausen concentration camp, Leonding the village where Hitler's parents are buried, Hermann-Goring-Wrke and other attractions relating to the NAZI era of Austria are to be featured in tours of the city.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/austria/4076893/Adolf-Hitler-at-the-centre-of-Austrias-City-of-Culture-campaign.html>

Local Chapter News and Groups

The Candy Bombers: Lecture and Book Signing By Andrei Cherny

At the Seattle Museum of Flight on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., William M. Allen Theater

The Museum has a temporary exhibit celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.

Amazon Link: "[The Candy Bombers: The Untold Story of the Berlin Airlift and America's Finest Hour](#)"

Oregon Chapter Membership Annual Renewal

A reminder that the annual \$10 chapter dues should be sent to our new Treasurer Sharon Campbell, PO Box 275 Beavercreek, Oregon 97004-0276.

Any amount above the \$10 annual dues is considered a donation and is tax deductible.

New Officers

We have two three officers for the coming year: President Bert Campbell; Vice President Clint Gruber, and Treasurer Sharon Campbell.

Board Members

Term expires end of 2009: Don Bourgeois, Bob Schuberg

Term expires end of 2011: Warren Caldwell, Bob Dean, Charles Gallagher

Term expires end of 2012: Lawrence Fick

Term expires end of 2013: Clint Gruber, Wally Groce,

Bob Schuberg replaced Don Millar who moved out of Oregon and lives too far away to travel to the meetings now.

Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 12 Noon till when people leave. Meetings are at The Village Inn Restaurant; 17070 SW 72nd Tigard right at Lower Boons Ferry Road and I-5 on the west side of I-5 at Exit 290.

ANA – Association of Naval Aviators

Meetings are the last Thursday of each month at the Elks Lodge next to Gateway Transit Center. 711 NE 100th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Meeting is from 11:30 till around 2 PM.

Contact Ltc George Bickford (Ret) at 503-789-8061. e-mail: bick @ teleport.com

Mailing address: Flying Beaver Squadron; PO Box 432; Clackamas, Oregon 97015-0432

Southern Oregon Warbirds Association

If you live in southern Oregon you can meet x-aviation personnel at the Southern Oregon Warbirds Association (SOWA) <http://www.southernoregonwarbirds.org>.

Meeting location: New Life Christian Center, 1723 NE Vine Street. Roseburg, OR and they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. The July / August dinner meeting is on the fourth Tuesday of those months at the American Legion Hall 406 SE Oak Street. 6:30 pm Elmer L Giles, Sec.. POC: Elmer L Giles, 102 Shadow Ranch Lane, Roseburg OR 97470 Cell phone 541 430 4165. Dues \$10 a year.

Aviation Breakfast Club

This is the Walt Bohrer Chapter and they meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except Easter and Mother's Day) from 10 AM till 12 Noon at various places now that their long time meeting place shut down. Call for details: 503-254-5555; e-mail: aviationclub @ aol.com

Need to do Photo or Video research?

You are free to go over to and talk, learn, and do photo, movie, and audio research at: The National Combat History Archive

5801 NW Cornelius Pass Road

Hillsboro, OR. 97124

TEL: +(1) (503) 597-7030

FAX: +(1) (503) 597-7037

EMAIL: Gary Mortensen grmortensen@militarylibrary.net

“Milk Run” Definition

Milk Run: noun; uneventful, routine. Slang for an “easy mission”. A combat mission where you attack the enemy and get credit for a mission toward your tour total but no enemy fighters, nor any effective anti-aircraft guns, are expected to be firing at you.

Word origin based upon the routine nature of delivering milk every morning to people in the US in the 1920s. First referenced in print 1925. See "cake walk". Antonym of Schweinfurt.

Contact Information E-mail and Postal

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