

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update
September 2010



Next Meeting is on **November 6**. 10 AM till 2 PM

History News

Readers, where's your story? See the last page on how to share your history.

“Our Gal Sal”

Out of Many One – Aircraft that returned to base that is

Capt. Robert J Shoens was the main pilot of “Our Gal Sal” in the 100th BG(H) that operated out of Thrope Abbots as part of the 8th Air Force.



March 6, 1944 was the first 8th AF daylight bomber raid that made it to Berlin (local Oregon P-38 pilot Stan Richardson and his unit made it to Berlin a few days before – they never got the recall signal like the bombers – Stan flew home alone on one engine after the other was knocked out due to flak over Berlin and his unit had to leave him behind – he held the single engine record flight in a P-38 for 6 months) and the 100th BG took off as a complete group – and Our Gal Sal was the only a/c to return to base.

“All you can think about is what's going on around you and you don't realize how many are lost until you get back to the field and there are no planes where there used to be.”

The 8th AF lost 69 bombers out of the 850 that were dispatched.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100805/ENT05/8050305/1115/Ent05/Capt.-Robert-J.-Shoens-Pilot-of-the-B-17-Our-Gal-Sal#ixzz0wAIVr9Za>

Sometimes Paperwork is Slow in Coming – Especially once you are a POW

On July 22, 2010 retired Air Force Col. Claude M. Schonberger received the Distinguished Flying Cross in the Pentagon's “Hall of Heroes” for his actions as a pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber flying over Regensburg on Feb. 16, 1945.

While on the bomb run his #4 engine became a run-away due to flak damage while at the same time a fire was started by the #3 engine. Maintaining formation he was able to drop the load of bombs on Obertraubling airfield and put out the fire and return to his base in Italy. He was assigned to 759th Squadron, 459th Group, 13th Wing, 15th Air Force.

He was shot down on February 28, 1945 and only himself and his navigator, 2nd Lt. Bob Johnson of Bigfork, Montana survived the explosion of his B-24 over the northern Italian town of Bolzano.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=60132>

“Duration Plus Six Months”

Signing up they told Keith Dillmon it was for the duration of the war plus six months – but he was able to get out in November of 1944 after flying 50 missions as a ball turret gunner in the 461st Bomb Group, 15th Air Force.

<http://www.eldoradotimes.com/news/x84685641/Revisiting-his-youth>

Battle Of Britain at Seattle Museum Sept 18

September marks the 70th anniversary of history's first major battle to be decided purely by air--the Battle of Britain. In remembrance of this anniversary, the Museum presents a special day of programs on Sept. 18. Presenters include Museum of Flight aviation historians and experts on the history and aircraft of the Battle of Britain. Admission is \$5 for Museum Members and \$10 for general admission (does not include admission to the Museum.) Early registration is recommended as seating is limited. Visit the [Battle of Britain](#) webpage for more information.



Sunday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., WWII Gallery

Museum docent Barry Latter gives a personal tour of the Personal Courage Wing WWII gallery Battle of Britain exhibit.

Norman St. Pierre a Stalag 17B POW

Normal was a waist gunner on the B-17 “Piccadilly Commando” of the 351 BG(H) returning from their mission on 31 December 1943 when they were forced to ditch in the English Channel when the plane ran out of fuel due to battle damage – and the crew was picked up by a German patrol boat.

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/mainer-once-held-at-stalag-17b-dies-2010-08-25.html>

Hummel's Cross

A fictional story about a Luftwaffe fighter pilot during the height of the air war who flies for Germany against the 8th Air Force but in his off hours helps his pre-war Jewish friends survive.

<http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/bschaeffer/2010/08/03/hummels-cross-german-war-thriller-american-dream-and-the-democratization-of-book-publishing/>

Lt Crook evading the Germans in the Netherlands

Charles D. Crook Sr was a B-17 pilot shot down on 22 February 1944 just inside Holland from the German border. Evading the Germans, he spent nine months roving around Holland till he was able to make contact with a British unit after Arnhem battle and made it back to Molesworth around the 5th of September, 1944.

He kept a journal of the time evading and it might become a book.

http://www.hometownglenburnie.com/news/Top_Stories/2010/08/11-16/Remembering+Chuck%0A.html

French Ace of WW II Dies at 92

French pilots fighting for France while in the RAF is well known, as those flying under Free French Forces lead by General DeGaulle using US and British planes, but Marcel Albert fought and gained 24 victories while flying Soviet Yak fighter aircraft on the Eastern Front. He was part of the Normandie-Niémen unit. Around 100 French fighter pilots went through the unit while stationed in the Soviet Union. Almost half were killed in action. The Normandie-Niémen museum is in Les Andelys, France. The museum states that the French pilots flew 5,240 sorties and were credited with the destruction of 273 German planes.

He died in Harlingen, Texas, August 24, 2010.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/world/europe/26albert.html?_r=1

WW II Museum in New Orleans Expands

A new wing of the museum will have as its centerpiece a B-17G Flying Fortress. Also included will be an TBM Avenger, B-25 Mitchell and a Dauntless that will be on catwalks so that you can see all parts of them.

A new feature will allow people to be on the USS Tang on its last patrol.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hEvSx2EYvafBQ_6pVnh6ThqrLF_SAD9HRBRV81

Veteran discussion on VE day

A multiple of people talk about how and where they were when JJ day was proclaimed.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20100816/NEWS01/8160320/Veterans-discuss-service-uncertainties-after-V-E-Day>

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Errol Flynn's War Movies being released

Errol Flynn made 5 war movies and all of them are being released on DVD. "Desperate Journey", "Edge of Darkness", "Northern Pursuit", "Uncertain Glory", and "Objective, Burma!"

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/04/entertainment/la-et-classic-hollywood-20100804/2>

Tom Tate

IN 1945 Tom and six fellow crew members were captured near the German village of Huchenfeld in Germany after his B-17 Flying Fortress bomber was shot down.



He managed to escape but the rest were killed in cold blood by villagers, seeking revenge for earlier bombing raids.

"I despised them for it," said Tom who visited his friends' graves just after the war.

"I told my wife that I would never go back to Germany.

"Then, 50 years later, I got a brochure for a holiday in the Rhine.

"It fell open at an article which read, 'The Village that asked Forgiveness'.

"I couldn't believe it - it was all about Huchenfeld and the executions.

"I received a letter from a couple, Renate and Gotthilf Beck-Ehninger, who were very involved in the reconciliation process but hadn't known that I was still alive.

"Guilt had hung over the village for years, but I went there and somehow changed things for them.

"I was so welcomed, and so well looked after, that suddenly I realised I'd made a mistake.

"I wish I'd gone to Germany earlier to relieve these people of their guilt. The act of friendship invites forgiveness."

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/3087027/Could-you-forgive-the-unforgivable.html>

33 Missions out of Spinazzola Italy

Flying as part of the 15th Air Force, 460th Bomb Group; 761st Bomb Squadron, pilot Bob Sartorius flew his B-24 "Liberator" on missions into Germany, Austria, France, The Balkans, and Italy while in Italy.

"You don't ditch a B-24," he said. "A B-24 has high wings and a big, bulbous fuselage."

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100827/NEWS01/8270303/%E2%80%98+It+never+occurred+to+me+I+wouldn+t+return+>

Last B-24 Built by Douglas Tulsa Plant found in Adriatic



The Tulsamerican B-24 bomber conducts a test flight over Tulsa in this undated photo. The man at the rear gunner's door is Marcus Johnson, a Douglas employee who won the contest to take a ride on the plane.

The very last B-24 produced at Douglas' Tulsa Oklahoma plant was shot down after 17 December 1944 on a mission to the oil refinery at Odertal, Poland. On Memorial Day it was discovered off the coast of Split in the clear waters of the Adriatic where it had ditched. "Crew members reported the plane went into the water nose first, and then flipped over onto its back before submerging. " (See previous pilot's comment about ditching a B-24.)

Read more from this Tulsa World article at

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100811_12_A1_ULNShu241187&archive=yes

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100811_12_A1_ULNShu241187&archive=yes

Production Figures Air Force Plant No. 3

Operated by: Douglas Aircraft Co.

Groundbreaking: May 3, 1941

Dedicated: August. 15, 1942

Length: 4,004 feet

Width: 350 feet

Floor space: 800,000 square feet

World War II aircraft production: August 1942 to September 1945

Complete production:

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615 A-24 "Banshee" dive-bombers
962 B-24 "Liberator" bombers (the first 10 of which were rejected by the Army Air Corps)
1,343 A-26 "Invader" attack bombers

Aircraft modifications, estimated at several hundred

A-20 "Havoc" light bombers
B-25 "Mitchell" bombers
B-17 "Flying Fortress" bombers
C-17 "Skytrain" military transport subassemblies

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20100811_12A1_ULNShu241187&archive=yes

“The Playboy Crew 1943-1944 Memoirs of World War II”

What do you name your bomber when you have a bunch of 20 year olds looking for women in wartime England? Robert Pipes wrote the book after people started telling him to not just talk about it, but write it down.

He came up with the nose art: "Our plane was decorated with a male duck that I painted."

Pipes was shot down over Holland in April of 1943 in his B-24.

http://www.durantdemocrat.com/view/full_story/9234610/article-Pipes-releases-World-War-II-memoirs?instance=home_news_lead

Losing a prop and almost the B-24 nose over Berlin

Claude McConnell was a Top Turret Gunner / Engineer on a B-24 in the 458th BG(H) over Berlin on 27 February 1945 when flak shot away the #3 prop and it sliced almost through the plane. The pilot told everyone to get ready to bail out when McConnell's told him his parachute was burned through by hot hydraulic fluid – so the pilot instead said everyone goes or no one goes.

The pilot landed the plane outside Brussels and the British picked them up the next day and ferried the crew back to their Horsham St. Faith base outside Norwich England.

<http://www.carolinaweeklynewspapers.com/story/20100820/if-only-i-were-half-cool-claude-mcconnell>

POWs Tell of their story

Various POWs from all different branches, talk about their POW experiences.

http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_459b136e-a4ea-11df-aae0-001cc4c03286.html

A collection of stories can be found at: www.battlestory.org

Low Level B-24 strikes against the Burma Road with the 10th AF



Erich Edwin Schleier Jr. was faced with a problem of destroying the narrow gauge railroad that were used by the Japanese and came up with a novel solution: Fly B-24s 150 above the railroad and drop 30 second delayed action bombs on the rail line – oh and have 6 B-24s do it at a time in trail at 45 second intervals so

that the explosions do not knock down the B-24 behind the one that just dropped.

He flew in the 436th Bomb Squadron of the 7th Bomb Group of the 10th Air Force in India.



http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-schleierob_18met.ART.State.Edition1.35fe3ae.html

Oregon Pilot survive mid-air (??)

<http://union-bulletin.com/stories/2010/08/28/nebraska-town-remembers-fatal-world-war-ii-plane-crashes>

Editor's Note: I found, and bought, both the 10th AF and the CBI Shoulder Patch in a military collector's shop in St Petersburg while on vacation in Florida this past July. Both were made in India during the war.

B-17 Turret Gunner to throw out first pitch

Red Dillon, WW II B-17 Top Turret Gunner will throw the ceremonial first pitch at the Cardinals MIA/POW Recognition day on September 17th.

Red was from Little Rock, Arkansas, and tried out with the New York Yankees, where he met Babe Ruth and got some pointers from him. Drafted in 1942 then going into the Army Air Force he became flight engineer / gunner in a B-17 Flying Fortress and was shot down over Germany, in 1943.

Captured, he spent 20 months in a POW camp in Austria (Stalag 17B).

<http://www.fox2now.com/news/ktvi-wwii-vet-first-pitch-082010,0,2354705.story>

Kamikaze from the Japanese and American Point of View

There is at least one known Kamikaze pilot who survived when his plane was shot down, and captured, as he was making his attack. He was shunned in Japan after the war since he did not die.

<http://wgordon.web.wesleyan.edu/kamikaze/index.htm>

Battle of Midway in 3D?

The Battle of Midway, may be the title that writer / producer Bruce C. McKenna is trying to sell to Warner Brothers with the battle being filmed in 3D.

Link: <http://www.firstshowing.net/2010/08/28/bruce-c-mckenna-sells-his-3d-battle-of-midway-pitch-to-wb/#ixzz0y1X1tV8V>

Not to be outdone, Universal Studios created a movie by Peter Berg *Battleship*, which is a movie that is a science fiction adaptation of the BOARD game "Battleship".

The man who found the Pearl Harbor Photograph

That famous picture of Pearl Harbor with the first torpedo strike against a US Battleship was found by Martin Shemanski in a cleaned up photo lab in Yokosuka, Japan, in tiny shreds where someone had torn it up and thrown it away before the US troops arrived. (Japan had ordered that all military and Government documents be destroyed before the surrender, so a mass campaign throughout Japan and still occupied land, of all Government documents relating to the war be destroyed before the formal surrender so that no records would exist of what went on during the war.)
<http://www.thevalleychronicle.com/articles/2010/08/27/news/doc4c7803a55624d701208814.txt>

Yap Memorial Finished

A memorial to all the allied aircraft shot down around Yap has been completed. The memorial is that of an F6F Hellcat which was shot down, but largely still intact, was erected to commemorate all 100+ aircraft lost around Yap Island.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/08/prweb4438864.htm>

The people who go around finding these old aircraft have a web site at:

<http://www.missingaircrew.com>

Wake Island Marine Ralph Holewinski

Ralph was held as a POW, likely one the longest American held as a Japanese POW, since he was captured on Wake Island on December 23, 1942. He appeared in a History Channel production when they flew him back to Wake Island in 2001.

http://www.gaylordheraldtimes.com/articles/2010/08/26/news/top_stories/doc4c7418b76bacd680333580.txt

Dive Bombing The Zuikaku with "Buell and Company"

Buell wrote "Dauntless Helldivers" an autobiography of his war years.

The enemy "got hurt because we were good at what we were doing -- which were these 75-degree dives from about 15,000 feet" in a Curtiss SB2C Helldiver.

The Japanese did not have "a gun that could stay with us straight up. We didn't get killed up high -- unless some (enemy) fighters got in. You're in the dive, and unless you and the shell come together, you could survive to the point where you fire the bomb [when the] low ground fire and everybody is shooting at you. You would jink here, jink there and get the hell out of there. Most of the guys who were killed, it was after the pull-out."

<http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=293715>

Captured in The Philippines and 3 1/2 years as a POW

Elmer D. Wolff, a longtime resident of Ukiah, died on March 19, 2010. He was in the Army in 1941 and was captured and put into forced labor camps in the Philippines for two plus years before he went onto a "Hell Ship" to Japan. It took 3 months for the ship to sail from the Philippines to Japan. Once there he worked in Northern Japan as a slave laborer.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/reminisce/ci_15855360

Editor's Note:

Japan had kept detailed records of all forced labor of Koreans, some 175,000, secret along with pay they were never given during the war, and had stated no records existed of the wartime forced labor, but last year admitted they did have this list and gave the list of names and wages never paid to South Korea. The money they were never paid went into an Bank of Japan account at the direction of the Government at the end of the war – and it has sat there ever since. Japan states that all treaties signed since the war with various nations meant – just like the treaty to the USA – that individual and the foreign governments cannot sue and get compensated by Japan or the companies that used forced labor at the direction of Japan's government. Erecting memorials for the tens of thousands of POWs, Chinese, Koreans and other foreigners who died as a direct result of Japanese policy concerning POWs and others, is not allowed in Japan.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20100824zg.html>

Action in the Pacific and the Atlantic as a Merchant Marine

Ed Wielosinski joined the Merchant Marine when he was 17 years old and went to war sailing in the engine room of transport, troop, and tanker ships. He participated in the Pelieu, Saipan, Okinawa, and other, amphibious captures.

<http://www.baxterbulletin.com/article/20100809/NEWS01/8090322/1002/Tour+of++Duty++Merchant+Mariner+remembers+World+War+II+service>

Captured on a Higgins Boat

John Henry Ward was in the Navy at 17 and in battle off of Guadalcanal by 18. His ship was bombed, he caught malaria and went to "buttons" – slang term for the Navy

Hospital – and was captured by the Japanese when he landed his Higgins boat to rescue some Marines and was instead captured himself. He spent two months in a POW camp until a New Zealander unit came and captured the camp to free the POWs.

<http://www.carolinaweeklynewspapers.com/story/20100827/hell-huntersville>

Local Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News

Project “Muddy Hill”

This will be the November meeting subject for the 8th AF.

Archive Update

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com/archive/Oregon-Chapter/index.aspx#toc>

Edited lots of the PDFs with corrected metadata and uploaded 2 more sets of individual information onto the chapter’s web site in June.

Local Aviation Groups

Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from around 11:45 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. Open to everyone. No fees, no dues, it is designed as a gathering to talk aviation over lunchtime.

ANA – Association of Naval Aviators

--- No meeting in July or August ---

Meetings are the last Thursday of each month from 11:30 till around 2 PM.

Contact: Lt Commander George H. Bickford Sr. USN (Ret) at 503-656-6643. e-mail: bick @ teleport.com

Mailing address: Flying Beaver Squadron #39; 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.

Breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark

EAA chapter 105 <http://www.eaa105.org/> holds a breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark www.twinoaksairpark.com on the 1st Saturday of each month. Cost is \$5 and you get to eat in the hanger. Their next breakfast is at the same time as our 8th AFHS meeting

on November 7th. It is a pancake breakfast so you could go there and then still get to the 8th AFHS meeting that starts at 10 AM.

Bomber Restaurant Breakfast

On the first Friday of each month people meet at The Bomber Restaurant (find the B-17 along McLaughlin – hard to miss) at 10 AM till noon. The Bomber Complex, Inc. 13515 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd.; Milwaukie, Oregon 97222; 503-659-9306

The B-17 restoration project has its own web site at:

<http://www.b17wingsoffreedom.org/>

Aviation Breakfast Club

This is the Walt Bohrer Chapter and they meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month (3rd Sunday in May; **no** meeting in August) American Legion Post #150 at 8329 SE 89th Ave. in Portland. Doors open at 9:30 AM and usually meet on the second Sunday of the month. Contact person is Ron Brockelman at (503) 890-0914; e-mail: aviationclub@aol.com Exit 16 off of I-205.

“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.

Send Stories and documents to be Borrowed / Archived

If you have items that you wish to share with others, they can be loaned to the Oregon Chapter, scanned and catalogued and then returned to you. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter if you wish. Contact Tom Philo to make arrangements for the documents.

All items in the archive will be posted onto the web site so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.

Contact Information E-mail and Postal

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

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