

“MILK RUN”

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



Chapter meeting is on **November 13**. 10 AM till 2 PM

History News

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

Oregon 8th Air Force at Hillsboro Airshow – Continued



A woman looking at the latest US Air Force flight training aircraft looks up to view an aerobatic maneuver during the airshow.

As previously reported, the Oregon chapter had a booth at the Hillsboro International Air Show in August of 2010. This was possible due to the sponsorship of [Dignity Memorial](#) through Jean-Christophe Aubry who arranged to have the liability insurance coverage for two organizations: our Oregon 8th AFHS and the Association of Naval Aviators booths to be under their liability coverage.

They also sponsored a Veterans Chalet at the airshow for 300 veterans each day with catered drinks and food.

I met a 45th Infantry Division machine gunner who fought for 1½ years in the Korean War. He and I spent 45 minutes talking about his combat experience while waiting for the food to arrive. Next time you see the movie “Pork Chop Hill” watch the scene about the searchlights, he experienced having searchlights turned on and into the clouds to help see at night during Chinese attacks.

Jean-Christophe (JC) works at the Portland, Oregon office at: [Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery](#) in Portland.

The firm is the sponsor of the traveling Vietnam memorial that tours the USA. They have free guides for veterans on burial benefits. The VA does not cover all expenses. From a presentation that he gave the VA benefits can be summarize as that the VA covers everything on inside of the gate – all items before that point is generally not covered. Call toll-free 866-508-5834 to gain information on their services.

12 O'Clock High

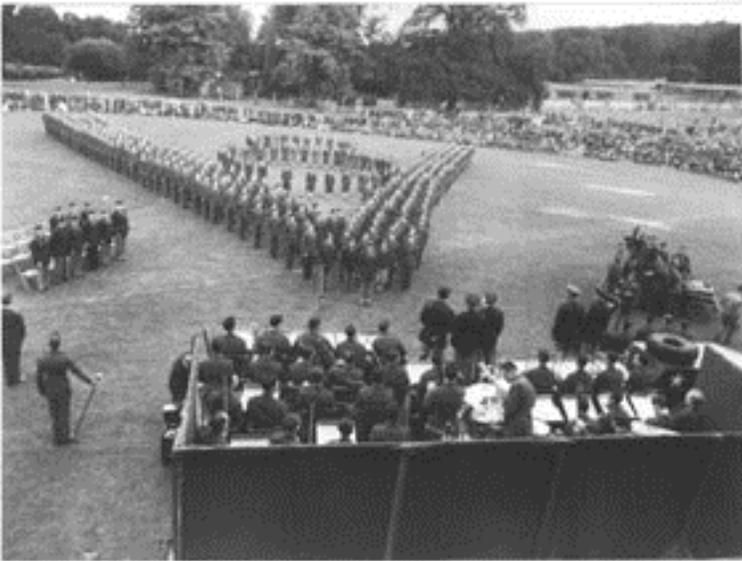
918 BG (Heavy) is the name of the fictional squadron that I should have typed into the last newsletter as being the one portrayed in 12 O'Clock High. One of the authors of the movie, Lt Col Beirne Lay Jr, was flew on the August 17, 1943 Schweinfurt portion of the raid in "Piccadilly Lilly" as a mission observer.

World War II in HD - The Air War

A new History Channel series showcases footage about the 8th AF. 8 and 16 MM films were scanned and converted into the HD format – High Definition. Some new footage from private collections as well as previous footage last seen in the 1940s were used to create this two hour account of air combat over Europe. The premier of this was done at the Mighty Eighth museum in Savannah on October 23th.

This cable presentation will premiere on the History Channel on Nov. 10 at 9 p.m.

Glenn Miller Band Photos



Did anyone attend concerts during WW II when Glenn Miller toured the 8th AF Bases?

Glenn Mittler, glenn_mittler@yahoo.com, is looking for photos that local servicemen may have taken of the band. He donated two copies of photos that he has to our Oregon 8th AFHS chapter, one of which is seen here.

Was anyone at this outdoor concert in this photograph? Does anyone know where and when this occurred?

The people behind the V that are making up the '8' are women – nurses?

Germany Pays off World War I Debt

Germany, through the Treaty of Versailles, was assigned full responsibility for "The Great War" and thus was to pay for all damages as a result of the war. When the NAZI regime came to power they suspended repayments. After the end of World War II in 1953 a replacement repayment treaty was created to again start the WW I payments. On October 3, 2010, the last payment by Germany of some 60 million pounds was paid to the bond holders – just 92 years after the war ended.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/germany-finally-pays-bill-for-first-world-war-1.1058879?localLinksEnabled=false>

Russian Ship Firm Repairing HMS Belfast

A veteran of the Arctic Convoys during WW II, the HMS Belfast is in the Thames as a floating museum. The main masts were corroded and the Russian firm came forward to build replacements for the Belfast as a "thank you" for the efforts it undertook to escort convoys to Russia during the Second World War. Out of the 811 supply ships that made the "Murmansk Run" 68 were sunk by German submarines, warships and aircraft.

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23876569-russians-repair-hms-belfasts-masts-to-repay-a-wartime-debt.do>

Precision Bombing from 10,000 Feet



Rome as seen through the bomb bay of a B-17 Flying Fortress.

To ensure that historical items like The Coliseum were not damaged by errant bombs, on 19 July 1943 B-17s AND B-24s from North Africa bombed the Rome rail yards from 10,000 feet. The photo shows the Tiber river which the bombers followed on the way to the target.

The official Air Operation diary of WW II makes NO MENTION that the B-24s were even on the mission to bomb both the Rome rail yards and the airfield. There were two B-24 groups – 44 and 93 – on loan to the NASAF forces who were preparing for "Operation Tidalwave" at the time who flew the mission. This is the operations

entry that day in 1943:

"During the night of 18/19 Jul, Wellingtons drop over 800,000 leaflets on Rome, Italy. Northwest African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) light bombers attack Catania, Sicily. During the following day, about 150 Northwest African Strategic Air Force (NASAF) B-17's bomb the Rome, Italy railroad yards; B-25's and B-26's hit nearby Ciampino Airfield, Italy; P-40's bomb rail facilities in the Alcamo, Sicily area; and NATAF A-36's attack trains and motor transport in W Sicily."

No mention of the B-24s even being used at all.

The Great LA Air Raid

On Feb 26, 1942 AA guns and sirens blared over LA when a gun battery saw objects in the night sky and opened fire at them. For over two hours flak boomed in the night sky before the all clear was sounded. No Japanese planes were there, but some unidentified weather balloons and barrage balloons that were not properly reported as being in the sky were shot at.

None were shot down.

<http://www.oregister.com/news/ack-230157-night-air.html?wap=0>

Fighting Across Europe in an Engineering Company

Jake Dekker was drafted in 1942 and after training assigned to an Engineering company – combat engineers. This put him in, or within shelling distance of the front lines from D-Day onwards. He was even strafed by American aircraft – flown by German pilots.

<http://www.dglobe.com/event/article/id/31167/>

A WW I Fighter Pilot, Hollywood Films, Hobby Shop, and Predator Drones

What does a British WW I fighter pilot, Reginald Denny, do his movie career and in his spare time after movies? He runs a hobby shop selling model aircraft including the early versions of radio-controlled aircraft.

He turned his hobby job into RC Aircraft for the military to use as practice targets and photo recon missions and they are still used for that purpose.

A RC drone a/c from WW II is at the Tillamook air museum.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-drone-history-20100912,0,2734112.story>

Two Former Fighter Pilot who fought over Romania Meet Again

Barrie Davis flew P-51 Mustangs out of Italy while the Romanian Ion Dobran flew Bf-109s. Ion almost shot down Barrie. Both became Aces.

"If you were smart, they made you a navigator. If you were steady, they made you a bombardier. All the rest of us, they made pilots."

<http://www.easternwakenews.com/2010/01/13/5916/six-decades-later-foes-reunite.html>

Bomber Pilot Turned Fighter Pilot after First Tour

Earl N. Thomas flew in the 360th Squadron of the 303 BG (Heavy) "Hells Angels" out Molesworth England during World War II. He first combat flight was February 4, 1944. After completing 33 missions he went over to Steeple Morton and after one week was now a fighter pilot in P-51 Mustangs to be part of the scouting force for the bombers.

<http://www.times-herald.com/Local/Thomas-manned-the-Flying-Fortress-rode-the-Mustang-955383>

Gliding into Combat in a Waco CG4A

Robert Herriot was sitting behind the pilot and co-pilot in their WACO glider during "Operation Varsity" – the cross Rhine airborne assault – when both were killed at 100 feet above the ground. He then moved forward, pushed the dead pilot out of his seat, jumped into the seat and then landed the glider. He had never been in a glider till then.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/102593679.html>

Boeing Plant #2 Being Torn Down

After a storied career producing aircraft – Especially the B-17 and B-29 -- Boeing's Plant #2 on Boeing Field in Seattle has to be torn down due to the inability to update the plant due to environmental laws that govern the superfund cleanup of the Dumwash which it is built over. Part of the plant is built over the water on pilings in the river which are rotting, and with the superfund rules and other current laws, it is impossible to replace them – so the plant will be torn down.

http://www.mynorthwest.com/category/local_news_articles/20100915/The-building-that-won-WWII-to-be-demolished/

Need a B-25?

A B-25 "Mitchell" bomber made famous by the Doolittle raid to Japan, is up for sale for \$650,000. Partially restored, more work needs to be done to get it fully back to WW II status so it can fly. You are near South Carolina, you can driver over and see it.

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2010/sep/23/wwii-bomber-sale-ar-869872/>

Wait! Too late! A group just bought it. The S.C. Historic Aviation Foundation.

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/10/23/1525986/group-to-buy-renovate-vintage.html>

SDB-5 "Dauntless" Crew Member Identified

Aviation Radioman Second Class William L. Russell of Cherokee, Oklahoma was the rear gunner of a raid attacking Buka airfield in the Solomon Island, the plane was seen at low altitude when an explosion occurred below it. No one saw it crash. Lieutenant McIntyre was the pilot.

In 2007 a local discovered the crash site and reported it to the local government who contacted the US and in May 2008 the POW/MIA team when there and recovered some of the remains.

<http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=13206113>

2nd Lt. Arthur F. Parkhurst - Buried Oct 16, 2010 in Dayton, Ohio

Lt Parkhurst was a pilot of a C-47 flying in the Philippines in 1945 when he never returned from a mission on March 12, 1945. The wreck was discovered in 1989 and his remains finally identified this year.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/10/14/Remains-of-World-War-II-officer-identified/UPI-39231287101338/

Memorial in Wilmington NC Community

In honor of Hanover County residents who flew in aircraft from any branch of the service in WW II.

Of the 120+ listed, 39 were killed during the war.

<http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=13383617>

Hunting Down WW II Wrecks in the Pacific

Justin Taylan's dad was a combat photographer during WW II, and after a tour there he became interested in all the a/c wrecks he saw. Now he spends his summers hunting, cataloging, and researching a/c from Burma to remote islands of the South Pacific.

<http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2010/10/04/front/doc4ca9f8c410866282559342.txt>

Donating a 500 Lb Practice Bomb to a Museum

James Force spotted a 4-foot-long olive drab pipe lying in a junkyard in the early 1960s but it was not a pipe - it was a casing of a 500 pound GP bomb. Never getting around to that restoration project that he had planned for it, he ended up donating it to Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City.

Boise City, about 100 miles south of Lamar, Colo., bears the distinction of being bombed by an American warplane during World War II.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/longmont-man-donates-wwii-bomb-casing-to-museum-105587753.html>

The Bullet Holes That Don't Matter

From Kevin Drum:

Back during World War II, the RAF lost a lot of planes to German anti-aircraft fire. So they decided to armor them up. But where to put the armor? The obvious answer was to look at planes that returned

from missions, count up all the bullet holes in various places, and then put extra armor in the areas that attracted the most fire.

Obvious but wrong. As Hungarian-born mathematician Abraham Wald explained at the time, if a plane makes it back safely even though it has, say, a bunch of bullet holes in its wings, it means that bullet holes in the wings aren't very dangerous. What you really want to do is armor up the areas that, on average, *don't* have any bullet holes. Why? Because planes with bullet holes in those places never made it back. That's why you don't see any bullet holes there on the ones that do return. Clever!

http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2010/10/the-bullet-holes-that-didnt-matter.html

30 Combat Missions and Never Attacked by Fighters

Sol Seligman was a top turret gunner on a B-17 and flew combat missions in the 8th Air Force from June 19, 1944 till November 26, 1944. During that whole time no enemy fighter ever came near his aircraft – though one time he watched the 10 out of 12 a/c in the squadron behind him get shot down.

He was also one of the oldest aircrew flying in combat; he entered combat at the age of 34.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20101021/NEWS13/10210301/First-aid-kit-takes-flak-for-bomber-crewman>

Twice Escaped Thrice Captured

Charles LaMarca was in the 15th Air Force as part of the 449th Bomb Group flying B-24s when he his plane was destroyed over Yugoslavia – by friendly falling bombs. He subsequently successfully escaped two prison camps but each time he was re-captured after a few days on the run.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/10/former_pow_credits_gods_work_i.html

B-24 Crew from Papua New Guinea

In 2003 a local stumbled upon the remains of a B-24 in a steep ravine. In the airplane were the remains of tail gunner Claude “Bud” Ray and 10 other crew members who were reported missing on 27 October of 1943. DNA confirmed these remains were his and he was buried in Riverside Cemetery. The other 10 will be buried in Arlington National in 2011. He was buried exactly 67 years from the date he died.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/oct/29/cousins-burial-is-67-years-overdue/>

Photos of the ceremony at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-wwii-airman-buried-pictures,0,4853642.photogallery>

Redressing a History Wrong

Gen. Draza Mihailovic was a leader fighting against the Germans in Yugoslavia during WW II. His partisan organization helped in the hiding of 600+ allied airmen who had

been shot down or escaped into Yugoslavia. They were rescued during the war during Operation Halyard when an airfield was built by Mihailovic's organization and aircraft flown in to take them out in 1944.

During a rigged trial after the war the communists, who now ran the country, had him executed and buried in a secret grave after a show trial. President Harry Truman awarded Mihailovic the Legion of Merit for the rescue – but it was never publicized to maintain relations with Tito's government. Retired Lt Col Milton Friend is trying to get his history of how he helped the allies corrected.

http://www.taiwannews.com.tw/etn/news_content.php?id=1418037&lang=eng_news

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/7192001-wwii-us-veteran-seeks-justice-for-general-mihailovic>

New Book on 7 “Aggies” -- all Medal of Honor Winners in WW II

Included in the book is Lloyd Hughes Jr. who was part of the B-24 “Tidal Wave” at Ploesti losing his life in his B-24 bomber.

<http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2010/oct/28/aggie-war-heroes-football-stars-featured-in-new/>

At Amazon.com : [Texas Aggie Medals of Honor: Seven Heroes of World War II \(Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series\)](#)

A Real Letter from Iwo Jima

Franklin Hobbs found a letter in the pocket of a dead Japanese soldier while fighting on Iwo Jima. He took it home as a souvenir and stored with his other wartime memorabilia. He pretty much forgot about it until a suggestion from his wife about returning it to the Japanese relatives. He traveled to Japan in October of 2010 and met the eldest sister of the man killed at Iwo – the youngest sister Yoko Takekawa - lives in New Jersey.

Iwo Jima – the Japanese has since renamed the island -- was assault by Marines on 19 February 1945 and after a month was considered secured. 6,821 Americans and 21,570 Japanese were killed during the battle.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5jBCMzxUGxCb-zY91sWKR4ScFBBfg?docId=4959535>

A Short History of the “HMS Ark Royal” Name

The current vessel is 25 years old. During WW II the 4th Vessel, also an aircraft carrier, was sunk during 1941 on a Malta resupply convoy escort mission.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11571013>

Articles are Not Just published in the USA

If you can read Romanian, overseas people still write about the 8th and 15th Air Forces efforts in liberating Europe.

<http://www.gazetademaramures.ro/fullnews.php?ID=11171>

You can of course type the URL into Google Translate and then read it in English.

Special Sunday November 7th Event at Portland Memorial Coliseum

3 PM to 5 PM Sunday November 7th.

This event will be a patriotic musical journey from the Revolutionary War to the present, with popular music and patriotic songs from every war era.

The 50th Anniversary of the Memorial Coliseum will be celebrated.

Complimentary parking until 4 PM. (If that means you have to pay for parking there after 4 PM is unknown).

SPONSORS: Remembering America's Heroes (RAH) and the Portland Trail Blazers announced in August, the Second Annual "A Tribute To Veterans" performance in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Duxford England Air Shows for 2011

Spring Air Show - Sunday May 22

Flying Legends - Saturday and Sunday July 9 and 10

The Duxford Air Show - Saturday and Sunday September 3 and 4

Autumn Air Show - Sunday October 16

Local Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News

8th AFHS Oregon Archive Update

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

Items recently cataloged:

- A wartime diary from Stalag Luft 1 – including meals
- Orders, assignments, postcards, training manuals, class books and a diary of a bombardier
- Aerial maps and strike photos
- 93 BG(H) unit history book published by them at the end of the war

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.

Items in the archive are usually be posted onto the web site (see release form on web site) so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.

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