

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for December 2013 / January 2014

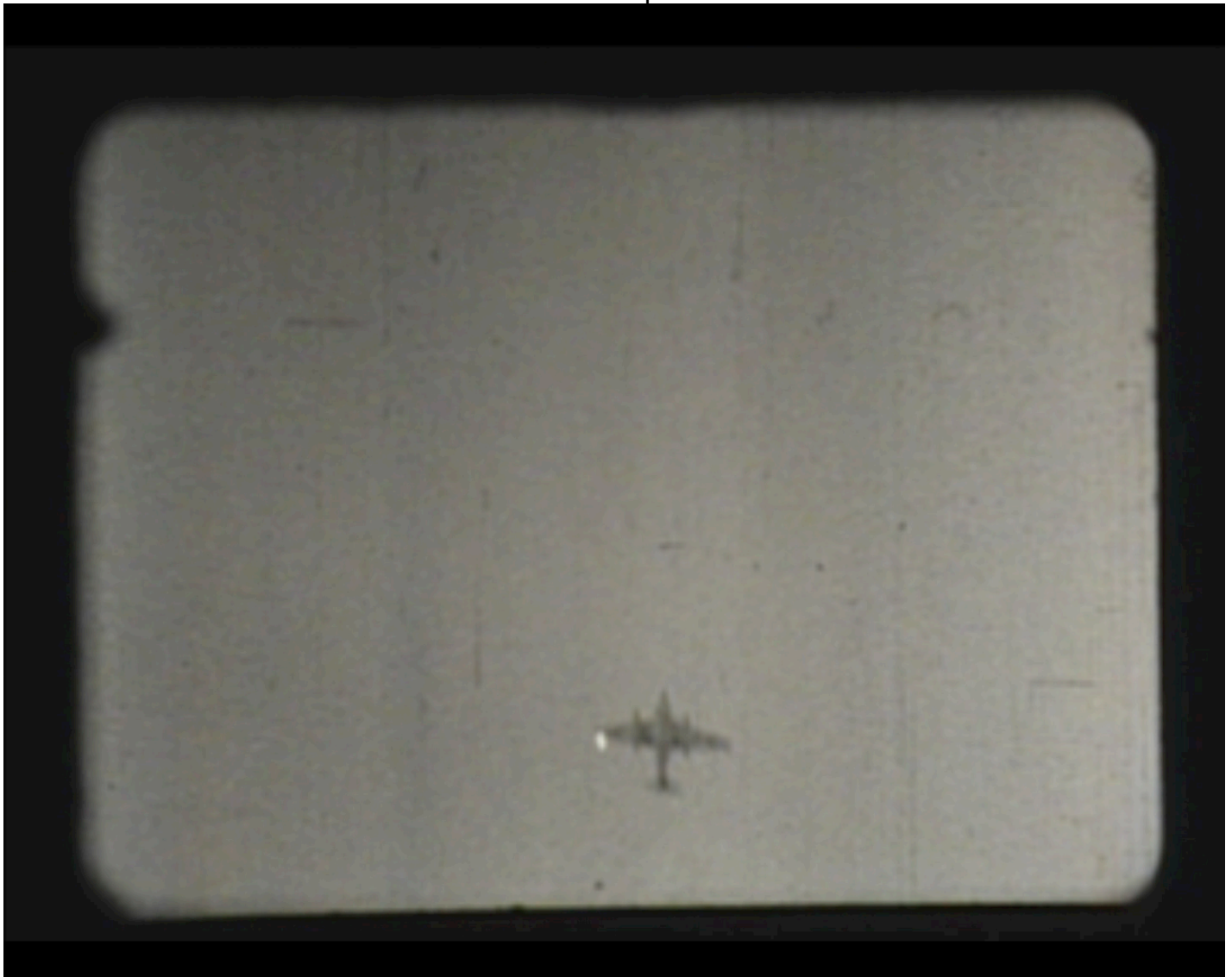


History News → Readers, where's your story?

Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others through our 8th AFHS Chapter is on the last page.

New Zenith Press Book from Robert F. Dorr in October

[Fighting Hitler's Jets](#) [Editor's Note: My copy arrived in November and will be reading it over the next month or so. Review to follow. Walter Groce, who died last year and was a member of our Oregon 8th AFHS, was the first pilot to get a good video of a 262 – he shot it down in an inverted head-on pass.



The tab on the left that you see in the image means the guns are firing – if no tab is seen then the film is running (default run time is 2 seconds after you stop firing). The light spot seen on the 262's right wingtip is Wally's .50 caliber API hitting the wingtip

– you are looking at the bottom of the Me-262. Oh, he was inverted climbing up when he made the shot!

He had his original gun camera film and was I able to borrow it and transfer all his footage to digital before he died. His whole 262 engagement was 1 ¼ seconds in length. He got it November 1, 1944. (PS: Some P-51 pilot also claimed it, though from that gun camera film you can tell he never was even close to it. The 8th HQ then split the credit between the two of them.)

[Fighting Hitler's Jets: The Extraordinary Story of the American Airmen Who Beat the Luftwaffe and Defeated Nazi Germany](#) [Amazon Link]

Robert F. Dorr, the author of "Mission to Berlin," a history of Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress crews, wanted "Milk Run" readers to know that they can get signed, first-edition copies of his book — which one reviewer called "'Band of Brothers' with Planes" — at a 45% discount plus postage. The book has a retail price of \$28 not counting packaging and shipping; get it from Bob for \$19, including packaging and shipping. Bob makes his books available on a not-for-profit basis and donates proceeds to charity. If you want one or more signed copies of this character-driven narrative history, contact Bob at (703) 264-8950 or robert.f.dorr@cox.net. Bob told us that he wishes people would pick up the phone more often, so don't hesitate to call him.

What if? 1914 & WW I -- 100 years later

What would the world be like if Germany and the Central Powers had actually won WW I? A short article on the what-ifs of WW I.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/25/if-germans-won-first-world-war>

WW I Troop Numbers (Partial)

8 million men were mobilized in France, 13 million in Germany, 9 million in Austria-Hungary, 9 million in Britain and the British Empire (chiefly India), 18 million in Russia, 6 million in Italy, 4 million in the United States.

Finding “Dog Tags” in Soissons, France

There are a lot of “Indiana Jones” type pros, but there are even more amateur ones and they make lot more finds. Daniel Jobart hobby is going over battlefields and he has found 3 sets of dog tags from WW I and is now hunting down descendants.

http://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/article/20131206/NEWS01/312060032/Local-World-War-soldier-s-dog-tags-found?nclick_check=1

Was it a Stated War of Attrition or Maneuver on the Eastern Front?

Author John Mosier states it was a war of attrition that allowed the USSR to defeat NAZI Germany on the Eastern Front – not great tactics. His book *The Blitzkrieg Myth* “argued that victory and defeat had far more to do with attrition than maneuver, and further that attrition was generally more effective than maneuver as a strategy.”

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/12/john_mosier_and_the_great_patriotic_war.html

Volgograd (AKA: Tsaritsyn, AKA Stalingrad)

In news reports about it recently it was stated that it is a city of approximately 1 million people. Before WW II there were around 400,000 people living in Volgograd (and it was about half the size). Immediately after the battle that ended on February 2, 1943 there were 8,000 civilian left in the city.

A book called "Voices From Stalingrad" [[VOICES FROM STALINGRAD: UNIQUE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS FROM WORLD WAR II'S CRUELLEST BATTLE](#) [Amazon link]] is a book based on actual letters from German and Russian soldiers from various archives that describe the battle from the foot soldier's point of view. Another good book describing how the battle was fought is Vassili Zaitsev – the Russian Sniper – book called "[NOTES OF A RUSSIAN SNIPER](#)" [Amazon link].

Mikhail Kalashnikov – Dead at 94

Mainly known as the inventor of the Ak-47 rifle caliber full / semi-automatic rifle, he was also a tank driver during WW II until he was wounded in action. A gifted engineer, instead of being sent back into combat he was allowed to work in design during the war – and continued his idea of a full automatic rifle. He kept with the "rifle caliber" . 30 caliber diameter sized round (7.62 mm) but designed the rifle to be easily built, maintained, and able to stand up to the harsh battle conditions encountered during WW II.

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/12/23/farewell-to-mikhail-kalashnikov/>

Minsk Museums

"Minsk is blessed with some superb museums. Probably the best two are the Great Patriotic War Museum and the National Art Museum. The former, opened barely three months after Minsk was liberated by the Red Army, presents the horrors of the war from the perspective of the Soviet Union and you don't get much of an idea of Allied efforts – most Russians considered it to be purely a war between the Motherland and Nazi Germany – but you do see a lot of insights into the suffering of the Belarusian people against the "Fascist-German" (sic) occupiers."

A book which describes in detail both the USSR and NAZI crimes against the Belorussia, Ukrain, Baltic States et al is aptly called "Bloodlands".

<http://www.neweasterneurope.eu/node/1088>

In a commentary in "The Moscow Times" there is a short summary of the lives lost by deliberate policy of the USSR (Stalin).

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/opinion/article/russias-killing-fields/491965.html>

Christmas Truce of 1914 and How Views Change over Time

On Christmas day in 1914 the guns fell silent all along the western front- even through both sides did not officially sign onto a truce. Soldiers came out, played football (soccer) , traded stories, food, and talked with their opposite number in no-man's land during the day. Many British Generals were furious. There was been a few movies about this fact also. "Britain and Germany, for example, are planning a football match at Mons to re-enact the first Christmas truce."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/7b6f0490-6347-11e3-a87d-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2pHYB1y8a>

WW II Museum Online Wish List

Museums are all particular – each want only what they don't have and only want items that have meaning within their overall collection. The National WW II Museum in New Orleans has their wish list online. <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

<http://gazette.com/hoping-to-fill-holes-in-ww2-museum-collections/article/feed/75122>

Winona's flying liberators — the B-24 in WWII

There were over 12,000 aircraft accidents during WW II. This talks about a B-24 crash in Winona – and then about a crew in B-24s assigned to the 93rd BG (H) -- “Ted's Traveling Circus” -- survived their 35 missions over Europe.

http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG_Pub/detail.php?choice=56735&home_page=1&archives=

A “Rosie” who actually did make parts for a Flyboy

Penny Strazinsky worked in a defense plant making parts for B-24 bomb bay shackles – and Al Ftacek was a radio operator in a B-24 which used them. Sending Al a letter letting him know her brother's new address got them writing during the war – they never met till after his discharge. He flew in the B-24 named “D-Day Patches”

<http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/92782/>

Fighting War on The Ground

Drafted in 1943 Gordon Oro became a mortar platoon squad leader on his first day in combat –the original leader was wounded.

After the “Battle of the Bulge” he stated “Only 18 of us walked out and managed to remain whole. The remaining soldiers were either in body bags or on stretches. 23 [were] killed in action and 268 wounded”.

http://www.enterpriseneews.com/topstories/x1039481254/Battle-of-the-Bulge-veteran-from-Stoughton-receives-one-more-medal?zc_p=0

Dec 5, 1943 Deenethorpe Village Almost Destroyed – By a B-17

During takeoff a B-17 dug a wingtip into the runway, then plowed into Deenethorpe Village itself and caught fire. The crewman got out of the wrecked plane, ran to every house in the village and told them to get out, then ran into the fields and waited.

<http://www.northantstelegraph.co.uk/news/community/retro/second-world-war-plane-crash-which-almost-wiped-out-village-1-5767747>

A P-40B “Warhawk” to return to USA

This P-40B is unique – it was in a hanger at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A pilot flying the plane later crashed and was killed on Oahu – and the plane left where it crashed till it was recovered in the 1980s.

The plane will now belong to The Collings Foundation. Another P-40B which is in flying shape is owned by Paul Allen and is based in Washington State.

http://www.pressherald.com/news/U_S_fighter_plane_that_survived_Pearl_Harbor_will_take_flight_again.html

Cleaning up UXBs & UXO s in the South Pacific

The Solomons saw heavy fighting from August of 1942 thru August of 1943. Both Australian and new Zealand experts go every year to the islands to find and disarm left-over ammo from WW II.

<http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2013/12/22/canadian-forces-help-clean-up-second-world-war-munitions-in-pacific-islands/>

Japanese I-400 Subs Located off of Barber's Point, Oahu

Surrendered at the end of the War, the three I-400 class subs, since they were not "captured" had to be shared with all the victorious allies, and we did not want the USSR to have access to such advanced submarine technology – so instead we sunk them. They have since been re-discovered in the ocean bottom.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/12/131203-submarine-war-hawaii-underwater-archaeology-science/>

Raising a Wirraway from Canadian Mud

There were also aircraft lost during training in Canada (pilots who fought for the RAF before we joined the war went to Canada, trained, then went to the UK.) This plane crashed in 1950.

<http://www.standard.net.au/story/1919589/bid-to-raise-crashed-world-war-ii-plane-from-lake-corangamite/?cs=383>

Japan returns to the Philippines

This time their Navy came to help with the aftermath of the typhoon there. This article summarizes the Battle of the Philippine Sea – when the last time the Japanese Navy was there.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/searealtime/2013/11/21/japan-returns-to-philippine-area-where-it-suffered-wwii-loss/>

Agartala Wreckage Not that of a US Plane

Discovered in January 2012 it was thought it was a USA aircraft missing from WW II. However, after examining items it was determined it was NOT a USA aircraft.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-23/guwahati/44388797_1_wreckage-dhalai-propeller

David Cundall Still Looking for Spitfires in India

Last year's effort turned up nothing, but he is back again this year.

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/9013-search-for-wwii-era-spitfires-resumes.html>

WW II Recon Pilot Buried December 13, 2013

Flying an F-6P – a photo recon version of a P-51 Mustang – he was shot down on March 20, 1945 while on his 153rd combat mission while in the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance unit. His plane was discovered by local German archeologists.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_24813888/killed-ww-ii-burial-franklin-tostevin-brings-family

Luftwoofe - Paradogs of WWII

No not what the British called their paratroopers – but REAL dogs that parachuted into combat along with the normal paratroopers.

"After my chute developed, I turned to face the line of flight; the dog was 30 yards away and slightly above. The chute had opened and was oscillating slightly. (Ranee) looked somewhat bewildered but showed no sign of fear. I called out and she immediately turned in my direction and wagged her tail vigorously. The dog touched down 80 feet before I landed. She was completely relaxed, making no attempt to anticipate or resist the landing, rolled over once, scrambled to her feet and stood looking round. I landed 40 feet from her and immediately ran to her, released her and gave her the feed."

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/britains-luftwoofe-heroic-paradogs-world-war-ii/story?id=21344669>

Irish Brigades – Fighting for others when no war at home

A new book is out talking about the all Irish Brigades that hired themselves out to other countries – often ending up fighting the British.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/irish-history-irish-brigades-abroad-1175893-Nov2013/>

1960 Doctor Report about Field Marshall Rommel

Dr Friedrich Breiderhoff examined Field Marshall Rommel – and then was told what to write on the death certificate.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2509000/Doctors-notes-tell-SS-Rommel-plot-Report-reveals-physician-forced-heart-attack-death-certificate-cover-force-suicide.html>

William L Booker – Tuskegee Airman – Dead at 90

He was in training to be a B-25 crewman during WW II. He was trained as a Navigator and as a Flight Engineer both the B-24 and B-25 bombers with the 477th Bomber Squadron based at Godman Field, Ky. The unit was destined to be just a B-25 unit if the war had lasted longer.

<http://www.kirklandreporter.com/news/235611461.html>

WW II RAF Ferry Pilot Nancy Stratford

The RAF was quick to put women into cockpits to ferry planes around – even during the Battle of Britain. But this USA citizen was loaned to the RAF in 1942.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/dec/22/pioneering-aviatrix-94-relishes-memories/>

WASPs on a Float

This past Rose Parade has a float for USA WASP women this year.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-wasp-float-20131223,0,1569145.story#axzz2pUNGmSFu>

US Air Force Museum to Expand

Planes are big – so they have to build bigger buildings so that the aircraft outside can be restored and stored inside.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20131221/NEWS/312210003/The-National-Museum-U-S-Air-Force-expanding>

Oregon Chapter News

Local Area News

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is February 8, 2014

Previous PROGRAMs in 2013:

- Ben “Flaps” Berry – Tuskegee Airman
- ;Jack Kline and the Vanport Flood
- B-29 Navigator of “Going Jesse”
- Bob Schuberg and revisiting the airfields of the 8th

All programs are videotaped and transcribed and put into our archive. You can purchase each DVD of each presentation for \$10.00.

There is no cost to attend the meeting and it is open to the public.

Oregon Chapter Executive Board Meetings

All members can attend any Executive board meeting. The Board meets at the Elks Lodge three Saturdays before the regular membership meeting. If you can spare up to 2 hours between 10 AM and Noon you can also join the board and help make our chapter a continuing success.

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.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

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

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