

# Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society

## *History News for November 2019*



### **History News → Readers, where's your story?**

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

## **Short Book Reviews: A Listing of World War I Related Books**

World War One Historical Society maintains a list of books with a short one paragraph summary for each one.

Over 1800 books listed.

<https://ww1ha.org/lens-bookshelf/index/>

### **Iwo Jima flag-raisers.**

Six Marines raised a flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945. A photograph taken of this event (the second flag raising that day) is perhaps the most famous of all time. Of those six men, three died later in the battle. Of the remaining three, two have been mis-identified until recently. Of those two, one (Corpsman John "Doc" Bradley) was the subject of a book written about him by his son (James Bradley's "Flags of our Fathers") and the other, (Rene Gagnon) was quick to claim credit for being one of the famed six. We know for certain that the third was Ira Hayes...the man on the far left of the picture, proven to be him by the blanket that he always carried Pima-style looped through his web belt. As an interesting aside, these three Marines portrayed themselves as the flag-raisers in the John Wayne classic "Sands of Iwo Jima."

Of the two flags raised that day, the famous photo was of the second, larger flag that had been toted up Suribachi by Gagnon's squad. Bradley had participated in the first flag-raising and was still on top when the second flag arrived. It took a few days for the iconic photo (of the second) to become famous and for an order to go out to collect the men who raised that banner. By then three of the six had been killed. I can imagine the confusion surrounding the rounding up of the other three. Gagnon supposedly identified the six men 'raising the flag', but which flag-raising? And who remembered who was doing what? Gagnon got it wrong, but such an error is understandable.

The conditions atop Suribachi weren't like a studio...the Marines had fought their way up to the summit which itself was by no means secured. Japanese were crawling out of caves and bunkers everywhere, firing at the Americans. The flag raising(s) were hurried...it was a job ordered to be done quickly so the men could get back to action...the rest of Iwo Jima was in need of securing. The men did pause for a group photo (arranged by photographer Joe Rosenthal) and then they got off the peak. (BTW, "Mount" Suribachi is only 550 feet in elevation)

We'll never know for sure if Bradley and Gagnon actually thought that they were in the famous photo. Or if they learned it later and received understanding and an OK from the actual raisers (both named Harold) for them to just live out the myth. Neither Harold Schultz nor Harold "Pie" Keller ever revealed themselves as being one of the famous six...if indeed they knew it for sure. Again, there were very confusing conditions atop that mountain and these were Marines who were doing their duties, following orders; who by their very nature avoided calling attention to themselves. It was the team that was the important thing.

As remarkable as was the identity of the raisers was the rumor that the famous shot had been "staged." It was not. Here's how it happened:

Photographer Joe Rosenthal trudged up Suribachi to get a picture of a flag being raised on an elevated spot where everyone on Iwo Jima (Japanese for "Sulphur Island") could see it. There was another photographer present, as well, who filmed the events. Standing around atop the volcano, Rosenthal was distracted elsewhere when someone yelled "there she goes." He wheeled around, pointed his camera at the flag raisers already in motion, and snapped the shutter. He had no idea whether he got any photo at all.

Later, he gathered together the guys who were still atop the mountain for a group "hurrah" shot. This is the famous photo depicting the men all facing the camera, holding their weapons high and cheering. He then descended the mountain and turned in his film. It was only much later, after the film had been sent to Guam and processed that the flag-raising picture became instantly famous. It didn't take an art expert to recognize its perfect composition and sense its dramatic effect. As Rosenthal was known to be the photographer someone pulled him aside and asked "did you pose those guys for that picture?" Joe had not yet seen a print of his famous photo nor did he realize that it had already created a sensation. Reasonably, he assumed the question about "posing" a shot referred to the "hurrah" photo, so he replied in the affirmative. That's how the rumor began that persists to this day.

When asked about this controversy many times over the decades since the Iwo battle, Rosenthal always said that had he intended to pose a flag-raising he certainly would not do it that way...for one thing, he said, the men's' faces are all hidden. He would turn them to face the camera...(and thus lose the dramatic effect of the men being unidentifiable.)

Further evidence that the shot was not 'posed' is the film of the event. In viewing it one can see the famous pose flick by in the sequence as the guys quickly (within seconds) push the pole upright. And how in the world could that *perfect* furling of the 48-star US flag have been posed? No, the shot was a one-in-a-billion chance event. (so much so that one could argue that the photographer himself simply lucked-out...skill had

little to do with it and it was not deserving of a Pulitzer. Of course, I would disagree with that view)

I love having this argument with folks who claim the photo was posed. I recite the above to them at which they always say, "Oh, yeah??" How is it you know all of this so well?" I reply that I was told it by someone who was there. "Oh yeah? Just who, exactly?" Great question. I heard it from Joe Rosenthal. End of discussion

Don Bourgeois

## **An Eastern Front Battle You Never Heard of in WW I**

World War I was also fought in the eastern part of Europe – but you almost never even read about the battles there in the Western Press during the war. Przemyśl battle did not last as long as the costly battles at Verdun, but a million Russians and over 800,000 Austria-Hungarian casualties occurred at Przemyśl, now in modern Poland. A new book about this battle is out now by Alexander Watson: *The Fortress: The Great Siege of Przemyśl*.

Amazon link: [The Fortress: The Great Siege of Przemyśl](#)

A You Tube tour of one of the forts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q4eMhWz5hc>

## **WW I Aviation Combat Analysis Report on Fold3**

"Gorrell's History of the American Expeditionary Forces Air Service 1917-1919" is a 282-bound volume narrative and is available to view on Fold3.

Fold3.com requires a subscription to access it, but this publication may be available elsewhere in the world. The Colonel asked ask units to submit a history but "some squadrons fulfilled the request, while others were anxious to get home saying, "Writing history does not appeal to them" and ignored the "request" and just went home at the end of the War.

## **IWM at Duxford gets a new Plane**

Not a WW II or even a WW I era, but a modern HQ-1B Predator it comes without a pilot but a nice remote control unit.

## **Lake Bottom Squadron**

Aircraft training accidents were part of life during WW II. The USA had over 10,000 of them. Carrier training was no different except that if you made a mistake the aircraft went into the water and to the bottom. Lake Michigan had over 100 aircraft go to the bottom.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/investigations/WWII-Secrets-of-Lake-Michigan-563561731.html>

## **IJN Akagi found near the IJN Kaga**

Both fleet IJN fleet carriers were sunk on June 4, 1942 during the Battle of Midway.  
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/10/23/national/researchers-confirm-second-japanese-aircraft-carrier-wwii-battle-midway-akagi/#.XcpHhldKhhE>

## **The Air Force Heritage Award Goes to *The Memphis Belle***

The famed B-17F was placed on display in the World War II Gallery last year – exactly 75 years after its crew finished their last mission in the war against Nazi Germany on May 17, 1943.

<https://www.whio.com/news/local/memphis-belle-restoration-selected-for-air-force-heritage-award/kQxrS4ckOalQCPrNCS9MCP/>

## **Common Training Accident: Pilot Error**

As mentioned above, there were thousands of training accidents – about 6,000 of the 10,000 resulted in deaths. The one at Tillatoba, Mississippi was one of them.

<https://www.goerie.com/news/20191027/long-memory>

## **Boeings new trainer for US Air Force – Stadium Seating**

The Red Hawk now has a better view for the GIB – *Guy In Back*.

<https://www.popsci.com/boeing-t7-trainer-jet/>

## **Ft Wainwrights Hanger 1 Has a New Resident**

But only for a while till they move to Hanger 3. Right now it operates a drone unit. (Editor: I stayed in Hanger 1 when on military exercises in the 1970s when I was with the 120<sup>th</sup> (AH) Huey unit. The floors are heated, so sleeping on it was nice.)

<https://news.wjct.org/post/fort-wainwrights-new-hangar-shows-drone-operating-unit-fully-established-alaska>

## **What-if? USS Zumwalt vs IJN at Leyte Gulf**

Given the modern, smallish, US Navy how would it deploy 3 ships vs a vastly more numerous adversary?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/lets-send-us-navys-stealthy-destroyer-back-time-fight-world-war-ii-battle-91531>

## **5 Major Air Battles in History**

Air battles are usually done in conjunction with ground battles. However, some of the most famous were done all on their own just between airplanes.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/these-5-air-battles-are-greatest-all-time-91466>

## **WW II Wrecks off of Malta**

Malta was the island that saw combat for over 3 years. Lots of ships and planes were lost around it – some of them are in scuba depth.

<http://divemagazine.co.uk/travel/8716-deep-wrecks-malta-orp-kujawiak-l72-schnellboot-s31>

## **WASP Display in San Antonio Airport**

A traveling exhibit, which is on a long layover now, can be seen inside the airport about the WASPs which were trained at Avenger Field.

“Ann Haub, lead archivist with the National WASP World War II Museum, said that the WASPs’ operational exploits are well-known, but their off-duty lives during training have been largely forgotten. “

<https://www.tpr.org/post/someone-had-do-it-photo-exhibit-san-antonio-airport-celebrates-wwii-female-aviators>

## **36 at UXBs in 3 Days**

36 bombs in the German town of Neutraubling over a 3-days. The reason why so many – a Messerschmitt 109 factory that was there during WW II.

<https://www.dw.com/en/dozens-of-world-war-ii-bombs-found-in-bavarian-town/a-50997904>

US aerial bombs usually had mechanical detonators. Fuse tiems and styles were dependant upon the type of target. A chemical one self detonated in a field.

<https://www.dw.com/en/wwii-bomb-self-detonates-in-german-field-leaves-crater/a-49331435>

## **Boxer Rebellion and the Great Wall**

As a result of the Boxer Rebellion of 1901 Japan was allowed to maintain a garrison of troops in China. These troops helped Japan in WW II.

The International forces that relieved Peking in 1901 kept forces in China. Jpann, however, used it to conquer it not to maintain order.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-imperial-japan-seized-great-wall-china-91386>

## **Ploiesti Raider Returns Home**

On August 1, 1943 B-24 Liberators made a famous low-level raid on the Ploiesti oil fields. First Lt. Joseph E. Finneran served with the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy). He was KIA on the raid. He was listed as MIA and buried as an unknown till DNA testing identified him in an unknown grave in Belgium. He was the bombardier in the B-24 “Old Baldy” of Lt John Dare crew. All 10 crew, including a photographer who was on board, were killed in the crash.

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/remains-of-massachusetts-world-war-ii-army-air-forces-soldier-return-home/29671589#>

## **St. Therese of Lisieux and a B-17 Pilot**

In many movies you see people having “good luck charms” or rituals that they did to keep them alive in combat. Don Stoulil had a St Therese medal he picked up in Moleworth, home of the 303 Bomb Group (Heavy), in England that he took along in his 31 combat missions over Germany. He started out in anti-aircraft artillery – in Alaska.

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/wwii-bomber-pilot-credits-st-therese-of-lisieux-for-survival/>

## **6 Months Training for B-25 Crew Chief – Ended up a Mess Sergeant**

His whole military career was literally torpedoed when the ship carrying his military records was torpedoed and sunk on the way to North Afrika. The administrative people and records were on a different ship than he was.

<https://www.newstribune.com/news/news/story/2019/nov/04/wwii-veteran-trained-crew-chief-bomber-served-cook-during-war/802630/>

## **Don't Taxi on My Grave**

But if you use runway 10/28 in Savannah you can take off or land next on me.

The Army built the runways around the graves – in agreement with the owners whose relatives were buried there in the 1800s and had died on the farm. The airport was created for WW II.

<https://www.kens5.com/article/money/personal-finance/the-points-guy/these-are-the-scariest-airports-in-the-world/273-52a05cfe-6cbb-46d0-9d8f-c8ce5ae0ad3a>

## **Racism in the North**

NIMBY was in the North long after the Civil War. A Spanish American War Veteran Gets admitted to the bar – long after he is dead.

<http://nationaljurist.com/national-jurist-magazine/wrong-righted-%E2%80%9494-more-century-later>

## **An Archive is a Graveyard of Documents; A library a Graveyard of Books**

But these are two places can overwhelm most people. Taking your time and being focused is the key. You can learn from all the time by going to them, and lots of the learning is still applicable today. Some places have literally MILES of shelves filled with documents. The voyage of Magellan is one such story to learn from.

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/124958/a-voyage-that-changed-history>

## **Colorizing the Past**

People used to hand paint black and white prints, and sometimes lantern slides, to make them have color. Modern digital photo editing allows old black and white prints to be colorized easily now. Some have started taking the Royal family of England and making them into color versions. Getting it right is a lot easier – they have the clothes still to match and some Kodachrome color film also.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1197008/Royal-family-photos-the-queen-princess-Margaret-king-Edward-viii>

## **Coast Guard POW**

Some honors are dubious – becoming a POW of the Japanese during WW II meant you only had 40% chance of surviving. Lt. Thomas Crotty, 30, died July 19, 1942, at the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp in the Philippines. First known Coast Guard member to be captured. He was ID'd by DNA in 2018.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/remains-of-first-coast-guard-member-to-become-pow-in-wwii-returning-home-for-burial-1.605275>

## **Around the World Spitfire Makes it to Nagpur**

India was a major battlefield during WW II for aircraft going to China and into Burma.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-war-ii-aircraft-silver-spitfire-on-world-tour-lands-in-nagpur-2127304>

## **A Short History of the Panama Canal**

This was a grand idea for a few hundred years – only an idea. When the US gained control, it became a reality. During WW II many troops, and aircraft, were stationed there along with coast defense batteries.

<https://www.marinelink.com/news/maritime-history-panama-canal-472522>

## **Destroying History By Modern Prejudices**

Another college, of enlightened learnings, want to destroy a wooden statue due to its creation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War and the connotations that they think it means NOW.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7654763/UCL-students-demand-removal-Boer-war-mascot-colonial-links.html>

## **106 Year Old Radioman**

Joining a cavalry unit in 1932 in Canada, he ended up repairing radios during WW II. He retired as a warrant officer.

<https://www.tricitynews.com/news/at-106-gill-is-one-of-canada-s-oldest-wwii-vets-1.23998237>

## **WAC Radio Operator in the 9<sup>th</sup> AF**

Iris Painter joined the WAC – Women's Army Corps – after Pearl Harbor and ended up in the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the ETO.

[https://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/iris-painter-world-war-ii-veteran-and-former-tcc-instructor/article\\_d13a2b03-d1b3-57d7-8ec3-00e94f665bc4.html](https://www.tulsaworld.com/obituaries/localobituaries/iris-painter-world-war-ii-veteran-and-former-tcc-instructor/article_d13a2b03-d1b3-57d7-8ec3-00e94f665bc4.html)

## Photos of US Aircraft being shot down in WW II

Most of these have been published before.

<https://www.argunners.com/horrific-images-captured-last-moments-usaaf-bombers-wwii/>

## Presidential Sword?

Connecticut Police Seize sword that may have been used by President William Henry Harrison. No one knows if it is the real one or a fake. Some think a fake one was stolen 40 years ago and this is the real one. Time will tell.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny-mystery-sword-wielded-american-revolution-20191107-ewnj6zksevg5tnfmffq6lskw7q-story.html>

## Battle of Pensacola?

In 1814 there was, it set the stage for 1815 Battle of New Orleans.

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/11/07/andrew-jackson-pensacola-history-defeats-spanish-british-force-war-1812/4163917002/>

## Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS;

### ***Next Chapter meeting February 8, 2020***

Alice Miller is the tentative scheduled speaker. She has a vast array of early aviation uniforms that she owns and will have on display.

*Doors open at 10 AM at the  
Beaverton Elks Lodge  
3464 SW 106th Ave  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005-1941  
<http://www.beavertonelks.org/>*

Take Highway 8 - aka Canyon Road, to get to 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue. 106<sup>th</sup> is on the north side of Canyon road. The entrance to the club is ¼ mile down the road on the right – a very small sign points to the entrance.

Secretary 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS of Oregon  
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The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit 503(c) with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.

The Oregon 8thAFHS maintains a person on the club roster for up to one year even if they had not renewed, or if the original member is deceased their next of kin will continue to receive all club mailings, before they are removed them from the club roster.

If a person wishes to receive the club mailed newsletter and meeting notice they need to submit the membership form along with the yearly \$15.00 dues (pro-rated if necessary) to become a member of the chapter.

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