

# "Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society History News for December 2020



**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.***

## OSS Agent Still Going Strong at 99

Virginia Rathbun Stuart was one of many women who went into the OSS during WW II serving all around the world. One of the handful of people still alive who went into the enemy owned lands to gain intelligence and report back what was going on. She was one of 21,642 men and women who worked for the OSS under Gen. William "Wild Bill" Donovan.

Amazon link: [Sisterhood of Spies: The Women of the OSS](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08XJZKZKZ)

<https://americanmilitarynews.com/2020/11/oss-spy-agency-veteran-at-99-keeps-living-life-as-an-adventure/>

## Statistics and the US Army Air Force in WW II

People complain about the use of statistics all the time but there is a valid use of them. Some things cannot be seen when looked and derive insight of scale or problems one at a time but when compiled into a format you can see the scale of things and see problems.

Table from the Army Air Forces Statistical Digest

Rates are per 100,000 flying hours.

Year	B-29	B-17	B-24	B-25	B-26	A-20	A-26	A-36	P-38	P-39	P-40	P-47	P-51
<b>Total</b>													
All Accidents													
Number	272	1,589	1,713	921	739	728	181	226	1,403	1,934	3,569	3,049	824
Rate	40	30	35	33	55	131	57	274	139	245	188	127	105
Fatal Accidents	63	284	490	233	223	167	29	24	337	369	324	404	131
Fatalities	461	1,757	2,796	936	993	303	77	24	379	395	350	455	137
Airplanes Wrecked	119	479	746	446	408	331	50	69	758	865	967	1,125	358

Year	P-63	F-4/5	F-6	C-46	C-47/53	C-54	Advanced Trainers	Basic Trainers	Primary Trainers	Communications
<b>Total</b>										
All Accidents										
Number	251	223	14	145	604	22	13,511	4,881	8,256	2,407
Rate	131	145	62	29	20	18	55	27	48	108
Fatal Accidents	39	48	2	19	109	4	943	825	333	133
Fatalities	47	52	2	94	648	16	1,888	1,175	439	197
Airplanes Wrecked	109	127	7	39	181	5	2,227	1,558	1,032	500

Note: The A-36 is the ground attack production version of the P-51 for ground support of which 500 were built with dive flaps. They all went to North Africa. The F 4-5-6 are photo recon versions of the P-38 and P-51.

From this you can see that you would likely survive training in a basic trainer only to be killed when learning in a more advanced aircraft.

## **Instead of Picking Cotton He Was Picking off Enemy Soldiers in Korea**

Joining the military has been a universal tradition to get out of the life you were born into. Jim Valentine did that and ended up at the start of the Korean War (which technically is still going on). He was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – which held the right flank of the Marines at the Chosin Reservoir.

A book that depicts some of this action is [Frozen Sniper \(Caje Cole Book 6\)](#) (Amazon link).

<https://americanmilitarynews.com/2020/12/wa-veteran-of-korean-war-was-part-of-chosin-few-who-escaped-chinese-assault-70-years-ago/>

## **Why Climbing Up and Down Ropes in Basic Training is So Important**

What happens when you are ordered to 'Abandon ship' you do so – but what if there is non one there to get you? What you do you? Al Oesterle learned this in the South Pacific in October of 1944.

<https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2020/11/10/fort-collins-veterans-day-vet-world-war-ii-aircraft-carrier/6126826002/>

## **Mini-Golf WW II Style**

There are Fighter and Bomber themed restaurants but this will be a first: A mini-Golf course themed in WW II – in Texas.

"We will also have the world's first WWII fighter plane playscape in honor of our friend, fighter pilot Lt. Col. [Huie] Lamb, who shot down three German Aircraft in WWII," Brian McKinney said.

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/san-marcos-buda-kyle/impacts/2020/11/11/world-war-ii-themed-mini-golf-course-museum-coming-to-buda/>

## **To Keep them in the Air you Maintained them on the Ground**

The ground crews "owned" the aircraft and just lent them to the aircrews for missions. The ground crew served until the war was over – they did not rotate back home after so many missions like air crew did. The maintenance crew chief coordinated all the work on their aircraft so they really knew the aircraft better than anyone. Larry Owen went to Boeing in Seattle for training on how to maintain the B-17 and then ended up with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Italy.

<https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/life/b-17-crew-chief-recalls-world-war-ii/>

## **Moving Boxes and Finding a WW II Box from Overseas**

Brodie Miller, a mover with Westerville-based Two Men and a Truck was going through a house loading boxes and finds in the very back of a closed a 1949 US postmarked box – and the mover knew exactly what it was. It belonged to 2nd Lt. Gerald Hamilton KIA in 1945.

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/11/veterans-day-world-war-ii-burial-flag-saved-by-movers-clearing-ohio-home/6191501002/>

## **Medic on the Ground and Pilot in the Air: Two Brothers in WW II**

One went to the Pacific flying P-40s, and the other went into Germany carrying Medic Kits.

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-ct-veterans-day-profiles-20201111-dt5ocddawfbavgge5egr7ss3mm-story.html>

## **How the German Ju-88D-1 Came to the USA in the Middle of 1943**

A complete, airworthy, combat flow Ju-88 Came to the USA – along with the Romanian Pilot.

“With Captain Newby again heading up the crew, the flight to the United States began on October 8, 1943, and the distance of 10,400 nautical miles was completed in seven days.”

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/37574/how-this-nazi-recon-plane-ended-up-being-tested-in-the-united-states-during-world-war-ii>

## **Aloha Airlines – A 62 Year History Before Saying Aloha**

WW II Surplus aircraft jump started many airlines. Hawaii definitely needed cheap reliable airline to get from island to island and Aloha was one of the first.

<https://simpleflying.com/aloha-airlines-rise-and-fall/>

## **Drive a Tank For Christmas**

In the UK you can go to Duxford and go for tank rides – you can do the same in the USA at Collings aircraft and tank farm in Hudson Mass.

[full list of tank driving and riding experiences at this link!](#)

<https://www.americanheritagemuseum.org/>

## **Fly in A P-51**

If you live near Kissimmee you can go for a ride in A P-51 Mustang at Stallion 51 located on Kissimmee airport.

<https://www.stallion51.com/>

## **Five Brothers in War**

Unlike the Sullivan Brothers – all 5 came back.

<https://www.newbernsj.com/story/news/2020/11/11/five-cove-city-brothers-who-went-war/6232036002/>

## **Battlefields then and Now**

25 Battlefields around the world and how they looked then, in drawings and in some cases paintings, and how they look now in photographs. Only a few of the photographs

really depict how they look now – most are closeups of sections not the whole battlefield.

[https://nptelegraph.com/news/national/what-25-historic-battlefields-look-like-today/collection\\_3a6a369d-432a-5900-a565-691925c47705.html#1](https://nptelegraph.com/news/national/what-25-historic-battlefields-look-like-today/collection_3a6a369d-432a-5900-a565-691925c47705.html#1)

## **The Seaplane**

During the 1920s thru the early 1950s seaplanes were heavily used around the world. They fulfilled a need to get from point to point over water without having to worry about engine failure and drowning. Long range aircraft put them into a custom niche aircraft utility role in most of the world. ½ of all US seaplanes are based in Alaska. There is a new push, from China, in making them again. If China pushes into the South Pacific where islands are everywhere and landing fields are well known and few, it could change how battles are developed by low skimming seaplanes that can be hidden along shores – which all combatants did in WW II.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a34522805/military-seaplanes/>

## **Pearl Harbor Aviation Center New Education Center**

The facility will use aviation and flight simulation as a way to help students learn STEM concepts, as well as practice problem solving and team building.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2020/11/22/pearl-harbor-aviation-museum-learning-center.html>

## **Bombing and Propaganda in Europe in WW II**

In WW II there was always talk of breaking the “will” of the enemy in order to shorten the war. This study looks if that really worked or that it was more of a resignation of what is going to happen but not so much as to cause a revolution to overthrow the existing political control during the war. Italy switched sides, as did others toward the end, but the Italians were never overall for the war.

<https://voxeu.org/article/how-allied-bombing-and-propaganda-undermined-german-morale-during-wwii>

## **Force Multipliers**

In military science, force multiplier refers to a factor or a combination of factors that gives a person or equipment the ability to accomplish far greater feats than without it.

For example, in the Battle for the Atlantic in World War II (1939 to 1945) the United States started using newly built smallish aircraft carriers, which were converted merchant ships, to search for and sink German U-boats, which had been taking a huge toll on convoys transporting strategic goods to England. These ships were “escort carriers,” or CVE’s and had 25 to 30 planes, with flight decks only 500 feet long.

Whereas an anti-submarine warfare destroyer escort (DE) equipped with radar could check only 75 square miles of ocean an hour hunting for U-boats, in the same amount of time a plane with microwave radar could cover 3,000 square miles. Eventually, the strategy effectively put an end to the sinking of convoy merchant ships. This was a force multiplier!

## The USS Wahoo Sails Again

Not the submarine of Capt "Mush" Morton, but a new Virginia class submarine in the US Navy. The Tang name also will be assigned to a new sub also. I read Wake of the Wahoo in Junior High.

"The original Barb, Tang and Wahoo were all named for fish: Barb is a derivation of Barbus, a ray-finned fish; tangs are surgeonfish found in the Pacific; and wahoos are a highly prized sport fish that are native to tropical and subtropical seas."

Amazon link: [Wake of the Wahoo](#)

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/11/19/uss-wahoo-back-new-nuclear-subs-named-storied-wwii-boats.html>

## Sailing as Armed Guards on Merchant Ships in WW II

Not all people manning guns on ships were true Navy or Army. The people handling the ships were in the Merchant Marine and those on the guns were in the Navy but more obscure in-betweeners Armed Guards. Ray Linnens sailed into harbor one time on a ship that had been reported sunk with all hands lost.

"I swear they loaded up enough ammunition on that ship to blow Baltimore off the map, and I said, 'Man, I can't win,'" Linnens remembered. "That was a bad-luck ship."

<https://www.thetimesnews.com/story/news/2020/11/11/veterans-day-100-year-old-navy-veteran-remembers-worlds-war-ii/6232484002/>

## Sinking Battleships in Harbors in the Med

Both the British and Italians "sank" battleships during WW II – but only in the mud of harbors.

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/opinion/letters/world-war-ii-air-raid-mediterranean-1940-was-courageous-it-failed-sink-battleships-3044363>

## Khaki in the Spanish American War

It takes time from design to production to deployment – and the clothes worn during the Spanish-American War showed that it did not go well.

Khaki maybe the uniform but the head covers are a world of their own.

Amazon link: [A Gallery of Military Headgear](#)

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/cowboys-khaki-us-army-spanish-american-war-172779>

## A Broken Frame and a 1944 Postcard

While cleaning up a garage he knocked a framed Christmas Postcard off the wall – and on the flip side was a note on postcard from the 2004th Ordnance Maintenance Company from France in 1944.

[https://nptelegraph.com/news/local/after-breaking-an-antique-picture-frame-a-north-platte-man-finds-a-message-from-world/article\\_5a051f2e-23ca-11eb-87dc-5b3b4ecccc65.html](https://nptelegraph.com/news/local/after-breaking-an-antique-picture-frame-a-north-platte-man-finds-a-message-from-world/article_5a051f2e-23ca-11eb-87dc-5b3b4ecccc65.html)

## Female Soviet Fighter Pilots

A short summary of how they were formed and some of the pilots.

Amazon link: [Night Witches: The Amazing Story Of Russia's Women Pilots in World War II](#)

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/soviet-night-witches-female-fighter-pilots-red-army-172364>

## **USA Drill Sergeant Hats and New Zealand**

The "Lemon Squeezer" hat of New Zealand is no longer issued – but its design lives on in the USA.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/new-zealand-military%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%99Clemon-squeezer%E2%80%99D-hat-173062>

## **Tuskegee Airmen Frank Macon Dies at 97 Years Old**

Class 45A he is thought to be one of the original 14,000 (air and ground) personnel who were part of the Tuskegee fighter and bomber men trained during WW II.

<https://www.canyon-news.com/tuskegee-airmen-frank-macon-dies/137888>

## **Soviet's First Successful Counterattack in 1941**

The capture of Rostov on the Don overextended the German Army, but the idea was that holding the city would anchor the southern flank. The Soviets though had three fresh armies in the area and they counterattacked.

<https://www.rbth.com/history/333032-soviets-first-major-wwii-victory>

## **Buffalo Solider to Be Buried in Florida**

His unit was in Florida for the Spanish American War but he died of tuberculosis while awaiting trial on mainly spurious charges.

<https://www.theledger.com/story/news/local/2020/11/25/buffalo-soldier-james-johnson-given-symbolic-burial/6419967002/>

## **B-17 and B-24 Pilot Jerome Neal**

His 3<sup>rd</sup> Mission was on D-Day over Normandy. He went on to fly 35 Combat mission again Germany.

"I got my crew to parachute out, but the other pilot and the navigator stayed with me. When I realized I still had my bombs, I released them and fortunately we were so close to the water that they didn't trigger." [The nose and tail fuse had vanes on them that would arm the nose and tail fuse on the bomb – usually after dropping 1000 feet - 690 turns.]

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2020/12/04/world-war-ii-pilot-tennessee-recalls-missions-shares-faith-journey/3785022001/>

## **To The Shores of Tripoli – A Game of Beating the Pirates in the Med**

Like some of the modern day pirates off of Somalia, you pay ransom or fight the pirates. In 1805 the US choose to fight and stop the piracy against all nation ships going through the Med once and for all.

From Fort Circle Games: <https://www.fortcircle.com/>

<https://www.military.com/off-duty/why-shores-of-tripoli-should-be-your-familys-game-shelf.html>

## **UXB Defused in Frankfurt**

A 1,000 lb was discovered during construction in the Gallus district.

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-12-07/german-experts-defuse-wwii-bomb-frankfurt>

# 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS National Online Virtual Presentations / Programs

Varies as to what day and time, multiple VPs per month.

Main web site: <https://www.mightyeighth.org/>

Calendar of events: <https://www.mightyeighth.org/calendar/>

on Facebook LIVE or ZOOM Webinar

**You DO NOT need a Facebook account to watch!**

**Please click on the link button below or go to**

**<https://www.facebook.com/mighty8thmuseum/>**

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

Next Chapter Meeting: **UNKNOWN**

*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.

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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.