

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News
Update
March 2011

History News

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

Research Site Footnote.com

When looking up some records about MACR 2366 (Missing Aircrew Reports) of a B-24 shot down on 7 January 1944 of the 93 BG at the National Archives site I saw that they have a contracted out an agreement with Footnote.com – who have scanned all the MACR records from WW II and have them online. A year's access costs \$79.95. All are scanned, searchable on their site. You can download the individual pages in JPG format. Course after you download them they are no longer searchable unless you convert them into a PDF file. Each MACR record can be anywhere from 1 to 50 pages long. I went ahead and joined since this way the members of our local chapter's whose records we have I can complete the whole file with their MACR of those whose a/c was lost in combat or in accidents.

Also noted is that they just now have posted 21% of the “war diaries” - the daily operational journals created by various naval commands throughout the Navy during WWII.

<http://www.footnote.com>

THE UNKNOWN WAR: WWII AND THE EPIC BATTLES OF THE RUSSIAN FRONT DVD set

On May 24, 2011, Shout! Factory will start selling a 5-DVD box set includes all 20 episodes about the war on the Eastern Front first broadcast in 1978. It is being released just one month shy of the 70th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union of June 22, 1941. The 5-DVD box set includes all 20 episodes as well as some bonus content. Featuring rare and stunning footage recorded by Soviet camera crews on the front lines . . . most of it unseen since the series' original broadcast on public television 30 years ago.

It's priced to own at \$39.97 SRP.

Program Running Time: +/- 16.5 hours

<http://www.tvshowsondvd.com/news/Unknown-War-DVDs-Announced/15033#ixzz1EM11Cq2U>

Remember Stalingrad?

Here is a good writeup about the battle, both militarily and the view of the Allied leaders at the time, from the English version of Pravda.

"The King of Great Britain was of much higher opinion of the Battle of Stalingrad than his Prime Minister. He sent to Stalingrad an endowment sword with an inscription on the blade in Russian and English that read: "To the steel-hearted citizens of Stalingrad - the gift of from King George VI - in a token of the homage of the British people".

http://english.pravda.ru/russia/politics/03-02-2011/116764-battle_of_stalingrad-0/#

It was a year later that Leningrad area was completely freed of German & Finnish ground units – they had survived a partial encirclement for 900 days.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2011/01/27/41531093.html>

Tuskegee Materials Go into a Vault

Temple University (Pa) was given a collection of photographs, writings, and papers from the local Tuskegee Airman Association chapter. The material includes items from the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group (which never made it into combat before the war ended).

Unknown if any material will ever be made available online.

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/13413-17pctusk>

Exploring you Family Tree – and what you do when one of them was in the Wehrmacht

A granddaughter does a school project about her family tree and uses the only symbol she knows from Germany to include her grandfather in the family history – a swastika in the newly created family crest art project.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2011/feb/05/wolfram-germany-war-giles-martin>

Modern Skis – All Thanks to the 10th Mountain Division

The 10th Mountain Division was trained here in the Pacific NW – skiing on Mt Hood year round while training – and was sent to Italy in 1944. (Lt. Dick Pressey was part of the 10th originally, he decided he hated mules and

transferred into the 8th AF and flew B-17s – his friend stayed in and the mules were used in Italy. Still stubborn.)

But due to all the skis built for them during the war - they became surplus and sparked the modern Ski Industry.

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20110218/NEWS/110219787/1078&ParentProfile=1055>

X-Craft CO Rear-Admiral Godfrey Place, VC - who attacked The Tirpitz

The Telegraph (out of the UK) is posting old news articles onto their web site – and they showing up as new “news” in search engines. This is his obituary when he died in 1994 but still a good read about his experience in attacking The Tirpitz in the X-Craft midget submarine.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/military-obituaries/naval-obituaries/8328587/Rear-Admiral-Godfrey-Place-VC.html#>

Modern Italy Turns 150 – But Parts still Resent Being “Given” to Italy after WW I

South Tyrol was removed from Austria and given to Italy as part of the peace agreement that ended World War I – but it remains a lot more German than Italian still.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8325271/Italy-anniversary-celebrations-highlight-divide-after-150-years.html>

Brothers William F. Carey, James E. Carey & Raymond Carey

William was in the 8th AF, James was in an 78th Airdrome Service Squadron in the South Pacific, and Raymond who was killed during the Normandy D-Day Invasion timeframe was a Glider Infantryman.

<http://saratogian.com/articles/2011/02/15/news/doc4d5b467476e20690046286.txt>

B-17 Gunner Donald Polen – 30 Missions in 4 Months

Drafted as a pilot but reassigned as a gunner when the Army found out that they had too many in the pipeline already in 1944, he started flying combat in 1945 when Flak was more deadly than German Aircraft.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/ww2thenandnow/x163796610/WW-II-Then-and-Now-30-missions-over-Germany>

B-17 Pilot Truman Smith – author of “The Wrong Stuff” Died at 87

He flew 35 missions in B-17s with the 8th Air Force starting in late 1943.

<http://newsok.com/famed-ponca-city-pilot-businessman-dies-at-87/article/3538184>

B-17 Pilot Roger Weber – 390 Bomb Group

Instead of a baseball career he went into the Army pilot program and as a B-17 pilot flew 29 missions and was awarded the Bronze Star four times. He died at the age of 92.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110204/NEWS08/102040361/Roger-Weber-Veteran-World-War-II-stayed-active>

Navy Pilot George H. W. Bush awarded the Medal of Freedom – by President Obama

Mixed in with 12 other people who were awarded this honor, former President G H W Bush was presented with this award on 17 February 2011. Lt Bush was shot down in his Avenger Torpedo bomber during WW II. He was rescued from his life raft by a Navy submarine – who happened to have an officer with a camera on board who filmed his rescue.

Bill Pounds – Love of Flying

Too late for the war, he became part of the CAF and flew a BT-13 – Vultee Vibrator – on the airshow circuit.

His friend, Peggy Vaught, is one of 14 siblings three of which who flew in the 8th AF – including brother Charles "Chuck" Borchert who was a waist gunner on "Shoo Shoo Baby".

http://www.mywesttexas.com/columnists/article_8c9ba224-4f0a-56a5-ac22-f1a44a9916a8.html

WW II Signalman Richard Kanter

Richard had the job of cryptographer in Algiers as part of the 2677 OSS Regiment. Their job was to take the field agent messages and then decode them, reassemble the information, and then transmit it to London – all with IBM Electromatic typewriters.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20110204/ARTICLE/102041010/2055/NEWS?Title=Coded-messages-a-lifeline-for-battle>

Australian Pilot to be Buried in April

The Spitfire pilot who was discovered in his almost intact spitfire off the coast of Normandy last November will be buried in April, in Normandy.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/honours-for-spitfire-pilot-found-in-river-20110129-1a8xr.html>

Staff Sgt. Berthold Chastain Buried With Honors after 67 Years

Part of a crew of 11 that went missing on October 27, 1943 he was buried in February, 2011.

http://www.clevelandbanner.com/view/full_story/11178091/article-WWII-flyer%E2%80%99s-remains-escorted-home-?instance=latest_articles

500 Pound General Purpose Bomb defused in Paris Suburb

On a former Renault car factory site, which was bombed multiple times by the 8th Air Force, this demolition bomb was discovered during routine excavation work.

Dud rates during world war II of US bombs is estimated to be around 5% - even though aerial bombs had nose and tail fuses on them.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/02/06/thousands-evacuated-paris-homes-wwii-bomb-defused/?test=latestnews>

On Board the Hornet CV-12 During WW II

George Godfrey earned 11 battle stars as a deck crewman handing aircraft on the deck of the USS Hornet.

"The World War II radar wasn't the best in the world," he said. "Japanese planes would come early in the morning or late in the day, flying low above the water, trying to damage our fleet. Our radar system wouldn't always detect these planes."

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110212/NEWS01/102120356>

Raising a Devastator off San Diego

A&T recovery discovered and is using video cameras to plan the raising of it - it is in 600+ feet of water.

The National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla., is trying to raise the \$300,000 needed to raise the plane.

<http://www.10news.com/news/27004610/detail.html>

Japanese Air Raids in Northern Australia

One of the reasons for the Guadalcanal campaign was the bombing of Australia - and the new airfield being built on Guadalcanal which would be just over 1,000 miles from Eastern Australia which allow another direction of

raids into Australia to be launched. The G4M "Betty" bomber could fly 3,700 miles.

<http://www.smh.com.au/queensland/lest-we-forget-the-day-war-came-to-australia-20110219-1b0dr.html>

Luftwaffe Raids Parnell Aircraft Factory in 1941

During the "Blitz" the Luftwaffe attacked strategic targets, and sometimes actually hit them at night.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-12592018>

B-24 Bombardier Joseph J. Pribula – 51 Missions

He died on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at the age of 87.

He too flew as part of the 15th Air Force. He was also a 25 year member of the Collings Foundation who flies around the B-17, B-24, B-25, and P-51 on tour around the USA.

http://www.timesleader.com/obituaries/Joseph_J_Pribula_02-17-2011.html#

B-24 Crash Remembered

The British initially used the B-24 as a long range anti-submarine hunter due to the time in air it had compared to the exiting British bombers in 1942. However, training in them was just as deadly to some British crews as it was to US crews in the States.

http://www.bclocalnews.com/tri_city_maple_ridge/mapleridgenews/news/115231609.html#

57 out of 200

Flying the Navy Version of the B-24 – PB4Y-1 – men of the Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 lost their lives between 1943 and 1945.

Ben Johnson was part of the 143 who made it through. He was originally flying in PBYs in the South Pacific as a radioman-gunner.

http://www.mywesttexas.com/top_stories/article_1a495726-a817-54d9-be26-c9ade7cb50a0.html

Japanese PM Vows to Find Missing WW II Japanese Soldiers on Iwo Jima

The Japanese renamed the island back to its long ago pre-war name of Iwo To in 1997 and only after the Clint Eastwood movie of 2006 did the Japanese government even thing about looking for the remains of soldiers who were

known to have been buried in mass graves on the island by the US Military after the battle was over in March of 1945.

12,000+ Japanese are still listed as missing as are 218 US servicemen.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/15/japanese-prime-minister-iwo-jima>

Sunk a Sub Or Not – Credit Stands But No One Really Knows

The Coast Guard Cutter McLane is credited with sinking a Japanese submarine off of Prince of Wales Island in July of 1942. Assumed to be the RO-32 the US found out that it was still afloat at the end of the War. But the claim still stands but no one is sure what actually happened back then after an oil slick was discovered after multiple depth charge attacks.

http://www.capitalcityweekly.com/stories/021611/ae_786550406.shtml

Restoring the Sub that sank the carrier Shokaku

The US submarine USS Cavalla was damaged by Hurricane Ike and is now in desperate need of restoration in Houston, Texas. The Navy donated the vessel to the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II, who in turn gave it to Galveston to become the basis for Seawolf Park where a destroyer is also based.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7424219.html>

Battle of Midway and “Moby Dick”

Researchers in the coral atoll chain that includes Midway were doing some underwater inventory when they found some whaling artifacts and think they have found the wreck of the “The Two Brothers” whaling ship.

There are also around 150 aircraft wrecks around the marine preserve too.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/02/11/in_pacific_discovery_traces_of_nantucket_and_moby_dick/

Oregon Chapter News and Contact Information

Oregon Chapter meeting is on **May 7, 2011. 10 AM till 2 PM**

All meetings are free and open to the public – there is no cost to attend any 8th Air Force Historical Society meeting.

Need a Ride to the Meeting?

There are many members who can no longer drive due to age so we are trying to find out those who are in need of transportation so that we can find other members who live nearby who can pick you up and then take you home afterwards.

If you would like to come to the meeting and need a ride please contact any chapter officer or board member and let them know. Tom Davis, Bob Dean, Tom Philo, Sharon Campbell, Charlie Gallagher, Wally Groce, Bob Schuberg, Jerry Ritter, Joani Hamilton, Bert Campbell, Warren Caldwell, or Don Bourgeois. Via e-mail you can send the request to secretary@8thafhsorgeon.com if you do not have the phone numbers for the people listed above.

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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