



BFTS MUSEUM

MAY 2026

972-551-1122
119 SILENT WINGS BLVD
P.O. BOX 219
TERRELL, TX 75160
BFTSMUSEUM.ORG

WINGS OVER TERRELL

NEWS FROM THE NO.1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL

Welcoming Denis Rottler: A New Chapter for the BFTS Museum

Dear Friends and Supporters of the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum,

As we turn the page to a new chapter, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of the previous management and to every volunteer who has contributed their time, energy, and dedication over the years. Your collective efforts have helped build the BFTS Museum into the outstanding institution it is today – preserving the remarkable stories of the British cadets, their American hosts, and the wartime friendship that took root here in Terrell during World War II. Thanks to your commitment, the museum has continued to educate visitors, honor our shared heritage, and serve as a meaningful community resource.

We are delighted to welcome Denis Rottler as our new Chairman of the Board and Executive Director. A longtime board member and former Vice Chairman, Denis brings a wealth of experience in aviation, including the construction and operation of his own experimental aircraft, along with a profound passion for our mission. Under Denis' leadership, we are enthusiastic about the potential to enhance the museum further. His vision encompasses improvements to our exhibits, an expansion of educational outreach, an enriched visitor experience, and innovative ways to engage the community, all while faithfully preserving this significant piece of history. We are confident that his steady guidance will ensure the BFTS Museum thrives and inspires future generations for years to come.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Denis! We are excited to bring his energy, expertise, and dedication on board. We will share updates on upcoming initiatives and events as we advance together.

As always, we extend our deepest gratitude for the continued support from the City of Terrell, our volunteers, our sponsors, donors, members, and visitors. Together, we will keep the spirit of the No. 1 BFTS alive and vibrant right here in Terrell, Texas.

Museum Hours:

**Wednesday to Saturday,
10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M**

**Special events and private
tours can be arranged
with the museum staff.**

**The BFTS Museum is a
non-profit organization,
recognized as a 501(c)(3).**

Welcome to the No.1 British Flying Training School Museum

**Honoring the British
Cadets and their
Terrell, Texas Hosts
during WWII**

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DIRECTOR'S DISPATCH

**Message from Denis Rottler
BFTS Executive Director**

As I settle into my new role at the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum, I want to take a moment to recognize those who came before me and express my deep appreciation for the outstanding team and dedicated volunteers who support our mission every day.

Since its inception, the BFTS Museum has been built on the hard work and vision of many hands. Thanks to their efforts, we are able to share Terrell's remarkable WWII aviation story in ways that consistently surprise and inspire our guests. We remain committed to enhancing the visitor experience while preserving this unique chapter of history.

*The well-known saying that "a team is only as good as its people" rings especially true here. Our success depends on the passion and dedication of our staff and volunteers. Already this year, our volunteers have contributed more than **450 hours** of their time — a remarkable gift that allows us to dream big and turn those dreams into reality.*

*In 2025, the museum welcomed more than **2,500 visitors** from **31 states** and **15 countries**. These numbers reflect the growing interest in our story and the important role the museum plays as a cultural asset for Terrell and beyond.*

I look forward to working together with our outstanding team, volunteers, and supporters to build on this momentum. In future newsletters, I will share our plans, successes, and even a few challenges as we continue to grow and strengthen the museum's impact in the community.

*Looking ahead, I am energized and optimistic about what we can achieve together. With your continued support and involvement, we will create even more powerful experiences, reach more people and make the BFTS Museum a must-visit destination that proudly honors the courage and friendship forged in our skies. **This is going to be a great year – and I invite you to be part of it!***

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Saturday, May 9th

Veteran's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

This come-and-go morning offers a chance for veterans to connect, share stories, and enjoy breakfast in a welcoming setting surrounded by history. Breakfast is provided free to military veterans as a small token of appreciation for their service.



Victory in Europe Celebration, May 9

Step into history at the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell, Texas as we commemorate Victory in Europe Day—the moment WWII ended in the European theater.

This isn't just a history lesson... it's an experience.

✈️ WWII-era aircraft

🎧 Voices Across the Atlantic — a rare live radio connection with the Radio Society of Great Britain at Bletchley Park

🎵 Live performance by the The Reveille Sisters

🚗 Mini Coopers & vintage military vehicles

🍺 Backstory Brewery on site

🧩 Hands-on cipher puzzles

🎮 Flight simulator experience (ages 12+)

Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Stoll

Meet Chris – Creative Problem-Solver, Digital Producer, and Dedicated Volunteer.



We're proud to spotlight Chris, a longtime Terrell resident whose unique blend of aviation experience, artistic talent, and engineering ingenuity makes him such a valuable volunteer at the BFTS Museum.

Chris comes from a talented art-and-engineering family. That legacy of creativity and ingenuity shines through in everything he does.

A former pilot, Chris once kept his own airplane at the Terrell Airport. He and Mary have been married since 1989 – they tied the knot during a three-week vacation in Geneva Switzerland. The couple has called Terrell home since 1990. In 2006, Chris first volunteered at the BFTS, where he had the honor of working alongside a cadet who had learned to fly there in 1942. That same cadet later returned to marry his sweetheart and went on to become the mayor of Terrell, Henry Madgwick.

Together with Mary, Chris has run their world-wide production company, Imaginary Lines since 1994. Together they've created striking artwork and visuals for major brands including Volvo, Starbucks, the Fort Worth Zoo, and many others. Chris is currently dedicating his photography expertise to create high resolution digital images to preserve other art forms.

Chris is excited to be volunteering at the BFTS again. "I love helping others succeed." he says. "I see so much potential at the museum and want to be part of its future development."

*"Chris joined our volunteer team only recently, but he has already made a significant impact. Bringing tremendous energy, time, and valuable digital expertise, Chris is enhancing both our online presence and marketing efforts. His contributions are helping the BFTS Museum reach more people with our important story. Thank you, Chris – we are grateful to have you on the team!"
Denis Rottler, BFTS Executive Director.*

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ~Sherry Anderson. (Old saying – still true)

Every week, our dedicated volunteers give their time, energy, and passion to keep the story of the No. 1 British Flying Training School alive in Terrell. Whether greeting visitors, helping with events, maintaining the museum or preserving artifacts, your efforts make a lasting difference. Because of you, new families are discovering our museum, children are learning about courage and friendship, and Terrell's unique WWII history.

Thank you for being priceless!

We could not do this without your generous hearts and helping hands.

With sincere gratitude,

The BFTS Museum Board & Staff

If you love aviation history...

If you want to honor those who flew for freedom...

If you believe community-powered museums make our town stronger...

STEP UP AND VOLUNTEER AT THE BFTS MUSEUM TODAY.

Terrell Tales

Stories of the No.1 BFTS As Remembered by WWII Students and Instructors From, George Cozens



ABBOTT, Edward Norman "Ted" "Bud TALLEY, J. We, Flight Instructor

No. 1 BFTS Association Newsletter No. 2/91 February 1991 p3

Terrell Tales No .24. (related by Ted Abbott, 24 Course.

The incident took place towards the end of primary. My instructor, Mr. Talley, was well known for his extraordinary flow of language, extremely colourful but not really repeatable. He also had the habit, particularly when instrument flying, of using the stick to whack you on the knee or give a rap on the knuckles. I usually flew instruments with him with knees wide apart and only the tip of one finger on the stick!

One day we were during aerobatics and just before we were due to return to base, he asked me to do some inverted flying. I duly rolled it over, but we had only been upside down for a few seconds when his seat belt adjustment broke and Mr. Talley slid out a surprising distance into the slipstream. I was amazed. The swearing stopped abruptly. After a moment or so to let him cool off I rolled it back again. He re-entered with a tremendous thump, and after a few minutes the language started again, – but in a more friendly manner. For myself, I nearly died laughing. Mr. Talley seemed quite happy to let me land it and thereafter appeared much more moderate with me. He was a great character, never dull, and full of very basic ideas of how one should spend time off duty,– ideas that were colourful if not particularly moral!

They were great days, that almost seem to belong to another world!

BEHIND THE SCENES

Restoration Underway...

Russ and Sondra Graves have generously donated this authentic historic British phone booth to the BFTS Museum. Volunteers Dan and Teresa Abell are hard at work fully restoring the classic red booth so it can once again shine as a highlight at the museum. Thank you to Russ and Sondra for this wonderful donation, and to Dan & Teresa for your skilled volunteer restoration work.



A beloved piece of BFTS history has been graciously donated to the Museum by Elizabeth Whitaker: the historic soda fountain from Bass Drug Store, which served cadets during their training. Volunteer Gary Stauss has been carefully restoring it to its former glory. It will soon be placed on display in the museum for special events and public enjoyment. Special thanks go to Gary, and to Travis and Hal Richards for providing the stainless steel side panels.

Museum Wish List – Help Us Improve the BFTS Museum!

Our volunteers and staff are busy refreshing the museum, expanding event spaces, and improving the visitor experience. Please consider sponsoring one of these needed items.

Current Needs & Estimated Costs:

- Replacement guest chairs (4) - \$200 Each
- Round event table (1) - \$150
- Metal storage racks (collection & maintenance) (3) - \$200 Each
- Bench seating for the Learning Center (1) - \$200
- 4 Plasma screens + AV interfaces (3) - \$150 Each
- Wet/Dry shop vacuum (1) - \$150
- Proper tow bar for Stearman & T-6 aircraft: - \$1,500

Recent heavy rains caused flooding in the entryway, gift shop, and Link Trainer area. A reliable wet/dry vacuum would help us respond quickly and professionally during future incidents.

Your sponsorship – no matter the size – will be proudly recognized in the museum, on our website, and in the newsletter. Every donation helps preserve this important WWII history and enhances the experience for our guests.

To sponsor an item, please contact Denis Rottler at director@bftsmuseum.org or the museum office at 972-551-1122.

Thank you for your generous support!

Denis Rottler

Chairman, Board of Directors

The BFTS Museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3). Your donations are tax deductible.

SAVE THE DATE:

“WW2 WINGS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC”

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

OCTOBER 2 – 4, 2026

Dr. Jennifer Harding, daughter of an RAF Cadet who trained at the No. 1 BFTS, is helping organize a special international reunion this year. The Next Generation is expanding it's annual “Falcon Field Day” into a landmark event that will bring together all of the British Flying Training Schools in America and the Arnold Scheme.

More than 11,000 RAF pilots were trained in the United States during World War II, and this gathering promises to be a memorable occasion. Please RSVP to Kathryn Masters at kathrynmasters20@gmail.com

If you or someone you know has a connection to the BFTS or the Arnold Scheme, this is a wonderful chance to honor the legacy of the young pilots who trained here in Terrell.



Fabulous Things Happen at the BFTS

Board member Gary Weaver was hosting the Arlington Woman's Club visit when a wonderful surprise unfolded. A woman approached him for a hug – it turned out to be Evelyn Loubriel, his assistant of several years, whom he hadn't seen in more than 25 years. Moments like these make the BFTS Museum more than just a historic site – they create lasting memories and joyful connections.

Recent Events in Review

March and April were filled with memorable community moments, from local events and gatherings to meaningful volunteer efforts across Terrell. Take a look back at some of the highlights that made them special.

Terrell Jubilee



Terrell Jubilee



Airplanes and Coffee



Terrell Robotics Club



Forney Freshman ROTC



Arlington Woman's Club



Terrell Homeschool Visit



Terrell Homeschool Visit



Terrell Homeschool Visit



Executive Director: Denis Rottler: director@bftsmuseum.org

Administrative Assistant: Kathie White: kwhite@bftsmuseum.org

Board of Directors:

Chairman: Denis Rottler:

Treasurer: Hal Richards

Secretary: Barry Walston

Members: Bruce Archer, Carl Best, Jessie Dodwell, Pavel Finnegan, Clifford Medler, Craig O'Donnell, Bernie Schaefer, Mike Siemann, Raylan Smith, Gary Weaver and Charles Whitaker.

Ex-Officio Members: Rudy Bowling, Chris Hamilton and Bill Hutmacher.