

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEND LEASE AND NO. 1 B.F.T.S.

On April 7, 2011 the British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell, TX in partnership with the Consul Generals of Great Britain and Canada, the US and TX elected officials, the TX Historical Commission, the City of Terrell, the Terrell Chamber of Commerce and the Terrell Independent School District enjoyed a daylong celebration of the cooperation between Great Britain, Canada and the US during WWII to defeat the forces of evil and preserved freedom.

The day celebrated the wisdom of the Terrell citizenry in funding the initial phases of the construction and operation of the British Flying School.



The **TISD band** played "Swing Music" and the **Choir** sang the anthems of each nation with the **Air Force** posting the national colors. For distinguished guests, survivors and families an early visit to the BFTS graves in Oakland Memorial Park introduced the day, followed by a special viewing of the museum before the lunch and program.





Chairman Norman Huneycutt during VIP tour

Chairman Norman Huneycutt introduced the many distinguished guests and received proclamations from elected officials of TX and the US. **Wing Commander Eric Gill** spoke of the experiences of training in Terrell, fighting the war and returning to TX for his education and a career in the petroleum industry. He paid special tribute to **Henry Madgwick**, a BFTS Cadet and founding chairman of the BFTS Museum.



Wing Commander Eric Gill

Flight instructor **Albert L. Meyers** of Rockwall demonstrated his energy and wit; Mr. Meyers is the only surviving instructor of the Terrell BFTS.



BFTS Flight Instructor Albert L. Meyers

Jean Ann Ables-Flatt, a Terrell native, genealogist and TX historian, was a young girl during the “British Invasion of Terrell”. She spoke eloquently and with dramatic flair of the People and Events in Terrell during the WWII years of 1941-1945. Jean Ann was the bright spot with the personal stories, historical events and remembering the swooning girls over the cadets with the funny accents. As we are reminded, many returned to wed those beautiful TX girls.



Jean Ann Ables-Flatt, historian



Eric Gill, 20 Course and
Henry Madgwick, 24 Course



Commemorative Air Force Pilots Charlie.....
And Mark Case, with BFTS Museum staff
Mike Grout

Special vintage trainer aircraft
from the **Commemorative Air
Force** were prominently
displayed at the Madix Hanger
where the large crowd gathered.





Canadian Consul General Paula Caldwell St-Onge

Canadian Consul General Paula Caldwell St-Onge and her father were special guests. Ms. Caldwell spoke intensely about the importance of the bilateral trade relationship and reminded the audience that Canada provides more oil and gas to the US than another country. Importantly, Ms. Caldwell promised on behalf of the Canadian government to work closely with the museum in fulfilling its mission to build a permanent British Flying Training School Museum and Military Park adjacent to the new Major William F. Long Airport Terminal.

British Deputy Consul General Andy Pryce concluded with the keynote speech that joined in spirit with the US elected officials and the Canadian government in gratitude for the joint effort between our nations then and now. He spoke forcefully about the UK's commitment to the Joint Strike Force aircraft and oneness in the intent of providing a military defense of our common interest. Mr. Pryce, speaking on behalf of the British Government stressed their interest in assisting the British Flying Training School Museum in gaining funding for the construction of the permanent Museum and Military Park to be constructed adjacent to the new Major William F. Long Airport Terminal located on the new British Flying School Boulevard entrance to the Terrell Municipal Airport.



British Deputy Consul General Andy Pryce

With the strong personal commitment of US Representative Hensarling and TX Representative Lance Gooden, the Board of Directors of the British Flying School Museum is confident that after all these years a major monument to the people and governments that saw the value in the training of RAF Cadets to become aviators that fought so valiantly to protect our freedoms will become a reality.

LEST WE FORGET!



Proclamations received in honor of 70th Anniversary of Lend Lease and No. 1 BFTS



The day of Celebration concluded with the dedication of the **TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER** at the entrance to the existing museum. Dr. Horace Flatt, historian, and David Gravelle, Vice Chair TX Historical Commission spoke of the unique story of the British Flying Training School and the work of the British Flying Training School Museum Board of Directors in preserving that story for future generations.

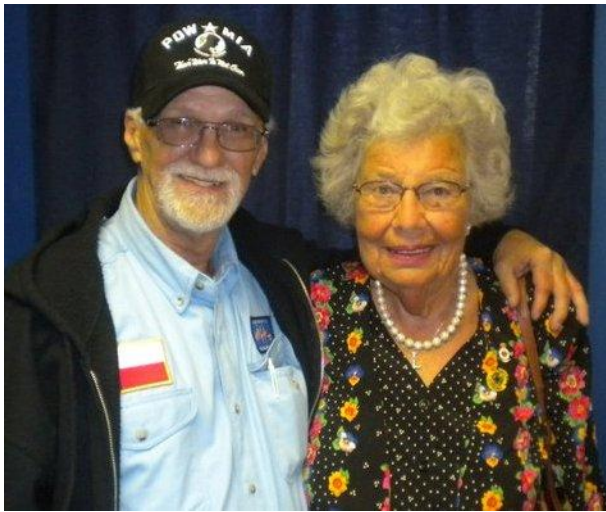
Guests



Henderson County Historical Society



Daughters of the British Empire with new museum exhibits



Bobby Vickers and Mrs. Georgette McGarrah, decoder at Bletchley Park



Mrs. Max Jacoby, surviving spouse of BFTS Flight Instructor



Tuskegee Airman Dr. Calvin Spann and Kat Vickers



AMRR riders: Bobby Vickers, Lens Walker, George Sherman, Terry Bigley

Obituaries



A.J. "Bert" Allam passed away in April 2011. Bert was known for his enthusiasm for and knowledge of history, and in particular the BFTS. He joined the Army in 1939 and served in anti-aircraft defense until volunteering for the Royal Air Force in 1941. He trained at No 1 BFTS in Terrell, 4 Course, graduating as a Sergeant and later earning officer's commission. He served as an instructor in the UK until 1944. In 1945 he became part of a Bomber Squadron and flew many successful missions. After leaving the RAF, Bert worked with Dunlop until his retirement.

Throughout his lifetime Bert remained passionate about history and his time with the BFTS. He was instrumental in the formation of the BFTS Association in the UK, serving as its Secretary until it was disbanded. Bert spent countless hours organizing reunions for BFTS alumni, the first of which was in 1952. He also wrote the newsletters that Association members treasure. Without his lifelong dedication to the BFTS and his influence, the North American branch of the BFTS Association, and through it this museum, would not exist.

Arthur Ridge passed away in April 2011 after a long battle with health issues. Arthur left Terrell in 1945 and became an Air Movement Assistant. He flew medium range routes to India, Ceylon, Thailand, Saigon, Hong Kong and Java. He took part in the Berlin Airlift while posted to a York long range squadron. He was commissioned in 1957 as a Pilot Officer. After having flown almost 300 rescue sorties, he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant in 1965. For a particular rescue in June 1968, he was nominated Man of the Year, awarded an Immediate Airforce Cross and honored at a lunch at the Savoy Hotel in London. He retired from the RAF in 1972 to run a small hotel in Wales, and has lived many years in Texas.





NO.1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM

MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

**GREETINGS FROM TERRELL,
TEXAS!**

Visit us at www.bftsmuseum.org



Thanks to museum board member Jim Evans, our telescope has a new mobile base.

Friend of the museum and physicist Lee Bradshaw has been busy installing and calibrating the telescope. We hope to have it in working order soon.



Lord Halifax dedication of BFTS War Graves, Oakland Cemetery.