

2016 Remembrance Day

We observed Remembrance Day on a beautiful, crisp Sunday afternoon. We were fortunate to have as our guests the Terrell/Kaufman County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, family members of several former cadets, in addition to the RAF contingent at Majors Field, Greenville, TX. Retired pastor Bob Price officiated, Sqd Ldr Craig O'Donnell read the poem *High Flight*; MACR Pete Holt did flag duty, and Sqd Ldr Barnes placed the wreath. Long-time volunteer Judy Hollis read the poem *Ode of Remembrance*. Refreshments were served at the Museum after the service. (Photos provided by Museum volunteer Paul Finnegan)



Recent Visitors



The Dallas Arms Collectors Association (DACA) enjoyed a day-long excursion visiting local WWII and military museums. The highlight of the day was its conclusion at the No 1 BFTS Museum.

Donations



Mrs. Elaine Sherman of the Roemisch Foundation made a donation to the Museum in honor of her late husband, Flt Lt Francis G. H. “Ted” Sherman, RAFVR. Mr. Sherman was one of two men who were tasked with the disposition of British property, and closing the No. 1 BFTS at the end of WWII.

In Remembrance



Jeffery Heard

4th June 1925 – 15th May 2016

Jeffery Heard – “Jeff” – was born on 4th June 1925 and grew up in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, England. His father was an architect and he had two brothers, Jim and Brian.

Following the death of his mother when he was aged 8, in his teenage years during the Second World War, his father was sent to help extend the airstrip at Aldergrove airport outside Belfast, Northern Ireland. Jeff and his stepmother went too and it was here that he first met Sheelah who was later to become his wife of nearly 64 years.

After Jeff completed his education at the Ballymena Academy in 1943 his ambition was to become a pilot. But with the Battle of Britain already a distant memory there was no shortage of pilots so he went to Queen’s University Belfast for six months before starting his training.

Jeff had a great time learning to fly, the best of which was the eight months spent at Terrell where he learned to fly Harvards. By the time his training was complete the war was over and so he escaped active service. He retained nostalgia for these years throughout his life, enjoying talking about them and watching films about his aviator heroes.

After he was de-mobbed Jeff took a place at Queen’s University where he graduated with two honours degrees in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. Jeff and Sheelah, who also studied at Queen’s, married in 1952 and had three children – Michael, Jenny and Elizabeth – as well as five grandchildren.

Jeff was fortunate that he spent his entire career working in one place in Stafford, England and for one company, GEC Alstom. As the years passed, Jeff rose through the ranks to become Chief Design Engineer for large generators. The machines he designed were sold throughout the world including to South Korea, Hong Kong, Australia, South Africa, USA and UK. Part of his work involved him in an international Paris based organisation called CIGRE where manufacturing companies such as Jeff’s met with customers. Jeff was the UK committee representative for 12 years.

When Jeff retired he had the time to renew his love of flying and became a member of a local gliding club. He enjoyed spending time with other flying enthusiasts, young and old, and toured the country with his glider - his crowning achievement being a 300km gold distance solo flight in 2000.

Jeff had a quadruple heart bypass which enabled him to keep flying until the day before he had a stroke in 2013. Despite no longer being able to get to the gliding club, he would still check in via the webcam to see who was about and what the wind conditions were like.

Jeff’s health deteriorated early 2016; he passed away peacefully on 15th May.

Basil Pring

25 Course, No 1 BFTS



Harold Jacobs

d. 12 September, 2015

16 Course, No 1 BFTS

Ferguson Rettie

b. 30 Aug, 1923 d. 16 March, 2016

24 Course, No 1 BFTS



Fergie was born in Peterhead, Scotland in 1923, and three years later, his parents emigrated to the US and settled in Chicago. Fergie loved his life there, and was very upset when in 1932, his parents decided to return to the UK. They settled in Harrow, north London. He was fortunate to win a scholarship to Harrow County School, where he stayed until 1939, when he left school and joined Lloyds Bank. In 1942 he was called up and joined the RAF. Much to his joy, he was sent to the US, to Terrell, Texas, to learn to fly. In 1944 the trainees returned to the UK, and after the war he returned to Lloyds Bank. He married Pam, became the fond father of a daughter and son. He sadly lost Pam to cancer. Subsequently, he renewed the acquaintance of a former bank colleague, Lina, and they married in 1981. She already had a daughter, Helen. He was a keen golfer, had an enormous interest in athletics, and was a wine connoisseur. He always retained his enthusiasm for flying. The big daily event was to watch Concorde flying over at 5.20pm every day. He was a keen Rotarian, and very active in the village where he lived. He was reaching retirement age, when an old friend, who had been on No 6 BFTS, rang to say “his lot” were going to have a reunion, and he supplied the secretary’s name and number. A quick phone call, and he was on the committee, serving with Bert Allam, Ron Miller, Alan Bramson. He had returned to the fold, and to the joy of arranging the wonderful first reunion in London, and of course the return to Terrell in 1987. Eventually he became treasurer. As the years went by, the numbers of members became less and less, reunions smaller, and at last he had the unenviable and sad task of winding up the Association. He had a stroke in 2003, leading to years of ill health. He was 92 when he died, after a long life full of memories.

In Remembrance

Ted Abbott

b. 15 August 1924 d. 13 October, 2016

24 Course, No 1 BFT



Ted was born in Canterbury, England on 15th Aug 1924, the first child for his parents Henry and Margaret. A sister, Cecelia, joined the family a couple of years later, however she died during an operation aged 13, leaving Ted as the only child.

The Army stories and discipline put Ted off the Army, so with the outbreak of war, he managed to volunteer very early on for the RAF. He got out of school somehow for the interview, and folded the permission paper his parents had to sign carefully, so they were unaware of what it was! He received his service number, and was put on deferred service due to his age. Meanwhile the house where they lived received a bomb hit in the back garden, which did not directly injure anybody, however the blast forever changed his Father. They moved to the Lake District, where Ted got a job fitting difficult bits to Sunderlands and enrolled at No. 1264 Air Training Corps (Windermere) on 9th Sept 1942. From Dec 1943 to January 1944 Ted completed his air affiliation flying Tiger Moths, at 16 EFTS Abbots Bromley. He was moved around several airfields, with various roles of administration. His last base before leaving England was 5 months at Heaton Park.

6th Oct 1944, Ted woke early. After various events during the day, the next parade was at 6pm, followed by a Church Service. They marched to the Railway Station. The train arrived at Greenock at 6.30am, a cold misty morning. They handed in the Z cards, and were led to tenders, which took them along the river in the mist, to find a ship with four funnels, the Aquitania. Ted's notes give lots of detail, just to mention that memorable points were also meeting the returning injured American aircrew. The Aquitania arrived in Manhattan on 16th Oct, and they were transported by train to Moncton, arriving on 18th Oct. They received some initial lectures here, tests and injections, and were posted to the various BFTS' after that. Ted left Moncton on 11th Nov, arriving in Terrell on 14th Nov, 11:30am during heavy rain.

Ted was on 24 Course, and received primary training in Stearmans. Ted often flew from the Griffiths outfield, and his First Solo was on 29th Nov, 1944. After satisfactory training in the Stearman and Link trainer, Ted started his training in the Harvard on 27th Jan 1945, with the usual familiarization on a complex aircraft. Ted completed his intermediate and advanced training on 6th June 1945.

The welfare and hospitality was the thing he remembered most. He was befriended by local people, the Fulton family for Ted, and stayed in touch for many years after that. The cadets found themselves away from blackouts and rationing that existed in the UK, training from Mon-Fri, with weekends off, and being able to party and travel. Ted somehow made friends with some young ladies in Austin, and so he tried to visit them when he could. Ted left Terrell on 18th June, 1945, and returned on the Queen Mary to the UK. As the European War had ended, he did some jungle warfare training near Weston-super-Mare, then the Japanese war ended, and after time on various bases in England, was involved in occupation troops, Germany. He was discharged from the RAF in early April, 1947.

Following the RAF Ted began to retrain for the Dairy business, in which the family had been involved since the mid 1700's. He got a job working for Job's dairy in Hanworth, and attended night school to gain qualifications in Dairy Science. He rode a bicycle during these times and often rode from London to Canterbury, on roads with much less traffic!

Ted joined the family dairy located in Canterbury, after some years in London and Gravesend. He worked in the laboratory initially, keen to improve quality, which led him on many farm visits, and meeting staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He joined the Society of Dairy Technology, which had been formed during the war years, to learn more, and share experiences with other like minded people. Some years later, the SDT held annual conferences, which were a major event for the Industry in the 60's and 70's. Some short courses at Cheshire Agricultural College, Reaseheath, also expanded his training, and also formed a training link that other staff and his son Philip would also eventually follow.

At a hospital dance in the late 1950's. Ted met Peggy, and they were married on 4th June 1959. They have two sons, Philip, born in August 1960, and Andrew, born in December 1962. Throughout his life in Canterbury he also supported the service clubs of Roundtable, 41 Club, Lions and Rotary. He was a member of St. John Ambulance, and has a service medal for over 30 years, and was awarded Knight of St. John in recognition of his work and support. He was a member of his local church, being one of the sidesman for many years, and he was a steward at Canterbury Cathedral. After Philip moved to the depot in Nonington, he took an interest in that too, and joined them for many events.

Ted had much enjoyed the No. 1 BFTS Assoc., and did join a couple of the London Dinners in the early 1980's. The big step was the return to Texas in 1987. Mostly husbands and wives, however Peggy did not wish to go, so his son Philip joined Ted. Part of the booking form had been an option to stay with Terrell hosts after the reunion, and Ted's request was, tick that box, that was the best bit!! So, a gathering at the Church Hall led us to meet our hosts, Dewey and Henri Samuels. We stayed with them a few days. Ted missed the next reunion in 1991 due to a health concern, however in early 1992 we visited the Samuels, and Henri had her own personal version for us! That friendship has lasted ever since. Ted's last two visits to Terrell were in 2009 and 2010. 2010 was for the Museum weekend when the Hangar dance and Fly-in were both on the same weekend. Until shortly after his 90th birthday he had lived quite independently, and kept an eye on his family and friends. Following a second stroke in 2014, he then did need assistance with living, and choose to move to Littlebourne House Residential Home, who cared for such an independent person as best as anybody could! Ted's own summary of his involvement with the Dairy Industry was that he had been involved in some of the best years. He is survived by Philip & Cindy, Andrew, and his granddaughter, Katharine.

To the last his support for research went on, he wished for his body to be donated to medical research. With all the paperwork in place, the London Anatomy Office (LAO) were contacted immediately following his passing. Hence there will be no funeral. A service of Thanksgiving will be arranged for family, friends and many contacts to attend if they wish. The provisional date for this, Thursday 20th April, 2017, at 2pm in The Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. A tea is planned for afterwards at 3pm in The Study Centre.

In Remembrance

Thomas Round

b. 18 October, 1915 d. 2 October, 2016

10 Course, No 1 BFTS

Obituary courtesy www.telegraph.co.uk



Thomas Round, Gilbert and Sullivan performer – obituary

Thomas Round, who has died aged 100, was a tenor who began his singing career immediately after the war with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company; he was particularly noted for *Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes* from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, in which his own sparkling eyes set many a heart fluttering among female members of the audience.

He also spent six years with Sadler's Wells Opera, giving memorable accounts of comic roles such as Don Basilio in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*.

Thomas Beecham chose him to create the role of Nils, the tenor lead, in the belated world premiere of Delius's opera *Irmelin* at Oxford in 1953, after which the critic Eric Blom wrote: "Thomas Round as the hero was particularly good."

Two years later he starred opposite Heather Harper in *La traviata*, one of the first full-length operas to be shown on television, while in 1958 he played Danilo with June Bronhill in the first film production by a major British opera company of *The Merry Widow*.

On that occasion the *Musical Times* found him to be "dashingly stylish". Writing in *Gramophone* in 2008, the critic John Steane said that of all the Gilbert and Sullivan tenors, Round was "surely the best we've had".

Thomas Round was born at Barrow-in-Furness on October 18 1915. "I wouldn't say I came from a musical background, although all the family could sing," he once said. "My elder brother, my sister and I all sang in the local church in Barrow, my father was a good comic song singer, my mother had a sweet soprano voice, and my brother had a pleasant baritone."

He left school to become an apprentice joiner but meanwhile was taking part in local competitive music festivals. At Morecambe he took second in the tenor class, while at Lancaster he came away with first prize and 10 shillings.

He joined the police in Lancaster in 1936, where one of his first jobs was to stand guard at the house where Dr Buck Ruxton had killed his wife and housekeeper the previous year in what became one of the most notorious murder cases of the decade. Being in a reserved occupation he was exempt from military service, but he wanted to sign up with a friend. "I thought if he's going, I'm going," Round recalled.

The Navy rejected him – "I can't remember why" – and instead he joined the RAF, completing his training in Terrell, Texas. Soon he became a flight instructor for the US Air Force, while his performing career also began to take off at church. "I had my own plane so I would fly down 300 miles to San Antonio for an 11 am service. I would sing and then I would fly back home in the evening," he said.

A guest appearance in a college production in Dallas of *I Pagliacci* left him bitten by the opera bug. He was offered a place at a music school in New York, but turned it down to return to Britain in 1943.

He auditioned for the D'Oyly Carte while in uniform, becoming a member after his discharge in February 1946. At first he was understudy for the leading tenor parts, occasionally appearing as Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*. His first lead role was as Luiz in *The Gondoliers*. "I just pushed myself forward, as you do," he said.

After three years of Gilbert and Sullivan he was on the move. He recalled being in the office of his agent, Lew Grade. "They said they had booked me for a long summer season in Southsea. I said, 'Well, I don't want to do that, I've already auditioned for Sadler's Wells.'"

At the Wells he added leading roles to his comic repertoire, including Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Jeník in *The Bartered Bride* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*. Yet Gilbert and Sullivan was never far away. In 1953 he took part in the film *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan* before returning as a permanent member of the D'Oyly Carte in 1958 – the year he was in the Royal Variety Performance with Bruce Forsyth, Harry Secombe and the Beverley Sisters.

In Remembrance

Thomas Round, continued

He played Colonel Fairfax in *The Yeomen of the Guard* in the Festival of London production at the Tower of London in 1962 and was a member of the D'Oyly Carte's extensive tour of America that lasted from August until January 1963.

Round left the D'Oyly Carte for the final time in 1964, telling one interviewer: "For the first time in my career I am not under contract to anyone, and I find this quite exciting." He joined forces with his fellow singers Norman Meadmore and Donald Adams to form Gilbert and Sullivan for All, an ensemble that adapted Sullivan's orchestrations for smaller forces and took them around the world – including to the Hollywood Bowl. Round and Adams also toured *Tarantara! Tarantara!*, a musical about the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership.

He took up sailing at age 65 after his son, Ellis, bought a yacht and roped his father in as a crew member. Round Sr enjoyed it so much that after moving to the Lancashire coast in 1988 he continued to sail single-handedly on Windermere for another decade.

In 1996, aged 80, he celebrated 50 years as a professional singer with a three-day opera event in the Lake District at which Adams appeared. "People just won't let me retire!" he laughed. The following year he appeared as Box in *Cox and Box* in a Gilbert & Sullivan festival in Buxton.

He held honorary roles with many musical organisations, including until recently Lancaster and District Choral Society. His autobiography, *A Wand'ring Minstrel, I*, was published in 2002.

Round met his wife, Alice, in the choir of St Paul's mission church, in Barrow. They were married in 1938. She died in 2010 and he is survived by their son.

Sponsors

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President's Corner

Our 75th Anniversary year, 2016, has just about run its course and we are looking forward to 2017 being another great year. The Museum interior renovations are proceeding very well. The City of Terrell has offered to assist us with renovations to our restroom facilities which should begin soon after the first of the year. We anticipate a grand reopening in conjunction with our Hangar Dance on March 25th. In addition, we are looking into a guest speaker for that weekend. We would like to see you here.

As with any institution such as the No. 1 BFTS Museum, our fundraising efforts are nonstop and 2016 was no exception. As a result of our Donor support, we are able to begin the renovation project described above. Donations specifically for the continued upgrade of our displays and exhibits are needed and appreciated. We are adding a designated education area for young museum visitors. We are also adding a large meeting area that can be rented for special meetings and events by members of our community.

The Museum has extended our hours of operation to four days a week; Wednesday through Saturday. Open hours will remain 10:00am to 4:00pm. Accommodations for special tours may be made in advance for any day of the week by calling Mike Grout at 972-551-1122.

Rudy Bowling, President

2017 Calendar of Events

Hangar Dance & Dinner

March 25

In Commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the signing of the Lend-Lease Act and opening of the No. 1 British Flying Training School

6:00 – 9:30pm, at the Madix Hangar adjacent to the Museum

Entertainment coordinated by Tracy Jordan

Grand Re-Opening / Dedication of Museum

March 25

Dedication of Museum after extensive remodeling – Time to be announced

Mark Hardin Memorial 150 Air Race

May 27

Annual Sport Air Racing League 150 Air Race, held at the Terrell Municipal Airport

Memorial Day

May 29

In conjunction with the City of Terrell, the Museum will participate in a ceremony honoring all fallen military personnel, at the Veterans Memorial Park, Terrell

Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride

*** TBD**

Motorcycle riders from 5 nations have organized a joint ride to take place on the same day in remembrance of members of the Allied Forces, Past and Present, who have and will pay the ultimate price in the pursuit of Freedom and Security. The riders will meet at the museum, then ride down Moore Ave. to Oakland Cemetery for a memorial service.

Flights of Our Fathers

September 23, 24

Saturday - Air Show

Static and Dynamic Displays of Military Aircraft, Warbirds, Vintage and New Aircraft

Guest Speakers and Book Signings

Kids Zone

Museum Tours

Pancake Breakfast

BBQ Cook-off Food Court

Sunday – Memorial service at Oakland Cemetery, 3:00pm

Veterans / Remembrance Day

November 12

3:00 pm Memorial service at Oakland Cemetery, followed by tea at the Museum

The BFTS Link

Winter 2016

Membership Renewal

The Museum's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. For your convenience, you may pay by check (drawn on US bank) or by Pay Pal at www.bftsmuseum.org/donate.php

Annual membership dues:

Corporate	\$250.00
Family	\$50.00
Individual	\$35.00
Senior	\$25.00

Donation for aircraft acquisition/restoration fund _____

Donation for general Museum operations _____

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