



The BFTS Link

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Summer 2021

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Visit us at:
119 Silent Wings Blvd
Terrell, TX 75160
972.551.1122
www.bftsmuseum.org

Email:
info@bftsmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Open other times by ap-
pointment.

Holiday Closing
Monitor our website for up-
dated closing information.
www.bftsmuseum.org

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Your support is important to us. Please contact us to become a volunteer, patron or sponsor to support the legacy that lives on in Terrell.

FREE & THE BRAVE BLOWOUT!



Photos courtesy of Bill Huthmacher

Thanks to everyone who attended the Free and the Brave Blowout July 4th event! Local authorities canvassing the perimeter estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people saw the show. The No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum, in conjunction with the Terrell Chamber of Commerce, the City of Terrell and the Terrell Municipal Airport, hosted this first annual event.

The museum wishes to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success!

The program included tours of the museum, an amazing Hot Air Balloon Glow (sponsored by The Platinum Collection of auto dealers), food vendors, a live DJ, static aircraft displays, and various kids' activities. Plans for a bigger and better event are already in the works. Mark your calendars to attend next year's July 4th event in Terrell.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



A big THANKS to Terrell Brookshires for donating water for this event!

Mark your calendars for September 23rd so you don't forget to make a donation to the BFTS Museum during North Texas Giving Day. This online giving platform makes it easy for you to join other people in supporting your favorite area nonprofits. During the past three years, supporters like you have contributed more than \$12,500 to the museum through North Texas Giving Day! **THANK YOU!**

Check out information about the museum's needs at:
<https://www.northtexasgivingsay.org/No1BFTSmuseum>

GET READY TO GIVE!

9.23.21

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

—NTX—
GIVING DAY
presented by amazon

Donate to:





History Notes

DEFEATING THE U-BOATS

Of the many battles fought during World War Two one of the most important was the Battle of the Atlantic. German air and submarine units attempted to cut Britain's supply lines and the allies responded with a rigid convoy system protected by armed escorts.

The ferocity of the attacks on the convoys required a response with new weapons. Escort aircraft carriers carrying Grumman Wildcats and Avengers provided air cover in the middle of the North Atlantic. One weapon carried by the Avengers was developed under the code name "Mark 24 Mine". This was a sophisticated homing torpedo about seven feet long containing a 92-pound warhead. The acoustic device within the torpedo homed in on the enemy submarine's propeller noise, detonating when it struck the hull of the U-boat. The successful Mark 24 was in service from 1943 and sunk 68 U-boats.

Primary Source: The World At Arms

BFTS Museum Note: The Royal Navy also flew the Wildcat and the Avenger. Some BFTS cadets did transfer to the Royal Navy for that purpose. – George Cozens

Happy 96th Birthday!

The daughter of Victor Webdale, a former cadet of the No. 1 British Flying Training School, (course 24) contacted the museum to request a copy of "Terrell Tales" to be mailed to him in the UK in time for his 96th birthday. She said he loved it and had great memories of his time in Terrell.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The past two months have been remarkably busy for the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum. A substantial portion of our efforts were devoted to the Free and the Brave Blowout event held on the 4th of July. This successful event was conducted in conjunction with Terrell Chamber of Commerce and the City of Terrell here at the Terrell Municipal Airport. The crowd was large and the BFTS greatly appreciates the hard work and time donated by our great volunteers. They were vital to the success of this event.

As the new director, I look forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks and months. The BFTS will remain a vibrant institution devoted to the area and the unique history spawned by Terrell's role in World War II. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and the BFTS website for updates on upcoming events and programs. I know I speak for everyone involved with the museum when I say how excited we are about the Museum's future. Come by and visit the museum the next time you are nearby.

We look forward to seeing you.

--- Patrick Hotard

August 23, 2021 marks the 80th anniversary of the arrival of course number one of the No. 1 British Flying Training School in Terrell, Texas.

A little known chapter of World War II history was headquartered in Terrell, Texas. It began with the Lend Lease Act of 1941 when America agreed to train British pilots at six civilian-operated air schools in the United States. Thus, the No. 1 British Flying Training School (BFTS) in Terrell was born. Between 1941 and 1945 2,100 Royal Air Force (RAF) cadets, plus around 138 American cadets, trained in Terrell. Terrell welcomed the cadets during their six months of training.

Flight training in open cockpit Stearman PT-17s, and later in North American Aviation's AT-6s, was not for the faint of heart and, sadly, several plane crashes occurred. Twenty RAF cadets are interred in a special section of Terrell's Oakland Memorial Park alongside a monument with the inscription "some corner of a foreign field that is forever England." More than a few cadets returned to America to marry local girls and build their lives in the Dallas area.

Please join the BFTS Museum in honoring everyone involved with the creation of the No. 1 British Flying Training School in Terrell, Texas.



AIRCRAFT RESTORATION

Email to get involved! info@bftsmuseum.org

The Museum is in the process of restoring two aircraft: "Miss Pauline", an AT-6 that is nearing completion and a British Provost jet. The Board of Directors want to thank everyone who has contributed time and labor towards the restoration of these historic aircraft.

There is still much to be done, and we are gearing up for the next phase of this project. To become a part of this team email us at info@bftsmuseum.org.

For information on museum activities and other events, follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/No1BFTS

or monitor the website at: www.bftsmuseum.org.



Did you know? Pilots can fly in to see the museum. ...Just taxi to the back door.

Occasionally the museum gets calls from pilots who want to fly in to see the museum. Gerard Arpey (*pictured right*) from Colleyville, TX learned of the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum from PBS and Tom Killebrew's book "The Royal Air Force in Texas".

When his good friend Mark Dunkerley, (originally from Rothbury, Northumberland, UK) visited Dallas on business from Washington DC., they decided to take a daytrip to Terrell to tour the museum. Mark was surprised when he recognized the photo of Sir Hugh Dowden who attended the same school.

Recently, Joe Reeves (*pictured right*) flew in from Allen, Texas to tour the museum. He taxied right up to the back door. Joe said he truly enjoyed the museum and will be sure to tell his friends what a great place it is. Volunteer George Cozens answered his questions and shared information about the exhibits. At right is a picture of Mr. Reeves' plane preparing to take off.



Recent Group Visitors

The No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum frequently receives requests for group tours, group meetings and public speaking engagements. Below is a sample of some group tours.

In May, 25 members and guests of the ***Kings Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution*** held their May 15 meeting at the BFTS Museum. BFTS Board Chair Bill Huthmacher was the guest speaker and he shared the history of the cadets and museum. The ladies of the DAR support the Remembrance Day ceremony each year and some of them volunteer at the museum.

Recently, the Museum welcomed 24 members of the ***Dallas Fort Worth Area Tour Guide Association, Inc.*** on a Mystery Tour to Terrell. Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher welcomed the group and began the tour with his introduction of the history of the school. Staff and volunteer docents Beverly Mardis, George Cozens, Peter Taylor, Gerrie Huthmacher, and board member Raenell Davis were stationed throughout the museum to answer questions. Terrell Chamber of Commerce staffers Talana Morris and Angie Cooper met the tour at the museum and escorted them around town.

Homeschool groups often pop in or schedule a tour of the museum. The Taylor family of 6 (*pictured to the right*) visited in May and all the kids had a great time with the "Around the Museum Tour Adventure" Game Quiz. They scanned the exhibits for answers and learned a lot about the BFTS and World War II.

Volunteer and longtime museum supporter Doug Middleton scheduled his **church youth group** of 8 boys and escorting adults from the Kaufman ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for a career night tour of the museum and the airport. Doug has brought several groups of Scouts to the museum in the past and he knew how much the young men would enjoy it. Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher gave a guided tour and answered questions.

Kings Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution



Dallas/Ft. Worth Area Tour Guide Association Inc.



If your organization would like to plan a meeting, speaking engagement, or group tour at the museum contact info@bftsmuseum.org.



The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers wish to extend a very special thank you for the following grants:

Summerlee Foundation: Archival Supplies

Paul Finnegan: STEAM Education Center

The Board of Directors and Staff want to thank all sponsors, volunteers, patrons, and donors (both local and around the world) for your continued support.

Thank You!

In-kind support provided by:



And... Our Partner...



The museum is also supported by history-loving people such as you. This museum needs your continued support to make sure this very important part of American, Texas, and British History continues to be told for generations to come.

New Exhibit Donated

Mr. Jerry Burpee visited the Museum in the fall of 2019 and asked if we would be interested in the donation of a 1/3 scale R/C Boeing Stearman PT-17 model aircraft (pictured below). The PT-17 was the primary trainer used in Terrell at the No.1 BFTS during WW II.

Plans for the transfer of the model to the museum were delayed by the Covid pandemic. However, Mr. Burpee was able to make progress in preparing the model for transport early in 2021. On May 1st the model was delivered and re-assembled at the BFTS and it is currently displayed in Gallery One of the museum. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Burpee for this wonderful gift.
- Rudy Bowling



Link Trainer Donated

The museum received a generous donation of a 1960's version General Aviation Trainer (GAT-1) from Austin resident Mason Hickman. The trainer was his father's personal trainer from his days as a pilot. When his father could no longer live at home, Mr. Hickman contacted the museum and inquired about donating the Link Trainer.

Museum board members Bill Huthmacher Chairman, Mike Seiman, and Chris Hamilton obtained a truck and headed for Denton, where it was stored. Upon arrival, they discovered a second, older Link Trainer (not in working condition) was included in the donation.



Join Us to Honor the Fallen

Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride September 18, 2021



The Texas Allied Riders in association with the American Legion Riders, supported by The No.1 BFTS Museum, are proud to announce Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride here in Texas.

The ride will take place on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

All bikers from across the United States are invited to attend the Thirteenth Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride. With rides taking place in the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, France, New Zealand, Italy, India, and the Netherlands creating one ride worldwide, its riders are UNITED in remembrance of our fallen heroes from the Allied Forces, past and present, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Here in Texas there will be a ride starting from the West Side of Fort Worth, in Benbrook, Texas, at New River Fellowship, 930 Winscott Rd., Benbrook, 76126. Benbrook was the location of a World War I Allied training airfield. Planned stops and meets are in Dallas at the T/A Truck Stop on I-20 and Bonnie View Road, and another stop at the Tanger Outlet Mall located at the junction of I-20 and Hwy 34. Riders then proceed to the No.1 BFTS Museum, where the British and American Cadets learned to fly in WW II. Riders from East Texas will join at the BFTS for a mass ride to the Oakland Cemetery on Hwy 80 to honor the cadets killed in training accidents. The ride from the BFTS to the Oakland Cemetery will be escorted by the Terrell Police.

For information and time details see their Facebook page at: [facebook.com/Allied-Riders-of-Texas](https://www.facebook.com/Allied-Riders-of-Texas)

Source: <https://alliedride.org/texas-home>

Remembrance Day Memorial

The Remembrance Day Memorial is held locally on the second Sunday in November with a ceremony at the Oakland Cemetery to honor the twenty cadets killed in accidents in Terrell. This ceremony is followed by a tea reception at the Museum.



Oklahoma Crash Site Memorial

In late February each year, there is a memorial ceremony held at an airplane crash site in the Kiamichi Mountains in Oklahoma. This ceremony is to honor the four RAF cadets who lost their lives in a training flight crash in 1943.

Representatives of the RAF, the Antlers Oklahoma VFW post, the No. 1 British Flying Training School and guests lay wreaths and flowers at the crash site. Following the ceremony there is normally a reception at the VFW Hall that includes a flag presentation by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

These young cadets were on a cross-country training flight from the No. 1 BFTS in Terrell, TX when they ran into bad weather and three planes crashed, resulting in four fatalities. Students in the area in the late 1990's researched the history of the crashes and raised funds for the memorial. Local residents maintain the site and organize the annual ceremony.



Upcoming Events

Monitor the website at www.bftsmuseum.org and follow our Facebook page at :

www.facebook.com/No1BFTS for event schedule updates and changes.

**September 18, 2021-
Allied Memorial
Remembrance Ride**

**September 23, 2021-
North Texas Giving Day**

**September 30, 2021-
Screening of documentary
Bombing of Germany**

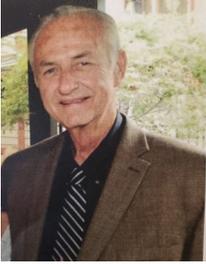
**October 28, 2021-
Presentation:
Introduction to learning
about World War II**

**November 7, 2021-
Remembrance Day
Ceremony**

**December 12, 2021-
Terrell Parade**



Robert James "Jim" Evans - 1945-2020



Jim Evans was a veteran of the Marine Corps and owner of a construction business in Rockwall County.

Mr. Evans was a dedicated supporter of the BFTS Museum and spent countless hours working on behalf of the museum and its many projects. He played an instrumental role in the acquisition of the

AT-6 Texan and Percival Provost aircraft. He was one of the driving forces behind the ongoing restoration of the AT-6 to static display condition. The infantry weapons exhibit at the BFTS is from his personal collection and has proven popular with the museum patrons. Our thanks to his family for continuing this display at the BFTS.

Mr. Evans' knowledge, drive and dedication was a key part of the growth witnessed by the BFTS museum over the past decade. He served as a member of the BFTS Board of Directors from 2009 until his passing in late 2020.

Our thanks to everyone who made memorial donations to the museum in Jim Evans' name.

Mike Grout - June 17, 2021



We lost a good friend this June.

Mike Grout served on the board of directors, and as Curator and Head Docent of the Museum for twelve

years. He was wonderful with people, and had a passion for flying and military history that he brought to his work.

Mike served in the Army from 1968-1971 in Vietnam, and was active reserve until 1974. After his time in the military, he had a long career with Gulfstream, where he traveled the world. He found his place at the Museum after he and his wife Kathie moved to Terrell. Mike had friends and contacts everywhere, and because of this, he was able to contribute significantly to the Fly-In and Airshow events. Mike had a way of understanding what visitors were looking for when they came to the Museum, knowing whether they wanted to learn about our place in history, or talk about their own experiences. For myself, he was a wonderful teacher and mentor. I am proud to have known and worked with him, and will always remember his smile and his sense of humor. (by Beverly Mardis, volunteer)

Our thanks to everyone for memorial donations made to the museum in Mike Grout's name.

Jim Irving, former BFTS cadet- 1924-2021



It is with great sadness that I have to let you know that Jim passed away at 2:00pm on Tuesday 30th March 2021 aged 97. He died peacefully.

Jim had been struggling with deteriorating sight and hearing over the past few years and was moved to the dementia unit of the care home after the passing of his wife Barbara last year. He had a long and enjoyable life and will be greatly missed. He often recounted stories of his time training in Terrell, and his subsequent experiences in the RAF and has shared many photographs.

We are all sad at the moment but have lots of lovely memories. (by David Irving)

Flt. Lt. Robert F. Reynolds - 1920-2021



Bob Reynolds was one of the first veterans to share his WWII experiences at the No.1 BFTS Museum series of events known as "Conversation with..." . His accounts of *Surviving an Emergency Landing in France* and *Flying the Russian Corridor* attracted crowds to the museum.

Born in the jungles of Burma after WWI, Bob Reynolds grew up in London. He flew Lancasters for the RAF during WWII and participated in the night bombing raids over Berlin. Bob was the first allied pilot to fly the Russian corridor immediately after the surrender.

Although Bob Reynolds was not a BFTS cadet, he donated many items to the Museum. The Museum is very grateful to Bob for his participation and contributions. He will be greatly missed.

Our thanks to everyone who made memorial donations to the museum in Robert Reynolds' name.

Fiske Hanley II - 1920-2020



Fiske Hanley, a World War II veteran and former Japanese prisoner of war, has died at age 100.

Hanley's B-29 was shot down over Japan, and he was captured and brutally treated in the Japanese

prison camp made famous by the movie *Unbroken*. Hanley and his copilot were captured during his seventeenth mission. The two jumped out of their burning plane, only to be captured after parachuting into a rice paddy. Hanley, already wounded by gunshots and plane shrapnel, was tortured for five months while he was held in a dungeon in Tokyo.

B-29 prisoners were classified as war criminals and treated more harshly than other prisoners, so Hanley was given a small daily food ration of rice and deprived of medical attention. Hanley said his weight dropped from 165 pounds to about 80 pounds, and he faced imminent death on 14 different occasions, including a firing squad. He credited his survival to his faith and his body's ability to heal his infected wounds. Hanley was freed more than five months after his capture when Japan's emperor surrendered and the fighting stopped.

He wrote two books about his accounts of World War II, and he had planned return to Japan for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Source: www.nbcdfw.com By [Hannah Jones](#)

The BFTS Link

Summer 2021

Yes, I want to support the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum!

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_____ STEAM-Winder Patron (\$5,000)

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I will send the Museum the matching form.

_____ Contact me about volunteer opportunities.



**GREETINGS FROM
NO. 1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING
SCHOOL MUSEUM**

PO BOX 219

TERRELL, TX 75160

This newsletter is also available on our website
Visit us at ww.bftsmuseum.org/news