



The BFTS Link

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
appointment.

Holiday Closings:
Monitor our website for
updated closing
information.
www.bftsmuseum.org

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Consul General Attends Brit Bash

Visitors to Terrell's second annual Brit Bash on Nov. 11 enjoyed the museum's informational booth and beer tent which featured popular British beers Old Speckled Hen and Sam Smith's Oatmeal Stout. A variety of food and merchandise vendors lined the streets of downtown Terrell where a separate area was devoted to a children's market.



We were honored to have His Majesty's Consul General Richard Hyde visit from Houston to make remarks during the opening formalities and wield the huge scissors during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Mayor Rick Carmona and BFTS Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher.



2024 Solar Eclipse at the BFTS Museum

Make sure and check our website for future updates about the museum's plans for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. Terrell is in the Path of Totality of the eclipse and we will be having extended hours and a special presentation on April 8th.

For special RV parking for the weekend of the eclipse check out terrelleclipservparking.com for rental of an RV camping space at the Terrell Airport or Ben Gill Park.



Remembrance Day 2023

The museum's annual Remembrance Day on Nov. 12 drew more than 100 participants to the Oakland Memorial Park ceremony.

We were honored to have the Canadian Consul General Susan Harper from Dallas as a special guest. Mayor Rick Carmona read a proclamation from the City recounting the school's history and the reason for the ceremony. RAF Squadron Leader Guy Harvey and representatives from his unit placed a wreath of poppies at the foot of the memorial marker, dedicated to the 20 cadets who died during their flight training between 1941 and 1945. The Reverend Ian G. Hyde offered prayers and a brief homily. Aerobatic pilot Carl Guest joined Mike Hardin in a flyover of the ceremony.



After the ceremony concluded, visitors came to the museum for tea. Thanks to many generous donations of goodies, the refreshment table was well stocked.



Above (left to right): Bill Huthmacher, Mayor Rick Carmona, Consul General Susan Harper, and RAF Squadron Leader Guy Harvey at 2024 Remembrance Day.



Above are several ladies from the North Dallas Area Women's Club. BFTS Director Patrick Hotard was honored to speak at their November meeting at the Glen Eagles Country Club. Over 50 attendees listened to the presentation about the BFTS Museum and its ongoing programs and projects.

NOTICE

If you would prefer to receive your BFTS Link Newsletter by email please send an email to info@BFTSMuseum.org.



Above: On Oct. 5th Prof. James Sandy spoke about the famous World War II U. S. Army unit called Merrill's Marauders. The unit fought in the China-Burma-India Theatre during the war. Fifteen patrons attended this free educational program.



Left: Rachel Crumpler visited the BFTS on October 21, 2023. She is the daughter of former cadet E. G. (Ted) Bacon (Course 4). Cadet Bacon went on to fly Spitfires during the war and later went into the business of glass fiber manufacturing. Rachel is from Datchet in England and was in the USA on business. She was excited to see the site of her father's wartime training.

Right: On October 12, 2023 Christopher Redman of Stalbridge (Dorset), England visited the BFTS Museum. Mr. Redman was visiting family in the Ft. Worth area and made it a point to check out the museum. He noted that he once owned a Velocette motorbike similar to the one on display in Gallery Three of the museum.



Left: Pictured is Roy Keenan of St. Helen's (near Liverpool) England. Roy visited the BFTS Museum in on September 28, 2023 with a friend from Ft. Worth. Mr. Keenan was on holiday in the USA and this was his first visit to the museum.

Right: Members of the Postmark Collectors Club touring the BFTS Museum. In late September this association of hobbyists held their national conference in Terrell. A group of twelve members visited the museum and participated in a group tour.



Left: Members of the New Covenant Presbyterian Church from Dallas toured the BFTS Museum this fall. The group of eleven church members visited on October 4, 2023. The congregants were kind enough to pose for a group picture by our 1/3 scale model Stearman aircraft. The Stearman, located in Gallery One, is a popular backdrop for individual and group pictures.

Board Chairman Visits Surviving Cadets in Great Britain



Above: Cadet Brian Latham, center, with Gerri and Bill Huthmacher

Three former BFTS cadets, all at or nearing 100 years old, recalled their time in Terrell during visits with BFTS Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher and his wife, Gerrie, who visited England for three weeks this past summer. Almost two hours of video was made of each which, after editing, will be available on the museum's website. Each former cadet received a collection of information from the museum and a personalized Proclamation from Terrell Mayor Rick Carmona.

"When we left in late July, we believed these were the last cadets still alive though we've since learned that Cadet Ken Lush (course 17) lives in Mid Wales and doing quite well at 100 years old," Bill explained. "Gerrie and I were excited to find all three former cadets in good health, especially considering their age. Each of them was alert, happy to talk about their time in Terrell and shared stories with us that even their family members hadn't heard!"

"We expected to have short visits with each cadet," he continued, "but that was not the case as our conversations lasted several hours. Some of our visits included tours of the city where they lived. These videos are going to become part of the story being told at the BFTS Museum and will be added to both the BFTS Museum archives and to those in the RAF Museum in the United Kingdom."

Len Miller, a resident of Hailsham, graduated from Course 27 just as the war was ending. He later served in Iraq, leaving the RAF in 1948. He spent a 37 year career with Barclays Bank, retiring as a senior executive in 1985. His son, Ian Foulkes who had a 20 year career in military intelligence,

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Twenty Years at 119 Silent Wings Boulevard



Left: Mayor Rick Carmona cuts the celebratory cake marking twenty years of the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings Boulevard in Terrell. Our thanks to the mayor and City of Terrell for their ongoing support of our museum and its educational programs.

Right: Chairman Bill Huthmacher presents video clips from his recent interviews with living No. 1 BFTS cadets. These interviews were conducted during Huthmacher's trip to Great Britain last summer.



Trip to Britain Continued...



(continued from page 4) came to the US shortly after Bill's visit. "Lies, Spies and Tinfoil" was the title of his September talk at the museum in Terrell.

Course 19 graduate Brian Latham, a resident of North Wales, recalled with great affection his Terrell "mum and pop" – the Cowans who lived on North Rockwall Street – who taught him to drive (against all school rules!). He spent his off duty time traveling, hitchhiking to Los Angeles and the Grand Canyon. He finished his flying career during the Korean War in the Coastal Command.

W. H. "Bill" Olsen (pictured at left) of York was a member of one of the last classes to complete training before the war ended in 1945. He left the RAF for a few years but rejoined in 1948 for a 54 year career as a fighter pilot and weapons officer with various postings in the United Kingdom, Germany and Cyprus. Bill recalled being one of the cadets who was chastised for buzzing the Pegasus statue atop the Mobil Oil Building in downtown Dallas as well his Dallas girlfriend's home. At 98 years old, he still remembered her name and address on Marsalis in Dallas!

The Huthmachers also visited Leeds, the home of the only BFTS cadet to win Britain's highest military honor, the Victoria Cross. Course 6 graduate Arthur Aaron, though gravely wounded, managed to fly his badly damaged Stirling bomber to a base in Africa from a bombing run over Turin, Italy, thereby saving his crew and aircraft. He died a few hours after landing. The Huthmachers met with the Lord Mayor of Leeds and viewed the sculpture in Aaron's honor in a roundabout in the city as well as the Leeds Museum where all of his combat medals are displayed.

During their trip, the couple visited the 95th Bomb Group Museum where Bill's dad served with a B-17 squadron during WWII, RAF museums in London and the Midlands and the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. US-based RAF Squadron Leader and BFTS board member Guy Harvey arranged a special visit for Bill and Gerrie. His friend, Mark Sugden, took time out from his vacation (holiday) to give them a personalized, "behind the scenes tour" of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Director of the RAF Museum in London, Maggie Appleton, also met with them after Bill spent time at the Imperial War Museum Research Room.



Cadet Len Miller

"If they can, the cadets would like to have a reunion next year", Bill added. "If they do, we hope the RAF Museums will send a film crew to record them, as Gerrie and I know there will be even more interesting stories told and, possibly, more shenanigans revealed!"

Son of BFTS Cadet Makes Presentation About Allied Deception



Ian Foulkes (left), son of Len Miller (a surviving BFTS cadet), gave a presentation in Terrell while on a trip to the USA in August. The presentation discussed Operation Fortitude, the Allied plan to deceive the German Army about the timing and location of D-Day.



Above: Ian Foulkes presentation attracted a crowd of over 25 interested attendees at the Airport Terminal.

National Stearman Fly-In



Above: BFTS Executive Director Patrick Hotard was a special guest at the annual Stearman Fly-In Sept. 4-9th in Galesburg, IL. At the group's Friday night banquet, he told the group of about 100 Stearman aircraft owners and family members about the museum. He also circulated copies of the museum's newsletter which reported the museum's recent acquisition of a Stearman that had been flown by Royal Air Force student pilots during their training in 1942-43. BFTS board member Chris Hamilton and Patrick's wife Donna also attended the event to help man the information booth promoting the museum, its programs and the Stearman project.

The week-long annual gathering attracted visitors from 20 states and Canada. Activities include aerobatic demonstrations; fly-ins over holiday parades in nearby communities; speeches from FAA personnel and other dignitaries; short field take-offs, flour bombings and spot landing competitions; and examples of formation flying. An awards banquet concluded the events on Saturday night.

Exhibit in Gallery Three



A new mini-exhibit (image above) is now on display in Gallery Three of the No. 1 BFTS Museum. The display documents the career of BFTS Cadet Jeffery Gerald Heard, thanks to the generosity of his daughter, Jenny Covey of Litchfield, Staffordshire, Great Britain. The exhibit, which was curated by volunteer George Cozens, will be on display through April 2024.

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](#).

1-18-2024

Educational Program

7 PM

Topic/Speaker: TBD

2-10-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)

9:00 - 10:30 AM

2-29-2024

Educational Program

7 PM

Speaker: Susan Lanning, Audie Murphy Museum

Topic: Audie Murphy, American Hero

3-9-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)

9:00 - 10:30 AM

3-21-2024

Educational Program

7 PM

Presentation via Zoom Broadcast!

Speaker: Prof. Katherine Landdeck

Topic: WASP Pilots of WW II

4 - 7 & 8 - 2024

Solar Eclipse

Extended museum hours; special presentation on day of the eclipse; check the BFTS website for updates, etc.

4-13-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)

9:00 - 10:30 AM

4-18-2024

Educational Program

7 PM

Topic/Speaker: TBD

All events, unless otherwise stated, will be held at the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings Blvd in Terrell, Texas.

Monte Carlo Night Full House



Monte Carlo Casino Night was great fun September 16th when supporters, “dressed to impress”, gathered to have a good time while raising funds for the museum. The gaming tables were busy all evening as guests enjoyed liquid refreshments and a sumptuous buffet.

A few lucky souls won the door prizes that included a Traeger smoker, Henry lever-action rifle, golf and boating outings, gun ranch membership, British liquors and dinner with the author of the novel *Girls of Flight City*.

Special thanks to sponsors: JS Helwig & Son, LLC; Film Alley Terrell, A Schulman Theater; U-Rent-It; Aircraft Ducting Repair; and Legacy Ag Credit for their support of the museum.

Watch for the announcement of Monte Carlo night in 2024 and join the fun.



North American (Vought) Plant Subject of *Conversations With...*

Terrance Furgerson (right), an adjunct professor at Collin County Community College, was the presenter at the fall 2023 *Conversations With...* fundraiser held at the BFTS Museum. The recently published author discussed his new book on the North American Aviation plant in south Dallas (known as the Vought Plant to post-war DFW residents). The plant proved vital to America’s war effort from 1941 to 1945. Board member Carl Best attended by flying to Terrell in his Texas built T-6 Texan!

During the war, North American Aviation’s Dallas plant produced over 18,700 aircraft, one of the most prolific manufacturing plants in the country. Local workers built the T-6 Texan trainers flown by BFTS cadets, the P-51 fighter and the B-25 bomber.



The BETS Link

WINTER 2024

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**NO.1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM
GREETINGS FROM TERRELL, TX**

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

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