

BRITISH INVADE TEXAS!

...was one newspaper's headline in 1941 when it was announced that British Royal Air Force cadets were coming to Terrell to learn to fly. "British pilots will be trained in Terrell, Texas?" asked one local resident, "not in little, bitty Terrell!"

But it WAS true and the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum in Terrell tells that unique story. Terrell residents came to love these 2,000+ young men (plus, later, a few American trainees) and adopted them into their homes and hearts. After learning to fly in the wide, open spaces of Texas, British pilots returned home to defend their country, helping return democracy to Europe.

Terrell's was the first and largest of six, civilian flight schools and is the only location in the United States that tells this unusual story. Visitors will find military equipment, uniforms, WWII aircraft, maps, flight logbooks, photos, flight simulators and an old-fashioned soda fountain from the cadets' favorite hangout. It's a step back in time to a less complicated age.



THE BEST KEPT SECRET...

In 1941 Britain's democracy was standing alone after the Nazis conquered the rest of Europe. Desperate to save his country from Hitler's hordes, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill turned to America and asked for help to train pilots. Royal Air Force cadets learned to fly in Terrell, then returned home to defend their country and help free all of Europe from Hitler's grasp.

Skeptical people of this (then, tiny) farming community quickly warmed to the brave young men and took them into their churches, homes and hearts. Families even used their rationed gasoline, tires and food stamps to make the homesick youngsters feel welcomed with picnics, dances and events. They tended the graves of the 20 students who died during training and wrote loving letters to their families. Generational family relationships continued to the present time and a number of cadets returned to marry Texas girls. One of the founders of the museum, a former cadet, became a citizen and was elected Terrell's mayor!

In appreciation to the community's welcome, after the war ended, the cadets returned frequently for reunions. As age and distance began to take their toll, cadet families joined local citizens in establishing the museum.

**GET A TASTE OF LIFE DURING WWII- VISIT TERRELL
NO. 1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM
119 Silent Wings Blvd, Terrell, TX 75160**

**OPEN WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 10AM-4PM OR by Appointment
ADMISSION IS FREE**

Phone: (972) 551-1122

Website: www.bftsmuseum.org

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