

LEST WE FORGET

By Don "DB" McGovern, TRT Sales/Correspondent

On June 30, 2012 Bikers from across the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada participated in the fourth Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride creating one ride in three nations. All riders were united in remembrance of our fallen heroes from the allied forces when fighting for our freedoms overseas and not returning home.

School (BFTS) in the British Museum at the Terrell Airport. The BFTS Terrell was the largest Training base out of six here in the United States. Over 2,000 pilots were trained here from the United Kingdom and the United States; unfortunately, through training accidents, 20 airmen, R.A.F. Cadets, did not make it home. A brief museum tour was led by our gracious hosts, Mike Grout and Becky Sullivan.

Then, under escort from the Terrell Police, a mass ride proceeded the short distance to Oakland Memorial Park Cemetery. Playing bagpipe, Terrell's Mike Ecklund led the riders on a foot parade to the RAF Memorial site. George "Tank" Sherman (AMRR /Texas Organizer) a member of American Legion Riders of Post 297 in Benbrook, Texas provided opening comments and narrated the history of the memorial ride.

Mark Hardin provided us with an authentic training plane flyover. Tank was followed by a memorial prayer and poem from John "Padre" Retos, Chaplain for the 12th District ALR and for Post 297. Dale Sherman played "Last Post" on the bugle (British version of Taps.) The Marine Corps League of Terrell offered their color guard, which flew all three flags of the countries involved, and provided a traditional three-volley, M14 salute. Farewells were said with handshakes and hugs with pledges made to fellow riders to return for next year's memorial ride. We rode with pride, rode with respect, and rode to remember.

Wait... we're not done with this story. As a special treat from Tank and Debbie, DB joined Benbrook's Chula Chasers as a guest at the Sherman wedding following the memorial. This was not to be a traditional wedding but a full blown "biker wedding."

Hosted at the Holiday Inn Express of Terrell the manager, Kelly, coned off the entire rear parking lot for the celebration. As the Bride readied in the wedding suite, her three-wheeled chariot waited at the entrance to the Inn. Meanwhile the bridal couple's new Ultraglide took its' rightful

place as the altar under a festive canopy. The smoker was a smokin' and the Cotton Hill Band did some final tuning to their axes. The aisle was now lined by "Thundering" bikes racking their pipes in anticipation of the bride.

"Tank" assumed a calm bravado awaiting his "Chula" for life. And there she was, beaming with radiance as she climbed down from her chariot with her escorts in waiting. Bikes shut down in pairs as the bride approached the altar and a wonderful ceremony was followed. Amidst hugs and backslapping from family and friends, the newlyweds climbed aboard their "ultra" for their first escorted ride as Mr. and Mrs. Sherman; the party then commenced in earnest.

So congratulations to Tank and Debbie and thanks to "Roundman," and so many more of the Chula Chasers, for their hospitality and generosity shared with DB and Thunder Roads Texas.



Thunder Roads Texas Magazine attended the Texas ride with riders from Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano and Tyler. Riders represented numerous American Legion Posts, Patriot Guard Chapters, Combat Veterans Association Chapters, motorcycle clubs/groups and many individual veteran riders. All riders convened at the #1 British Flight Training

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