

[Ebook pdf] The Royal Air Force in American Skies: The Seven British Flight Schools in the United States during World War II

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Tom Killebrew

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Tom Killebrew : The Royal Air Force in American Skies: The Seven British Flight Schools in the United States during World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Royal Air Force in American Skies: The Seven British Flight Schools in the United States during World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent account of the seven British Flying Training Schools

here ...By Aircraft NutAn excellent account of the seven British Flying Training Schools here in the US. The RAF cadets felt better trained than their counterparts who received training else where. Interesting to find that it was the RAF who dropped the BT-13 from the training syllabus and the USAAF / USN soon followed suit.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Training British Pilots in TexasBy Albert A. NofiA summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com'Aviation historian Killebrew gives us a look at an interesting chapter in the Anglo-American relationship during World War II, the RAF's flight training program in the United States. The RAF had a small flight training program in the U.S. during World War I, and was already training pilots in Canada when, in 1941, as part of Lend Lease, the U.S. offered to allow the opening of flight schools. Staffed mostly by American civilian flight training personnel working under RAF supervision, using American aircraft but British training procedures, some thousands of young men trained in the United States. Killebrew tells this story well, touching not only upon the political, technical, and organizational aspects of the program, and also about how the trainees interacted with and generally became friendly with their American hosts, civilian as well as military. He also offers brief profiles of the wartime careers and postwar lives of some of the trainees. A good read for anyone interested in the history of the RAF, this book will be of particular value to students of aviation training programs of Lend Lease.'For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

By early 1941, Great Britain stood alone against the aerial might of Nazi Germany and was in need of pilots. The Lend-Lease Act allowed for the training of British pilots in the United States and the formation of British Flying Training Schools. These unique schools were owned by American operators, staffed with American civilian instructors, supervised by British Royal Air Force officers, utilized aircraft supplied by the US Army Air Corps, and used the RAF training syllabus. Tom Killebrew provides the first comprehensive history of all seven British Flying Training Schools located in Terrell, Texas; Lancaster, California; Miami, Oklahoma; Mesa, Arizona; Clewiston, Florida; Ponca City, Oklahoma; and Sweetwater, Texas. The British students attended classes and mastered the elements of flight day and night. Some students flushed out, while others were killed during training mishaps and are buried in local cemeteries. Those who finished the course became Royal Air Force pilots. These young British students would also forge a strong and long-lasting bond of friendship with the Americans.

“Killebrew provides accurate and carefully researched accounts of historical events, persons, decisions, military actions, and wartime activities. His approach shows steady and controlled understanding of the breadth, complexity, and importance of the subject.”—Tod Roberts, editor of *RAF Wings over Florida: Memories of World War II British Air Cadets* “This will be a valuable contribution to the historiography of WWII aviation training.”—Stephen Craft, *Embry-Riddle at War: Aviation Training during World War II* “Tom Killebrew, through years of relentless dedication and diligence in researching the background, inception, birth, and death of one of the virtually least known but critically important pieces of American World War II history, deserves praise for his latest book, *The Royal Air Force in American Skies*. The tome is a well-organized and comprehensive, documented look at the vast number of reasons that ultimately brought about the arrival of Royal Air Force pilot trainees to the United States where they later trained side-by-side with their American counterparts, before returning to their homeland to defend their beloved country. It is full of first-hand recollections of the young Brits, their various phases of training, their camaraderie, friendships, losses and what we like to call ‘the rest of the story.’ The book is a catalyst which will stir the emotions of both young and old who carry a sense of patriotic pride, no matter the country of their birth.”—Paula Carmack Denson, author of *The Royal Air Force in Oklahoma*