When war broke out in Europe in 1914, the new technology of aviation was considered primarily for its use in reconnaissance. This role was traditionally taken on by cavalry mounted on horses, but the early days of conflict demonstrated that equine-equipped units were woefully obsolete. Cavalry officers on both sides were transferred to other duties in increasing numbers – including a young German lieutenant named Manfred von Richthofen. Eager to serve his country, von Richthofen soon chafed at being relegated to rear-area supply details.

Elsewhere in Germany, the concept of a dedicated fighting aircraft took shape. Anthony Fokker, a Dutchman who had emigrated to Germany in 1912, developed an agile, single-seat airplane with a synchronized machine gun system able to fire through the arc of the airplane’s propeller. Fokker Eindeckers became the first true fighters, with pilots focused solely on the mission of destroying enemy aircraft in flight.

“Fokker Eindeckers became the first true fighters”

One of the first dedicated fighter squadrons formed was Jagdstaffel (fighter squadron, or Jasta) 2. Its original commanding officer, Oswald Boelcke, was a skilled pilot and shrewd tactician, and was the first military aviator to develop a set of rules for successful aerial combat. He also proved to be apt at identifying talented recruits for his squadron. On a train ride in 1915, Boelcke first met von Richthofen, whose frustration with his cavalry duties had led him to a position as an observer in Germany’s fledgling air service. The following summer Boelcke invited von Richthofen to join his squadron.

In the months that followed von Richthofen flew for Jasta 2, gradually improving his skills and acquiring more aerial victories. In early 1917 he was recognized with the Pour le Merite (“for merit”), known to German aviators as The Blue Max since its award to pathfinding ace Max Immelmann. Von Richthofen was also transferred from Jasta 2 and given command of his own squadron, one that would in time become equally famous.
As squadron commander von Richthofen began a tradition of having his aircraft (at that time, a biplane Albatros fighter) painted bright red. Von Richthofen held the title of Freiherr, a noble rank often translated as “Baron,” though barons did not exist in Germany. As his stature grew alongside his list of aerial victories, von Richthofen came to be known as The Red Baron as consequence of both his title and his preferred aircraft color – though in his home country, he was more often referred to as The Red Fighter Pilot.

“The War-torn skies of the Western Front were dangerous, even to von Richthofen.”

Other pilots in von Richthofen’s Jasta 11 squadron took to painting their aircraft in bright colors as well, in part to distract attention from their commander and in part as an early form of squadron identification. Operating from tents at improvised fields near the front and flying brightly-colored machines, Jasta 11 came to be known as the “Flying Circus.” Its pilots proved highly effective in aerial combat and gained notoriety with friend and foe alike.

The squadron was one of several to have fully converted to the new triplane. While highly maneuverable, the new Fokker had its faults: it suffered from issues with poor workmanship and was plagued with chronic structural failures. It also had a performance disadvantage against the newest allied fighters, including the storied Sopwith Camel.

“Von Richthofen’s final flight ended in combat with a Canadian squadron of Camels”

Von Richthofen’s final flight ended in combat with a Canadian squadron of Camels. On April 21, 1918, von Richthofen pursued a fighter that had attacked another Jasta 11 triplane. Chasing his target at low altitude over enemy lines, von Richthofen was engaged by the Canadian squadron commander, Captain Arthur “Roy” Brown, and by several anti-aircraft gunners. Hit and mortally wounded, von Richthofen made a forced landing and died immediately thereafter. Brown was initially credited with the victory, but recent historical analysis indicates that von Richthofen was almost certainly felled by ground fire.

The Great War ended in November 1918, bringing a close to a costly conflict that had dominated land and sea and, for the first time, the air. Ultimately credited with 80 aerial victories, Manfred von Richthofen was the most successful fighter pilot of the war. The rules and techniques that he and his mentor, Oswald Boelcke, developed were over time adopted by air forces around the world and served as a foundation for training a new generation of pilots in the faster and deadlier machines that would appear to contest the skies of Europe just two decades later.

The Hiller Aviation Museum exhibits a meticulously detailed Fokker Dr. I replica constructed by a dedicated team of volunteers from the Museum’s own Restoration Shop. Depicted in colors that The Red Fighter Pilot himself would approve of, it provides a glimpse into the machines that vied for control of the skies over Europe in the last months of World War I.

Resources

The Red Fighter Pilot, Manfred von Richthofen, 1918

Richthofen: Beyond the Legend of the Red Baron, Peter Kilduff, 1993

Joseph Rutter, 2003
"THE RED BARON" MANFRED VON RICHTHOVEN
PRESENTATION BY J.R. WILLIAMS • SAT., JAN. 18, 11 AM

Born and raised in a Prussian aristocratic family, Manfred von Richthofen began military training when he was 11 years old, entering service as a cavalry officer. After the onset of WWI, he started aviation training in 1915 and initially appeared to be a below-average pilot, struggling to control his aircraft. He crashed during his first flight at the controls.

Richthofen’s first confirmed aerial victory was in the skies over Cambrai, France, nearly a year after his initial pilot training. Manfred was a cautious airman, not particularly adept at spectacular aerobatic feats, but he was a patient and excellent marksman. Using a set of eight proven tactics devised by German ace Oswald Boelcke, Richthofen himself became a fighter ace, which required logging a minimum of five confirmed aerial victories. In 1917, he received Germany’s highest military honor, the Pour le Merite (also known as the “Blue Max”) after his 16th kill. As a squadron commander, Richthofen took the flamboyant step of having his Albatros D.III painted red, hence his designation as “The Red Baron.” He logged 80 kills before the end of his brief career.

At the age of 25, Richthofen was fatally wounded on April 21, 1918. Flying a Fokker Dr.1 triplane, he was in pursuit of Canadian pilot Wilfrid May over the Somme River when Richthofen became embroiled in a dogfight with May’s flight commander Arthur Brown, flying a Sopwith Camel. During a low pass, a single bullet fired from the ground struck Richthofen. He regained control of his aircraft and landed roughly in his last seconds of life. His intact aircraft was completely dismantled by souvenir hunting Allied soldiers who had observed the entire aerial combat and arrived on the scene almost instantly. Richthofen’s body was given a full military funeral by the Number 3 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps, which was the nearest Allied air unit.

Jeffery Bass, President & CEO
Hiller Aviation Museum

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601 Skyway Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070
SANTA CLAUS ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 11 AM
RAIN OR SHINE. DOORS OPEN AT 9:30.
Join the West Bay Community Band and sing Christmas carols while the kids line up to tell Santa their Christmas gift list. No Museum admission fee required for this event!

BATTLE OF BRITAIN AND OPERATION SEALION
PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING BY HARRY SHERRARD • SUN, DEC. 8, 11 AM
THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN AND OPERATION SEALION
HARRY SHERRARD
IN 25 OBJECTS

The summer of 1940 was an epic period of British history. Faced with an invasion by Nazi Germany, an unprepared Britain seemed vulnerable, after the German war machine had conquered western Europe in a matter of weeks. The German aerial attack on southern England which ensued became known as the Battle of Britain, and the contest between the RAF’s Spitfires and Hurricanes and the Luftwaffe’s Messerschmitts and Stukas was immortalised by the stirring rhetoric of Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s famous speech, in which he proclaimed that “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed, by so many, to so few.” But the story of that summer is greater than the achievements of Fighter Command alone. Bomber Command, the Royal Navy, the Army and the whole British population pulled together in an unprecedented effort to deter and, if necessary, repel Operation Sealion, the Germans’ cross channel invasion plan.

Harry Sherrard is a British historian, writer and speaker, with a specialisation in this period of history. His presentation on the Battle of Britain and Operation Sealion takes a different and broader perspective on Britain’s “Finest Hour,” giving credit to less well known British anti invasion measures, as well as honouring the legendary “Few” of Fighter Command. Harry’s website is www.harrysherrard.com.

SR-71 PILOT BRIAN SHUL • SAT, DECEMBER 28, 11AM
Brian Shul is one of the most popular and dynamic aviation speakers in America today. As an Air Force fighter pilot, Brian was shot down in the Vietnam War and severely burned in the ensuing crash. Initially given up for dead, he was rescued and spent one year in hospitals, endured 15 surgeries and was told his flying days were over. Amazingly, Brian returned to active duty flying, became an Airshow Demonstration pilot in the A-10, went on to become a TOPGUN instructor, and culminated his Air Force career by flying the top secret spy plane, the SR-71. Flying the world’s fastest and highest flying aircraft required an astronaut physical and Brian made Air Force history when he passed with no waivers.

MACARTHUR’S AIR FORCE
PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING BY BILL YENNE • SAT, JAN 25, 11 AM

General Douglas MacArthur is one of the towering figures of World War II, and indeed of the twentieth century, but his leadership of the second largest air force in the USAAF is often overlooked. When World War II ended, the three numbered air forces (the Fifth, Thirteenth and Seventh) under his command possessed 4,004 combat aircraft, 433 reconnaissance aircraft, and 922 transports. After being humbled by the Japanese in the Philippines in 1942, MacArthur and his air chief General George Kenney rebuilt the US aerial presence in the Pacific, helping Allied naval and ground forces to push back the Japanese Air Force, re-take the Philippines, and carry the war north towards the Home Islands. Following the end of World War II MacArthur was the highest military and political authority in Japan, and at the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 he was named as Commander in Chief, United Nations Command. In the ten months of his command his Far East Air Forces increased dramatically and saw the first aerial combat between jet fighters.

Written by award-winning aviation historian Bill Yenne, this engrossing book traces the journey of American air forces in the Pacific under General MacArthur’s command, from their lowly beginnings to their eventual triumph over Imperial Japan, followed by their entry into the jet age in the skies over Korea.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS • WEDNESDAYS 11AM - 1:30PM
FLIGHT SIM ZONE, INVENTION LAB AND FMX FLIGHT SIM
DRONE PLEX • WEEKENDS 1PM - 4PM

UP TO THE MOON Book Reading
SAT, JAN 18 • 11 AM
The Red Baron Presentation
SAT, JAN 19 • 10:30, 11:30, 12:30
Starlab Sky Show
SAT, JAN 25 • 11 AM
MacArthur’s Air Force
SAT, JAN 26 • 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids’ Carnival
SUN, JAN 26 • 12 PM
Up to the Moon Book Reading
SUN, JAN 26 • 2 PM – 3:30 PM
Flight Sim Club

FEBRUARY
SAT, FEB 1 • 10 AM – 5 PM
Scout Saturday
SAT, FEB 1 • 11AM-1PM
Flying Football Fun Fest
SUN, FEB 2 • 2 PM – 3:30 PM
Flight Sim Rally
SAT, FEB 8 • 10AM-3PM
Garden Model Train Railroad
SUN, FEB 9 • 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Drone Meet
SAT, FEB 15 • 11 AM
Early German Helicopters
SUN, FEB 16 • 10:30, 11:30, 12:30
Starlab Sky Show
SAT, FEB 22 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Aero Design Challenge
SUN, FEB 23 • 10 AM – 12 PM
Kids’ Carnival
SUN, FEB 23 • 2 PM – 3:30 PM
Flight Sim Club

WEDNESDAYS 11 AM - 1:30PM
FLIGHT SIM CLUB
11 AM - 2PM
WEEKENDS 1PM - 4PM

MOON SIGNING AND PRESENTATION
ASTRONAUT DAN BURSCH AND SHARON YENCHARI
SAT, FEBRUARY 1, 10AM – 1PM
The Hiller Aviation Museum presents a special kids’ event featuring Astronaut Dan Bursch and Sharon Yencharis, author of the children’s book Up to the Moon. This event includes a reading of the book, followed by a Q&A session and book signing. Event included with museum admission.

“NOON” YEARS EVE PARTY • TUES, DECEMBER 31, 11AM – 1PM
You’re invited to attend the “Noon” Years Eve Party on Tuesday, December 31 at the Hiller Aviation Museum. This annual event is designed especially for kids. Join us for these exciting activities:
• Count Down to 12:00 Noon (“Noon” Years) Balloon Drop in two separate rooms this year
• Slides and Jumpers
• Face Painting, Games and Fun
• Dance Shows, Magic and more!
Event runs 11am-1pm Tuesday, December 31 at the Hiller Aviation Museum. Event included with museum admission.

OPEN COCKPIT DAYS
NOVEMBER 27, JANUARY 4, 10AM – 2PM
Who isn’t fascinated with sitting in the cockpit of a modern airliner or a jet? The Hiller Aviation Museum is unique in regularly providing visitors access to real aircraft cockpits like an A-4 jet trainer, a Hiller H-12 helicopter and our Boeing 747. On this special day, we swing open additional cockpits including the Grumman Albatross, Boeing 737, Aero Commander and the Cesna 177 Cardinal. From general aviation piston aircraft to commercial airliners, you will get a real “hands-on” experience and unique perspective on flying from real pilots and airline captains. Event included with museum admission.

FLYING FOOTBALL FUN FEST & PUPPY BOWL
SAT, FEBRUARY 1, 10AM – 1PM
Join the excitement of the Super Bowl as the Hiller Aviation Museum explores the junction of football and flight in a family-friendly extravaganza! See a helicopter football drop, watch a puppy bowl, check out the Drone Bowl combat demonstrations, experiment with aerodynamics of footballs and more! Event included with museum admission.

BAY AREA GARDEN RAILROAD
SAT, FEBRUARY 8, 10AM – 3PM
The Bay Area Garden Railroad Society’s waist-high track features live steam locomotives. These railroad engines are designed to be run in anyone’s backyard garden. Live steam locomotives have a butane-fueled fire that boils water. The resultant steam is then used to power the pistons. This is the same technique full-sized locomotives have used for 175 years. Many examples of old-time model steam locomotives will be seen running on the track, all the while puffing wonderful plumes of steam.

EARLY GERMAN HELICOPTERS
PRESENTATION BY PHIL GIOIA • SAT, FEB. 15, 11 AM
Germany was far ahead of other nations in the early development of rotary-wing aircraft. Focke-Wulf’s Fw-61, the world’s first practical helicopter, flew in 1936, three years before Igor Sikorsky demonstrated his prototype in America. German designs also negated the effects of rotor torque, which requires constant pilot correction. During WW II the Germans developed and deployed heavy-lift, reconnaissance, light-attack, and towed rotor-kite designs. Germany’s helicopter designers and pilots included Heinrich Focke, Georg Wulf, Gerd Achgelis, Anton Flettner, and Hannah Reitsch, the world’s most accomplished woman aviator, test pilot, and holder of multiple flight records. Phil Gioia will take us through this little-known and fascinating chapter of aviation history, with commentary and pictures of the designers, pilots, and German rotorcraft, developed and deployed from 1933 to 1945.
WINTER PROGRAMS

Winter Aviation Camp

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS
December 2019 – February 2020
9 AM—4 PM (Extended Hours Available)

Take flight this holiday season at Aviation Camp! Build and fly model aircraft, take on challenging flight simulations, explore Museum aircraft and more while exploring a unique subject in flight.

**DRONE ZONE (K-5)** • December 20 & January 6

**FLIGHT & MOTION (K-5)**

**FLIGHT SIMULATOR ACES (5-8)**
December 26-27

**PHYSICS FLYERS (K-5)** • December 30

**AERO BOT INVENTORS (K-5)**

**ENGINEER’S WORKSHOP (5-8)**
January 2-3

**ROCKET PILOTS (K-5)** • February 17-21

Visit [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org) for complete program descriptions, registration forms and additional information. We’ll see you there!

Family Sunday Programs

Join the excitement select Sundays at the Hiller Aviation Museum! Each event features hands-on activities just for kids, ranging from drone flights and flight simulation to design challenges and construction projects. Visit [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org) for more information on each event.

**DRONE MEET (AGES 8+)**
December 22, January 12, February 9
1:30 – 4:00 PM (30 minute sessions)

**FLIGHT SIMULATOR RALLY (AGES 8+)**
December 1, January 5, February 2
2:00 – 3:30 PM (30 minute sessions)

**FLIGHT SIM CLUB (AGES 10+)**
January 26 & February 23 • 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**KIDS’ CARNIVAL – INDOOR WINTER FUN! (ALL AGES)**
December 29, January 26, February 23 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**STARLAB SKY SHOW**
Ages 5+ (3+ at 10:30 AM)
December 15, January 19, February 16
10:30 & 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM

AVIATION CAMP

SUMMER 2020
Dates and topics available online Monday, January 6, 2020
Register early for best selection!
[www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)
**OPEN COCKPIT DAY**
Explore Aircraft Interiors: Wednesday, November 27 & Saturday, January 4 • 10 AM—2 PM

Discover the world of a pilot as never before on Open Cockpit Days! Providing unparalleled access to the Hiller Aviation Museum’s collection of historic aircraft, Open Cockpit Days allow visitors to climb aboard historic airplanes and helicopters and settle in at the pilot’s controls. Featured aircraft include the Boeing 737 and 747, Grumman HU-16 Albatross, Scorpion and Bell 47 helicopters, and the Aero Commander.

**PERFECT PAPER PLANES**
Featuring Paper Airplane Champion John Collins
Thursday, January 2 • 11 AM

Join a unique exhibition of paperlight flight! Author and master paper airplane builder John Collins leads an interactive 45-minute session investigating the science of making things fly and the notebook-scale engineering required to fold and fly record-breaking paper gliders. Come prepared to try your hand building and flying your own paper aircraft!

**HAPPY BIRDS**
Parrots, Macaws and Cockatoos
Thursday, December 26 • 11 AM

Many birds migrate south for the winter, but not the Happy Birds! Returning to the Hiller Aviation Museum for a special holiday engagement, this talented team of precocious parrots gives a remarkable demonstration of feathered flight. Marvel at their antics as they fly, walk, talk and even sing through a wide range of amazing behaviors that will entertain your whole family!
SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Friday Nov 29 through Tuesday Dec 31

MUSEUM MEMBERS RECEIVE A 25% DISCOUNT IN THE GIFT SHOP FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 ONLY

Become a Museum Member and take advantage of this great holiday offer!

An Aviator’s Paradise,
Gift Certificates available!
Get a museum membership as a gift!