



The Old Flier's Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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Last Meeting

Twenty-eight members attended the last Old Flier's lunch held on Friday 30th July 2004. It was again pleasing to see so many new and old faces. We have made a number of changes to make the meetings enjoyable. The introduction of the PA system is especially appreciated by many. Thanks must go to Dick Overheu, (too modest to tell us of his DFC and Bar), for his interesting and informative discussion on operations in northern Australia during WWII. Dick gained a wealth of experience on Hudsons and Liberators, both as a pilot and instructor and was chosen to fly VIPs on a number of occasions. On occasions, he even had some of Australia's top brass pumping fuel into his aircraft.

Thanks Dick for an excellent presentation.

Next Month's Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be held at the Royal Aero Club at 12.30 pm on Friday 27th August when we will hear from John House. He will tell of his escapades as a commando in WWII when he parachuted in to enemy territory.

Bon Voyage

Ron Minchin will miss the next couple of meetings as he will attend the 60th anniversary of the Arnham Landing. It will be interesting to hear his report when he returns.

Some RACWA Club members may recall the late Dr. Austin Whitter who is remembered by many for his contribution to competition flying at the Club. Not so well known is his participation in the Arnham Landing. He flew a glider full of troops into Arnham, made his way back to England and then did it again!

The Modern Tiger

A large number of the OFG members would have learned their basic flying in a DH82A Tiger Moth. In more recent times the Tiger has undergone changes that make it different to the venerable machines of the 1940s.

Today, most Tigers have a tailwheel so that they can land on hard strips. This has necessitated the introduction of wheel brakes, as there is no braking from the original tailskid. To stop the Tiger "nosing over" when the brakes are applied, the undercarriage has been moved forward just over two inches. In the

intervening years, some Tigers were fitted with a wind-driven generator and electrical system to power the radio. Nowadays, most have now been fitted with an alternator, attached to the back of the engine. The alternator charges the battery for the radio and transponder. Those Tigers fitted with a long-range tank might be fitted with an electric pump to transfer the fuel to the main tank.

Tigers are still hand-swung to start them, but these days the "swinger" stands behind the prop with one hand firmly grasping a strut while making the swing. The position behind the prop also gives the swinger easy access to the mag switches and the chocks.

While the basic structure of the Tiger is unchanged, the fabric has been replaced with superior Dacron, which is shrunk by heat and not dope, as in times gone by. Of course the quality of paint has also improved.

A firm in New Zealand makes wings for Tigers and the intricate woodwork is a delight to behold. The wings arrive in crates and are locally covered and painted.

Otherwise most other things are unchanged. Most still have a wooden prop although it is possible to buy a "plastic" one with refined blade angle. To a large degree, the Tiger looks the same and flies the same.

Apology

I offer my apology some members for the accidental transmission of an E-mail late last month. It was in fact a draft copy of Bulletin No 5 that escaped from my computer as I was trying to outwit a gremlin! It must have been difficult to understand as it with a draft report on an event that had not yet taken place - as well, there was part-prepared information. Accordingly I have called this Bulletin No 5a.

It was pleasing to see Alan Mitchell at the last meeting. Congratulations on appearing on the *New Inventors* Alan. We hope that you get lost of orders for your Nibbler.

Alan has also written an interesting book that covers his life before, during and after WWII. It has a lot of history on RAAF No. 85 Squadron. Copies are available from Alan for \$20.00, plus postage.

Hope to see you on Friday.

Brian Hernan