



The Old Flier's Group

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

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Last Meeting

The attendance at last month's luncheon was up again with thirty members and friends enjoying an interesting get-together.

The speaker of the day was Chip Harvey who gave an interesting insight into his training and flying during WWII. He spoke of his initial interest in aviation, his training in America with the US Army Air Corps and his operations in Spitfires. It was interesting to hear of the high standards of training and the strict standards of discipline in the US that would shock most of today's students.

Chip gave a colourful description of photographic missions over enemy territory and the need for aerial photography for planning and intelligence purposes. But it was not without cost. With the help of ground-crew and the enemy, Chip personally destroyed three Spitfires and in the process had to parachute from his aircraft on one of those occasions.

Members showed their appreciation of Chip's talk in the usual way with a round of applause for a most interesting session. It was delivered in a very professional manner with the right balance of detail and humour. Thank you Chip.

Afterwards, members found time to view a display of wartime aerial photographs of three aerodromes in New Guinea. On display also was a 1945 copy of the Perth "Daily News" with the headline – "Germany Quits".

Holiday

Brian John and his wife, Viv, are still overseas and enjoying a life of leisure.

Information Sheets

Thanks to those members who have returned the Information Sheets. They reveal most interesting details of member's involvement in aviation and associated areas. Summaries will be included in future Bulletins and may form the basis of future after-lunch talks. If you have not returned yours yet, you may do so at the next meeting.

75th Anniversary

Part of the Club's 75th anniversary celebrations will be a buffet luncheon on Sunday November 7, 2004. It will incorporate a "Back to Maylands" theme, so if you

wish to catch up with some old friends make sure that you attend. The event is open to all who have an interest in aviation. Members and staff, both past and present and their friends are welcome to attend. It will consist of a two-course luncheon followed by cheeseboard and tea or coffee. There will be a flypast of vintage aircraft and a presentation of the Club's historic past 75 years. Cost \$20 per head. Why not ring a few friends and make up a party. Bookings are essential on 9417 0014.

Information Sheets

I have had some very interesting *Information Sheets* returned to me, and as promised a summary of one follows.

Dennis Gorton joined the RAN as a telegraphist in 1945 and in seventeen years of service he rose to the position of Chief Radio Supervisor. Postings included aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes and shore stations.

After service life he trained as a glider pilot and has flown 38 types over 2230 hours in the intervening 30 years. He has also built an ultralight in which he has flown over 350 hours.

His interest in aviation had lead him, among other things, into positions such as Sate President of the W A Gliding Association, delegate to the Gliding Federation of Australia, Technical Officer of the Association, CFI of Narrogin Gliding Club and Maintenance Inspector for the Recreational Aircraft Association of Aust. etc.

Dennis has been "lined up" as an after-lunch speaker to expand our knowledge on gliding and construction of an ultralight.

Next Meeting

The final arrangements for the next speaker are now in place. Without giving too much away - we will hear from John Costly who will tell us about the Fleet Air Arm and landing an aircraft on a carrier! Later, as an engineer, John worked on some of Perth's major buildings. His talk should be most interesting.

I recommend you attend the Royal Aero Club at 12.00 pm on *Friday October 29th* to hear from John.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan