



The Old Fliers Group

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

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Another Record Attendance

Another record was broken last month when the attendance at the April meeting reached 70. This is indeed incredible as our method of advertising is still only by word of mouth.

The Royal Aero Club is about to make some changes to "Tarmac", its monthly publication, and from now on each copy will have a short summary of the OFG activities - this may well attract new membership.

Future Talkers

Brian John has arranged for a wide variety of speakers to entertain us for the remainder of the year. At this time, I can give you a general round-up of the proposed speakers – both *speaker of the day* and *mini speaker* will cover the following topics (not necessarily in this order).

- 1 Flying an approach at Kai Tak, the old airport at Hong Kong. (Having arrived a few times as a passenger, I can tell you it was a fabulous ride).
- 2 High altitude testing of the Lancaster aircraft.
- 3 Flying Kittyhawks as dive bombers in Italy and North Africa.
- 4 Catalina operations in WWII.
- 5 A flight from England to Australia in the early 1950s.
- 6 Finding a 1933 de Havilland Fox Moth, discovering its history and restoring it.
- 7 Radio nav-aids in WWII.
- 8 Long range flights in Liberators.
- 9 Shot down over Germany.
- 10 My father was a WWI pilot.
- 11 The Battle of the Bismark Sea.

Each has great promise.

We are always on the lookout for more speakers. If you have an experience to relate or a story to tell don't hesitate to mention it to Brian John.

Last Month

Last month's *mini speaker*, John Roulston, gave us two stories. The first was about Peter van Emmerik, a very popular and capable pilot who lost his life during a mercy flight in an Avro Anson in 1956.

The second was on aerial mustering techniques and developments.

The *speaker of the day* was Ron Minchin who spoke on operations of the Stirling bomber during WWII. Most were amazed at the size of the Stirling and its load carrying capacity.

Together with numerous other types, the Stirling was used to tow gliders to Arnhem with diverse loads, among which were vehicles, guns, stores and soldiers. Some of the soldiers were equipped with fold-up bicycles produced by the BSA company in England.

Staunch member Frank Cocks just happened to have such a bike in his WWII collection, so he brought it along and related a short history of the machine. It certainly added a touch of nostalgia with it parked in the background as Ron spoke.

Thanks go to both of our speakers for their sterling efforts.

Another First

Last month's speakers were captured on video by Stan Schur. Future speakers will also be captured on video and eventually transferred to DVD which will be made available to members at cost.

Membership List

So far there have been no objections to the membership list being distributed among members. If there are no objections in the next month the list will be included in a bulletin in due course.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be held on Friday May 27th at the Royal Aero Club. The *mini speaker of the day* will be John Markham. John has acquired and restored a number of vintage aircraft over the years. At the meeting he will tell us about the Stinson L5B which he found in India. He will also tell us of the unique role that the type played toward the end of WWII.

The *speaker of the day* will be Alex Kerr – his talk is titled "Paths to Freedom". It will cover the escape of airmen during WWI and WWII from prisoner of war camps. Over the years there have been a number of interesting books, movies and TV documentaries on the subject, but in this case you will get the "inside story".

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan