



The Old Fliers Group

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

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Bulletin Sheet No 21, February 2006

2006

The January meeting got under way in fine style with over 70 in attendance. That number went close to beating our all time high for 2005. It was particularly interesting to see a number of new members – and quite a few with their wives.

After apologies and a small amount of general business, Brian John introduced Fred Robin who since his retirement has taken to writing poetry. Fred read two delightful poems, “Remembering” and “Dog on the Back of the Ute”, which raised more than a few laughs as the attendees associated themselves with “remembering and forgetfulness”. By request, and for those who weren’t there, two of Fred’s poems are included in this bulletin. Fred has agreed to do read some more on future occasions. Thank you Fred in anticipation.

The main speaker for January was Col Morton who told of the high standard of graduates from the Elementary Flying Training Scheme (EFTS) that operated in Australia, South Africa, England, Canada and Rhodesia during WWII. He flew Tiger Moths, Ansons, Oxfords, and Miles Masters before getting his hands on the Kittyhawks in 450 Squadron.

Col flew Kittyhawks in North Africa and Italy. He explained how, in dive bombing raids, they started their dive at 8000 ft and steeply descended to 1000 ft where they released their bombs. The squadron developed such accuracy that their targets were often less than 200 yards from allied troops on the front line.

He also told of how, in some places, that a percentage of the Italian population sat on the roofs of houses to watch the display as Kittyhawks carry out their raids.

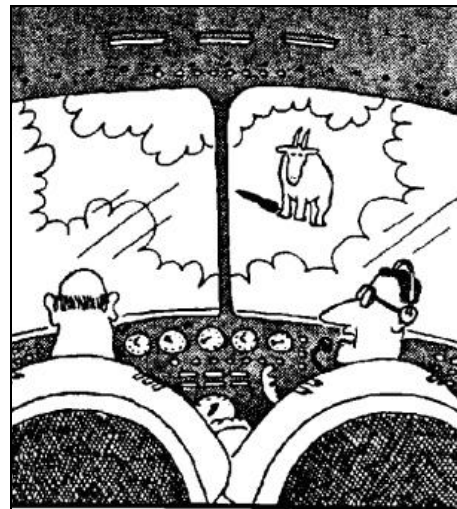
Happily, Col’s squadron was given instructions to avoid doing damage to churches and places of historical interest, particularly if they housed classical works of art.

European Tour

Tony Munday’s tour is all set to go. There is still room for two or three more, so if you feel that you deserve a great holiday, starting in May this year, Tony will make arrangements to accommodate you. You can phone Tony on 9386 3902 or, Email, lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au. This is your last chance!

Cartoon

Cartoons seem to be getting a great deal of coverage in the news recently, so here is our contribution.



“Hey, what’s a goat doing up in these clouds?”

Speakers for 2006

We have organised some very interesting speakers for 2006, however we still need more and particularly mini-speakers. If you have a tale to tell, either as a mini-speaker (10 minutes) or as main speaker (30 to 40 minutes), contact Brian John or Brian Hernan to make appropriate arrangements. There must be thousands of stories out there that are just waiting to be told.



Kittyhawk with Australian markings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OFG will be held at the Royal Aero Club at noon on Friday February 24th. Lunch and tea/coffee for \$11.50 and drinks available at the bar. The Mini Speaker will be Tom Scotland. You may remember that Tom has already spoken about his *Pathfinder* experiences. This time it will be on a different subject.

The Main Speaker will be John Bailey who trained in Australia and flew Kittyhawks in New Guinea. I'm sure he has some interesting information for you.

Hope to see you there. Brian Hernan

FORGETTING By Fred Robins

I'll never forget old Whatsisname,
With his gammy leg and his walking frame.
At least that's how he is today,
With his hair all white – and his beard all grey.

I met him first when we were six,
Unless my mind is playing tricks,
No. Maybe that was Jimmy King,
I can't remember everything.

At any rate we served together,
Flying through all sorts of weather,
Through the war against the Japs,
We were jolly, matey chaps.

I haven't seen him much of late,
Although he was my dearest mate.
Strange that he has aged so much,
While I have still retained my touch.

I'm young and fit – and still play games,
It's strange I can't remember names,
And though I can recite a play,
I can't remember yesterday.

What's that you say? I can't quite hear,
You're speaking very softly dear,
You know that chap with the greying beard,
You don't recall. Oh you are weird!

JOYS OF FLIGHT by Fred Robins

(Memories of flying an Avro Anson in Bass Straight on a convoy escort during WWII)

Entering cloud
Pilot error
Rising fear
Crew in terror
Climbing
Falling
Twisting
Soaring
Yawing sideways
Nearly stalling
Vivid hues of distant lightening
Hammering Hail
Extremely frightening!

Bucking, Rocking
Never ending
Cockpit creaking
Wingtips bending
Dropping, surging
Flying blind

Excitement of a scary kind

Nose pushed down
Sinking feeling
Knees gone weak
Heads are reeling

Hang in there
Seat belts tight
Hail has stopped
She'll be right

There's a break
Seas below
Whitecaps welcome
Through we go
Three very frightened men
Cumulo nimbus
Never again