



The Old Fliers Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

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Last Meeting

Again, about ninety members of the Old Fliers Group enjoyed an enjoyable lunch with entertaining speakers.

Mini Speaker

Ian Metcher told us of his early life as a country boy in Brookton. At an early age, Ian played the piano in the local picture theatre for the silent movies. He started work in the depression years and later served with the RAAF during WWII. After the war he qualified as an engineer. Ian was, and still is an outdoor type; over the years he has been involved in motor bikes, yachting, power boating and scuba diving. He took up gliding, powered flight at the age of 75. In his 80th year he took up aerobatics, which he has continued into his 90th year.

He has the distinction to appear in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest competing aerobatic pilot in the world. A few years ago he was awarded the *Get Up and Go* award by the State Government, an award to seniors who *get up and go!*

Ian's wife, Pat, has written a book on his life experiences under the title "Pleased to have Metcher". It is a great read and covers what Ian has packed into his life.



Ian Metcher and his wife, Pat in a glider.

Main Speaker

The speaker of the day was Dick Overheu who spoke of his time in the RAAF during WWII. Also a country boy, he joined up at a very early stage of WWII, moved through his training at an accelerated rate - no square bashing - and quickly through basic flying training and onto Hawker Demons. He soon found himself flying Lockheed Hudsons, and in the thick of the action to the north of Australia. Later, he was one of the first to move onto B24 Liberators where he became an instructor.

As well as mapping his own progress, Dick covered the involvement of various squadrons in which he served and also gave a general picture of the progress in the war and the involvement of the United States in the eventual

move on Japan. It was a very informative talk with a number of humorous personal touches.



Dick Overheu in 1945

Thanks

Special thanks go to both of our speakers for their entertaining and informative delivery, and to Fred Robins for his delightful poem about Albany.

Appreciation

For the last two years Stan Schur has videoed nearly all of the OFG speakers. He has made DVD copies available to members for minimal or no cost.

Jack Fletcher initiated a move to show our appreciation of Stan's efforts by setting up a *Certificate of Appreciation*.

Stop Press

Tony Munday is organising another fabulous *European Tour*. It will extend from June 8th to July 8th, 2007. Mark the dates in your diary now. A complete itinerary will be included in the next Bulletin. In the meantime, talk to Tony at the November meeting or contact him on 9386 3902 or by email at lunarian@cygnus.uwa.edu.au.

Next meeting

The speakers will be Ian Howell who will talk of the latest innovations at the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bullcreek, and Ivan Pierce who flew Catalinas on the "Double Sunrise" flights out of Perth during WWII.

Come along to the Royal Aero Club at noon on the Friday November 24th to hear our speakers and have a pre-Christmas lunch with surprises for the modest sum of \$12.00.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan