



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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#### Last Meeting Parking

The well-attended last meeting got under way with a discussion on the parking problems that have recently arisen at the airport. Some of our members are finding problems in walking from distant parking areas to the club. As discussed at the last meeting, a "courier car" will circulate through car parks and deliver members to the Club, as required, from about 11.45 to 12.15 pm. Patrons may identify the car by a sheet of white paper displayed in the top left corner of the windscreen. The equivalent service will be provided at the end of meetings to transport members back to their cars. The distance problem may be overcome, in part, by drivers dropping their passengers at the front door before parking and getting a courier ride to the Club.

#### Miscellaneous Aerodromes.

Instead of the usual poetry slot at our last meeting there was a show of some unusual aerodromes and runways. It is amazing to see where some airports have been built.

#### Mini Speaker

The Mini Speaker was Alan Mitchell who told of his early memories of aeroplanes that he saw as a child in Victoria. It became obvious that Alan's interest in aviation developed at a very early age. Some of the aeroplanes he spoke of were the Hawker Nimrod, Southampton flying boats, Comper Swift, Ryan Monoplane, Heston Phoenix, Saro Cutty Sark and twin engine diesel powered Junkers airliner.

#### Speaker of the Day

The speaker of the day was Chip Harvey who told us of his experiences while training in USA in the early part of WWII. His tale took us into some of his social activities that were not fully explained! (A section of the audience wanted to hear more about Pauline).

On return to England, Chip flew Spitfires, Mk II and Mk IX, in the Photo Reconnaissance Unit. He told us that the Spitfire was a delight to fly and ideal for the type of photography that he was engaged in.

Members were interested to hear the story of his bale out over Scotland after an engine seizure. His method was - disconnect radio and oxygen leads, undo the harness, jettison the canopy, roll the Spitfire on its back, "kick the stick", and out you go. Oh yes, don't forget to pull the ripcord. Quite simple!!!

After his descent into a wooded area, Chip was confronted by a farmer who trained a double-barrel shotgun on him while he established his true identity. The farmer then assisted him to the nearest railway station where he caught a

train back to his base, with his rolled up parachute folded over his arm.

Both speakers were thanked for their detailed deliveries by Ken Pitman who, like all there, was thoroughly entertained.

#### Books

If Chip's talk stirred your interest in Spitfires then you should keep an eye out for the following:

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Sigh for a Merlin       | by Alex Henshaw,       |
| Spitfire                | by Geoffrey Quill, and |
| Not much of an Engineer | by Sir Stanley Hooker  |

All three give good coverage of the Merlin and the Spitfire.

If you enjoyed the Coastal Command talk with Bruce Gaston covering the *Battle of the Atlantic* and Bill Paterson covering *Action in the Mediterranean* then you should look for:

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Aircraft Versus Submarines | by Alfred Price, and |
| Iron Coffins               | by Herbert Werner    |

All titles are thoroughly entertaining and available from local libraries or online from Amazon at reasonable prices.

#### What's New



*How about this for a new look at flying?*

#### Next Meeting

At the August meeting, the *Speaker of the Day* will be Ken Pittman who will tell us an interesting DC-3 story. The *Mini Speaker* will be Ted Fletcher who will talk on John McIntosh and the first serious aircraft accident in WA.

I hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club at noon on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> for a relaxing lunch.

Brian Hernan