



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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The April meeting saw the restaurant filled to capacity for another nice lunch and to hear the speakers deliver their newsy stories.

Ken Pittman spoke briefly on a recently-acquired donation to the AFA Museum. Three months into World War I, Princess Mary, daughter of King George V, announced that she would provide a gift for every person in uniform. She decided on a metal gift box.



The Princess Mary gift box.

Measuring about twelve centimetres across, the box contained her photograph, a card and a range of gifts – one type for smokers, another for non-smokers, another for nurses, etc. By the end of the war over 2.5 million were delivered to the troops.

Mini Speaker

Col Morton spoke on his recent trip to London for the dedication of the RAAF WWII Squadron Plaques at St Clement Dane's Church on 26th March.



*A gathering of veterans at St Clement Dane's Church.
(Colin in the centre.)*

A large number of veterans gathered for the occasion where eleven squadron plaques were dedicated. They were: Sqn 3, Sqn 450, Sqn 451, Sqn 452, Sqn 454, Sqn 457, Sqn 458, Sqn 459, Sqn 462, Sqn 464 and Sqn 466. All plaques were set in the floor at St Clement Danes.

Speaker of the Day

The Speaker of the Day was Mike Taylor who told of his experiences in the RAF as a navigator and an instructor on nuclear weapons in the 1950s and 60s – in the days of V-Bombers and the Cold War.

Mike flew in a wide variety of aircraft, some of the memorable ones were the English Electric Canberra, the Vickers Valiant, the Avro Vulcan and the Handley Page Victor – all capable of delivering nuclear bombs.



The 24-foot long Blue Danube.

With the advances in technology, the bombs ranged in size from monsters to midgets. The reduction in size and the increase in explosive power was due to advance in the nuclear materials used in the bombs.

The number of questions at the end indicated the interest of members. By the end of question time everyone knew how to get more "bang for their buck".

Hilly Rostovsky moved a vote of thanks to all of the speakers for their much-appreciated efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on this Friday, May 29th. The *Speaker of the Day* will be Stephen Hunt, an expert on gliding. The *Mini-speaker*, Tom Saggars will talk about the aviation inventions of Dr F W Lanchester.

Hope you can make the next meeting at the Royal Aero Club at noon on this Friday, May 29th.

Brian Hernan