



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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Bulletin No 62, October 2009

September Meeting

A few days before our last meeting, Reg Adkins was watching the cricket match at Lords on TV – to a late hour. When drowsiness overtook him he pressed the 'record' button on his remote and went to bed.

To his surprise, when he viewed the tape the next morning he discovered that, as well as the cricket, he had recorded the anniversary flight of the Lancaster aircraft that made two passes over the hallowed home of cricket. Reg's son Alwyn extracted the appropriate section of the tape and we were able to view it at the meeting. It was greatly appreciated by members and there was spontaneous applause at the end of the show. Thanks to Reg and Alwyn for their efforts.

Prior to the two speakers, we were able to view a wartime newsreel film clip of the construction of Australian Mosquitos in about 1944. Following that, we saw a series of photographs of the new Airbus A400M – a state-of-the-art heavy-lifter destined for the European military market. Constructed of carbon fibre, it is powered by four turboprops, each with eight curved blades.



The Airbus A400M.

Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* was Joe Ward who related some of highlights in his forty years in aviation. He started his flying training in USA in 1943. After the usual training he ended up flying a variety of aircraft in the short period before the war ended.

After being demobbed, Joe rejoined the RAF in 1947 and flew Mosquitos on high level photographic work. When they were phased out he graduated to Canberras – mainly on photographic work in England, on the

Continent and in North Africa. Next, Joe transferred to helicopters, flying many types before he retired from the RAF. Later he came to Australia where he continued to fly choppers, including the big ones to the oil rigs in the north of our state.

Joe's enthusiastic presentation indicated to all that he was a true professional who really enjoyed his work.

Joe didn't get a chance to say very much about his helicopter experiences, so we can expect him back in a few months time for some interesting anecdotes.

Mini Speaker

The Mini speaker was John "Blue" Bailey who told us of his early days on the land and his time in the RAAF where, among others, he flew Buffalos, Boomerangs and Kittyhawks. At the end of his talk John launched his book titled (you guessed it) *Buffalos, Boomerangs and Kittyhawks*.

Your editor had access to an advance copy and found it to be a very frank and interesting account of his early country life and his flying experiences. It is well worth the read. The book is available from John for \$20.00. His email address is:

bluebailey@msvillage.com.au

Maylands Reunion

A Maylands reunion will take place at the Royal Aero Club on Sunday November 22, 2009, starting at 12.00 noon. Members and staff, past and present, and all interested people are all welcome. Tickets cost \$20.00 and include a two course buffet lunch with tea and coffee. Booking is essential, dress is casual. If you wish to attend, contact Coril Spartalis at the club by phone on 9417 0014 or by email:

cspartalis@racwa.asn.au

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be held at the Royal Aero Club on Friday October 30th, starting at noon. The *Speaker of the Day* will be Keith Roediger who will tell us of his WWII experiences, including flying a Mosquito and shooting down German Buzz-Bombs in 1944. The *Mini Speaker* will be Ken Pittman who will tell us about the strange four-metre wingspan spy planes that he saw during a recent tour of Cyber Technology P/L.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan