



The Old Fliers' Group

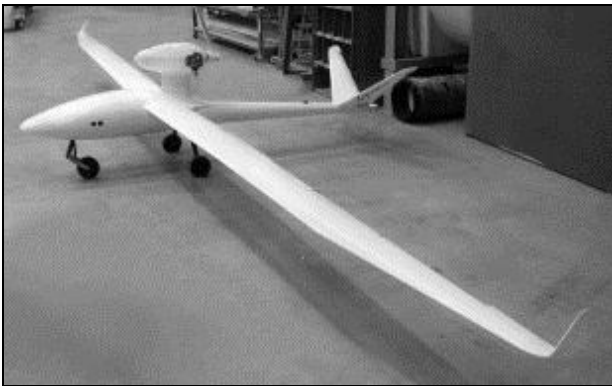
Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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November Meeting

The attendance was just short of 100 to hear our speakers at the last meeting. First on the floor was Ken Pittman who told us of his visit to Cybertech P/L, not far from Jandakot. Most were amazed to hear of the sophisticated technology that was being developed. The company produces remote controlled aircraft and a strange hovering device with four shrouded props. Photos of two of their fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles are shown below.



Photos of some Cybertech products.

Speaker of the Day

Our Speaker of the Day was Keith Roediger who told some amazing night-fighter stories about his time in 456 Squadron during WWII. Keith was responsible for developing a very successful method of shooting down the V1 Buzz Bombs. In fact, of the squadron's 24 kills, Keith's personal score was nine!

He also mentioned a little known fact that 456 Squadron was sent on the sorties to prevent German night fighters from attacking Lancasters on the dam-buster missions. Hmmm – scary stuff.

All in all, it was a very enlightening meeting. Syd Goddard, who also flew Mosquitos during WWII, thanked both of our speakers for their fine effort.

Ruth Adams Visit

About a dozen members and friends gathered at the club on Friday November 7th for an enjoyable lunch with a very special lady, Ruth Adams. Ruth, who was visiting Perth, was an Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) pilot during WWII. In 1941, after completing a degree in Geology in England, she joined the RAF where she studied Meteorology. Soon after that she answered an advertisement for women to train as ATA pilots.

On completion of her training, at the age of 23, Ruth began ferrying RAF aircraft between factories and service airfields. "My best memory is performing a roll in a Spitfire", she said. "Of course it had to be done out of sight of officialdom as we were forbidden to carry out aerobatic manoeuvres". During her time with the ATA Ruth delivered hundreds of aircraft of 24 different types, ranging from Tiger Moths to Mustangs. Her favourites were the Spitfire and, most of all, the Corsair. She said that the saddest flights were where aircraft were flown to airfields to be broken up for scrap. All of her flights had to be carried out under visual flight rules and below 2000 ft. "This present an ongoing problem, particularly in the English winters", she said.

Throughout WWII 650 ATA pilots, consisting of both men and women, ferried over 308 000 aircraft. Many of the girls graduated to big aircraft like the Typhoons and Tempests and the multi-engine types like the Lancaster.

Some may recall that Amy Johnson, the first Life Member of this club, lost her life while on an ATA flight in February 1941.

Next Meeting

Rod Edwards will tell us the amazing story of the historic *Silver Centenary*, originally built by his grandfather Selby Ford. It was based on drawings chalked on the floor of the Beverley power house. First flown in 1930, the aircraft was grounded by the CAB after about 50 hours in the air. Rod has spent countless hours on a complete rebuild. The aircraft, now beautifully restored, is legally licenced and flying.

Hear all about it, and other things, at our next meeting starting at Friday 27th November. I hope to see you at the last meeting of the year.

Brian Hernan