



The Old Fliers' Group

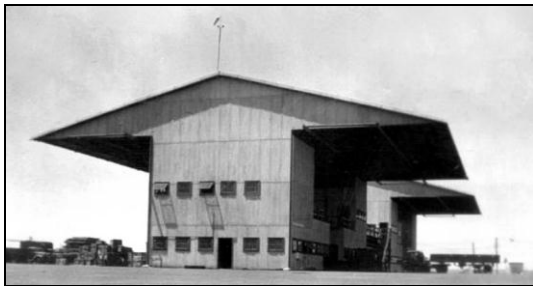
Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

Coordinator: Brian John – Phone 9582 5233

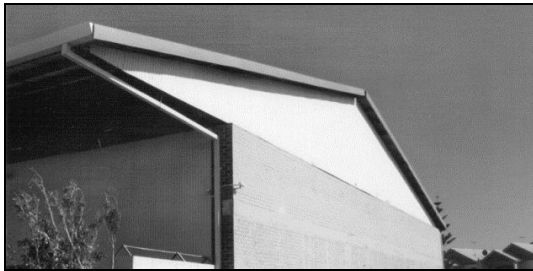
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Last Meeting

At the last meeting Frank Cocks told us about the WWII US Navy hangar that once stood on the Crawley foreshore. He has found it at South Fremantle where it serves as a panel beating shop. Much of the overhang has been filled in and it is barely recognisable as the once imposing structure on the river's edge. Frank has been aware of its location for some years and thought that OFG members would be interested – and they were. Thanks for the news Frank.



The hangar at Crawley.



The panel beating shop.

The September *Speaker of the Day* was set down to be Les Jubbs but, due to illness, a change was made at the last moment. Yours truly stepped in to talk about the life of Paul McGinness, the WWI ace who set up Qantas in 1921.

Paul, a Victorian, joined the 8th Light Horse Regiment in 1914. After setting out for Palestine he was, with many others, diverted to Gallipoli. It was there that he was awarded the DCM. In 1917 he joined the Australian Flying Corps and became an Ace on shooting down seven German aircraft. Both he and his observer, Hudson Fysh, were awarded the DFC for their actions.

On his return to Australia, McGinness was keen to set up an air service. After carrying out the Queensland /Northern Territory survey for the 1919 England-Australia Air Race, and establishing airfields at Darwin and Cloncurry, he had an opportunity to make his dream come true – and QANTAS was established.

After he severed his association with QANTAS he came to Western Australia where he married and farmed at Morawa. In the early 1930s as a member of this club he flew out of Maylands. After World War II he farmed on the south coast at Northcliffe and passed away at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital in 1954. He was a true hero and a great aviator.

Aviation Magazines

At the last meeting a box of aviation magazines was donated to the OFG. Members were invited to take one, read it during the next few weeks, and return it at the next meeting. The programme has merit and already extra magazines have been donated. If you have any spare magazines, don't bin them share them with other members in the "Mag-Swap" program.

Attendance Statistics

At the last meeting a survey was conducted to establish the typical composition of the group. The results follow:

WWII pilots and crew, 9; Airline pilots, 7; Commercial pilots, 6; Military pilots, 4; Private pilots, 18; Glider pilots 10; Aviation enthusiasts, 18; Females, including air hostesses 14.

No distinction was made between current and past licence holders.

Chippie Book

Ron Griffin allowed us to look at his recent purchase – a wonderful book on the history of the DHC-1 Chipmunk. Members were invited to place an order for a bulk buy at a substantial discount. Already, five orders have been taken. With a price tag of about \$90, plus freight, the saving in a bulk buy could amount to \$10 to \$15 dollars per copy. If you are inclined, place your order at the next meeting.

Library Books

If you are down-sizing or trying to make space by clearing out your aviation books, then there is an obvious course of action. You can donate them to the Royal Aero Club Library via the Old Fliers' Group. The "R.O Giles Library" at the Club has over four hundred titles on the shelf. Additions are always welcome. We can pick up.

A New Book

Doug Brenkley has recently produced a new book on RAAF operations at Geraldton during 1941 – 1945. His book starts with a non-technical overview of the development of radar and moves into the RAAF observation of the movement of aircraft and shipping on the Western Australian coast during the war. It is a great read. If interested in a copy, contact Doug Brenkley at the next meeting, or on:

Email: brenkd@bigpond.com.au

Phone: 9448 6384

Next Meeting a Week Early

Because of CHOGM, the next OFG meeting will be held on this coming **Friday 21st October** at the Royal Aero Club. Lunch gets under way at noon and following that we will have Les Jubbs' re-scheduled talk on Gallipoli.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan