



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Brian John – Phone 9582 5233

## Bulletin No 86, January 2012

### November Meeting

As is customary, we finished the year with our November meeting. It was a great meeting with an attendance of 100 members. All enjoyed the usual lunch which was followed by Christmas pudding with brandy custard. Thanks must go to Michelle and her staff in the restaurant for their great service throughout the year, and for putting on the “Christmas Pud”.

### Mini Speaker

Ex-club instructor, Chris Beattie was our Mini Speaker. He told the story of Bishop Jobst, the Catholic Bishop of the North-West during the 1970s. The Bishop fell foul of the “Department” with his *non-standard approach* in an attempt to land at Jandakot. Being unfamiliar with secondary airport procedures, the Bishop became confused and to the consternation of the tower staff and pilots flying the normal traffic pattern, he attempted to land downwind on the duty runway! As a consequence, the Department directed that the Bishop undergo eight hours of remedial training.

Senior Club instructors, Gavin Green and Denis Sinclair, carried out the re-training, which resulted in more unusual incidents. Chris covered them in detail in a most amusing manner.

### Speaker of the Day

Retired medical specialist Patrick Edmonds was our Speaker of the Day. As a young British army officer, Patrick trained as a glider pilot in 1944 in preparation for one last airborne assault on Germany. His training was put to the test in Operation Varsity in March 1945 when 440 gliders were towed across the Rhine River to northern Germany near the Dutch border. The exercise involved 16,000 personnel who arrived by either land, glider or parachute.

Patrick’s vivid description of the training, his departure from England, the tow behind a Halifax, and the arrival in the landing zone held his audience in suspense. He was glider number 73 in the huge fleet that crossed into Germany to land near the town Haminkeln.

The gliders carried a variety of troops and equipment. Patrick’s Horsa had two pilots, eight soldiers, a jeep and a trailer loaded with explosives. Their aim was to destroy a bridge. As an army officer, on landing, Patrick had to change from pilot to soldier, engage the enemy and destroy the target.

It was a superb talk that got a standing ovation from members – a first for the OFG.

### Next Meeting One Week Early

Don’t miss the January meeting which will be held a week early, on January 20<sup>th</sup>. This has been brought about by our normal date being so close to Australia Day.

Meeting dates for the first six months of 2012 are listed below. Mark them in your diary now:

January	Friday January 20 <sup>th</sup> 2012
February	Friday February 24 <sup>th</sup>
March	Friday March 30 <sup>th</sup>
April	Friday April 27 <sup>th</sup>
	(Easter Sunday is April 8 <sup>th</sup> )
May	Friday May 25 <sup>th</sup>
June	Friday June 29 <sup>th</sup>

### Annual Subscription

Once again it’s time to raise the subject of money. You can pay the annual subscription of \$10.00 for the year 2012 at the next meeting, or any future meeting should you wish. Alternatively, you can mail a cheque to Brian Hernan, 1 / 4 Kings Park Ave, Crawley, 6009. Cheques must be made out to “Royal Aero Club”.

### Library Books and Magazines

If you are down-sizing or trying to make space at home you can donate your aviation books to the Royal Aero Club “R.O Giles Library”. Alternatively, magazines can be donated to the Old Fliers’ Group Mag-Swap program. Bring either or both to the next meeting. Additions are always welcome.

### OAPA Conference at Jandakot

Members may remember that our guest speaker last January was Phillip Riess, the president of the Australian Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Phil made a special trip to Perth to address our group.

AOPA intends to hold a regional conference at Jandakot in the Royal Aero Club restaurant in March. More details will be available as we get closer to the day.

### Next Meeting

John “Bomber” Bailey will be our Speaker of the Day on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. He will tell us of his experiences in North Africa and in Italy while flying B24 Liberators during WWII.

Lunch gets under way at noon – hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan

**January Meeting Date Change  
Friday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**