



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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NEXT MEETING

Friday April 24th

Last Meeting

Trevor Jones, Chief Flying Instructor and Chief Pilot with the Royal Aero Club, told us of a recent flight across America in a new Cirrus single-engine, low wing composite aircraft. In the company of a club member – the new owner – they departed Modesto, a minor airport outside San Francisco and headed for Appleton in Wisconsin.

Their target was the classic annual air show at Oshkosh, but they decided to do some sight-seeing along the way. Firstly, they encountered the Rocky Mountains which required them to climb to 13,500 ft, without oxygen. First stop was Las Vegas and then on to the Grand Canyon with an aerodrome height of 6,600 ft – the air density had a marked effect on the landing and take-off performance of their aircraft.

Trevor showed a series of delightful photographs that he took en route. In the main they were taken from a relatively low level and showed the ruggedness of the Rockies. Their journey then took them over the central American plains to Denver, Colorado, and Sioux City, Iowa, and then on to Appleton, about 20 miles north of Oshkosh.

Amazingly, they were given a clearance to overfly Oshkosh – at the time there were over 3000 aircraft parked on the ground and a display was taking place about 1000 ft above them!

After a few days at the air show they were back in the air for the return journey to Modesto, over a different route this time, via Utah and Nevada.



The Cirrus at a fuel stop along the way.

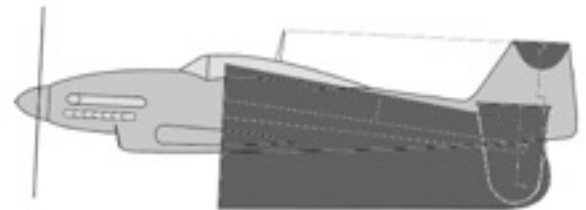
Submarine Surprise

Covered in the “mini talk” section of the meeting was the story of the Japanese aircraft, the Aichi M6A1, designed

to be launched from a submarine. It was developed along with a new submarine in the I-400 class.

The project took a long time to come to fruition. It was conceived in 1941, work began in 1943 and testing took place in mid-1945. The wings and tail of the M6A1 could be folded so as to fit into a water tight-capsule on the superstructure of the submarine. The aim was to surface near the target, move the aircraft out of the capsule, unfold the wings, attach the floats then launch it from rails on the foredeck of the submarine.

The initial plan was to bomb the Panama Canal and cities on the west coast of USA, however, after delays the target was moved to the Caroline Islands, but the war ended before any action took place.



The M6A1 in the folded configuration.



The M6A1 out of the capsule and ready for launch.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on Friday April 24th and will feature Wayne Parsons who will tell us of life in Viet Nam as a chopper pilot. Also, we will hear from Doctor Robyn Yeo, who will tell of her experiences both locally and overseas, and in the RAAF.

The usual parking arrangements will apply between 10.30 and 2.30 on Friday 27th, so hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club just before noon for lunch. Come early for a chat if you desire.

Brian Hernan