



## The Old Fliers' Group

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

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### Bulletin No 134 May 2016

#### **\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*** Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Speaker of the Day

Professor Alex Kerr was the *Speaker of the Day* at our last meeting. He had previously spoken to us in July last year when he talked about being shot down during WWII – but this time it was an entirely different story.

Alex has taken more than a passing interest in the developments in the South China Sea where the Chinese are establishing military facilities on islands and reclaimed reefs. He explained that the major areas of interest are in the Spratly, Paracel, Pratas and the Senkaku Island groups (see map).

A significant source of tensions in the region is the competing legal claims of territorial sovereignty over the approximately 230 islands. The South China Sea is bordered by not only China, but also by Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan. Every year over one trillion dollars worth of trade is shipped through the South China Sea and freedom of movement of shipping and air traffic is under threat.



*Map of the South China Sea.*

Alex went on to explain that, at the pace and scope of present construction, in a year or two China will be able to deploy a range of offensive and defensive military capabilities that will turn the South China Sea into a “no-go zone” for US and allied military assets – and that includes Australia. New technology in the field of aircraft, ships, submarines, drones, mines and missiles is cause for concern.

Thanks Alex for a most enlightening delivery.

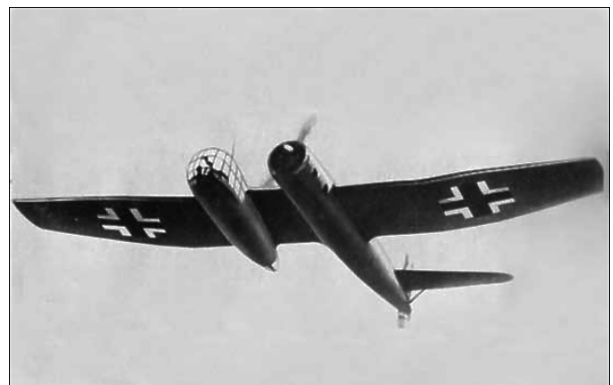


*A development on a reef in the South China Sea.*

#### The “Challenge”

Bob Murphy’s knowledge of aircraft engines was put to the test when your editor projected a series of twenty various aircraft, both British and German, from the World War II era. From the image Bob was asked to identify both maker and type of engine/s. His encyclopaedic knowledge was up to the task and in a successful session he gained a score of 20/20. That’s an “A Pass” in anyone’s language.

Thank you Bob.



*The Blohm and Voss 141 with BMW 801 engine.*

#### Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting, on Friday May 27th. The main speaker will cover the “Miller Lancaster Saga”, a story of adventure, mystery and intrigue.

Hope you can make it to the Royal Aero Club just before noon for lunch and the talk/s.

Brian Hernan