



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING**** Friday November 25th

Last Meeting

Once again there was an excellent attendance at our last meeting. In excess of eighty members heard interesting stories from our two speakers. The depth and variety of experiences never ceases to amaze.

First Speaker

Alan Powell spoke about the accident that occurred in October 1951 when a de Havilland Dove, operated by Airlines WA, suffered a catastrophic wing failure while on descent into Kalgoorlie.

The Dove was the first all-new metal aircraft produced by de Havilland after World War II. The cause of the accident was metal fatigue in the main spar. An urgent inspection of all of the company's Doves resulted in the fleet being grounded. This placed the company under enormous pressure as stand-in aircraft were hurriedly sourced.

Alan used his engineering background to explain that metal fatigue occurs when a material is subjected to cyclic loading. If the loads are above a certain threshold, a microscopic crack begins to form at the stress point. Eventually the crack reaches a critical size and the structure fails – in the case of the Dove, it was the inboard port wing spar. The wing, with the wheel retracted, was found about 500 metres from the main wreckage.

The crew of two and five passengers were lost.



The ill-fated Dove, VH-AQO.

Speaker of the Day

Stan Schur showed a short video that he took during a two-hour demonstration flight in Concorde, G-BOAC that visited Zimbabwe in 1993. Stan joined just over one hundred other lucky passengers on the historic flight.



The Concorde, G-BOAC, in flight.

He recorded highlights of the cabin display as the Concorde passed through Mach 1 and then Mach 2. Passengers clapped and cheered as the display changed to Mach 2 at 56,500ft (see image below). Passengers celebrated and drank champagne when the Concorde settled down to cruise at Mach 2 at 60,000ft.



The cabin speed and altitude display.

Special thanks go to both of our speakers.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, at noon on Friday November 25th. John Wager will talk on the amazing Catalina flights off the Swan River. Your editor will speak on the escape aids developed for downed airmen during World War II.

Brian Hernan.