



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Stephen Rogers – Email: henol@bigpond.net.au

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****NEXT MEETING**** **Friday May 26th 2017.**

Last Meeting

Shelley Yeo told us about Western Australian airmen who were lost in World War One. Also, we heard about the life of Charles Kingsford Smith while he was in Western Australia between 1921 and 1927.

World War I

Our first speaker, Shelley Yeo, works with a group of dedicated genealogists who are researching the stories of Western Australian personnel who gave their lives in World War One.

Shelley's talk focussed on three airmen from W.A.

Alaric Pinder Boor,

John Leonard Dunstan and

Charles Percy Long,

Alaric Boor was educated at CBC Perth, was the W.A. 1913 Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford.

John Dunstan was educated at Perth Boys and UWA.

Charles Long was educated at Nannine, Scotch College and Perth Technical School.

All were remarkably talented men who gave their all. Shelly's talk, which was aptly titled "Lest We Forget", was well-received by all present.



Alaric Pinder Boor from W.A.

Charles Kingsford Smith

Your editor spoke about the exploits of Charles Kingsford Smith while in Western Australia. After his reckless flying during 1920 in New South Wales Smithy came to W.A. to work for Norman Brearley in Western Australian Airways.

Smithy worked closely with Brearley in the early stage of the airline, after which he spent most of his

time in Carnarvon and Port Hedland. He flew on all sectors between Geraldton and Derby and for a lot of the time lived out of a suitcase in hotels and boarding houses.

He had a magnetic friendliness toward people and was popular at 'drinking holes', especially when he produced his ukulele. On average he flew on only two days of the week, so there was plenty of time to relax. He was on an excellent wage, but was continually broke.

It was in Port Hedland that he met and married Thelma Corboy from *Meentheena* station, which was situated to the east of Marble Bar. Smithy was twenty-six years of age and Thelma twenty-two at the time of their marriage in 1923.

In 1924 Smithy and Keith Anderson threatened to strike for more money so Brearley sacked them. They then started Gascoyne Transport Co. which serviced stations, some over 100 miles inland from Carnarvon. The business did well and when they sold out in 1926 they had sufficient money to purchase two Bristol Touters from Brearley. Anderson and Smithy flew them East in early 1927 – thus they began their new quest in earnest – to fly the Pacific.



Keith Anderson (L), two passengers-Mr and Mrs Marshall and Smithy (R) as they left Western Australia.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, at noon on Friday May 26th 2017. Tony McGrath will tell us about an RAAF Dakota that crashed into Darwin Harbour in 1946. Tony has a special interest in the event as his father was a crew member.

Also we will hear from Ken Pittman who will talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the State War memorial in Kings Park. Ken has a special interest.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.