



The Old Fliers' Group

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

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****NEXT MEETING****

Friday July 27th 2018.

Last Meeting

After spending a few minutes on general business we had Richard Ewing describe the joy of his first flight in his home-built Sonex aircraft.



The first flight of the Sonex.

Newspapers from the Sky

As Mini Speaker we heard from Bob Murphy who, at the age of fourteen, was hired by Airlines (WA) to throw bundles of newspapers out of low and slow-flying aircraft on a pre-set route over a number of South West towns. He rated the DH89 Rapide as his favourite aircraft; the Avro Anson as second-best, and the DH90 Dragonfly as the worst.

Bob described how he scored a direct hit on the wooden tray of an agent's utility. When hit by six 14-pound bundles of newspapers at about 80 miles per hour the wooden tray disintegrated.

On December 1st 1947 the DH90 Dragonfly skidded off the runway at Guildford, rolled over and was a write-off. Colin Cook was at the controls and Wally Andrews in the back with a full load of papers. Both escaped relatively unhurt. Later, Airlines (WA) pilots congratulated Colin on getting rid of the company's most unpopular aircraft!



The wreck of the DH90 Dragonfly.

The Raffle

Bob Murphy told us that he had not yet had his flight in the Electro.Aero aircraft with Joshua Portlock. Battery problems have been encountered and some new ones are on the way.

Speaker of the Day

Adrian Lambourne was our Speaker of the Day; his background is worthwhile noting. He spent nineteen years in the RAF, of which nine years were as Captain on Vulcan bombers and it including stints in 617 Squadron. That squadron was commonly known as the "Dambusters" for its actions during Operation Chastise against German dams during the Second World War.

The 'Dambusters' was the subject of his talk. He told us that the squadron was formed under great secrecy during the Second World War for the specific task of attacking three major dams: the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe which contributed water and power to the Ruhr industrial region in Germany.

Under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson the squadron had very little time to organise and train the men needed for the missions. The squadron had to develop the tactics to deploy Barnes Wallis's "bouncing bomb". During his talk Adrian showed a number of video clips which showed how the bomb was developed and tested.

Thanks Adrian for a most interesting presentation.



The launch of a bouncing bomb.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting at noon on Friday July 27th. Gordon Hamilton will talk on problems during aircraft maintenance and Trevor Sweeting will tell us of Charles Kingsford Smith's landing on his grandfather's farm in Tammin.

Hope to see you there. Brian Hernan.