An Australian Treasure: Maurice Guillaux' Bleriot XI

Étampes, 11 Février 1913.
Aviateur GUILLAUX, recordman du monde entier avec passager

Raid accompli avec l'AUTOMOBILINE, la plus homogène des essences, comme l'HUILE D. F. " AVION "
Imp. Pichot, Paris   est la meilleure huile de graissage connue pour tous moteurs.

About Maurice Guillaux…

Maurice Guillaux was a French aviator who arrived in Australia early in April, 1914, with four companions and a Bleriot XI aircraft specially designed for aerobatics.

Their aim was to make money by conducting aerobatic displays throughout Australia.

Guillaux was an instant sensation. His amazing aerobatic manoeuvres had never before been seen in Australia.

He was in Australia just under 200 days, but in that time he conducted flying displays in Newcastle, Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Adelaide, Geelong and Bathurst.

He made the first ever flight in Australia in a seaplane, and was an early user of Ham Common. This area later became the Richmond (NSW) RAAF base.

He also made the epic airmail flight we are celebrating.

He returned to France in October 1914 and was killed on 21 May 1917 while test-flying a new French fighter aircraft.

This brochure is produced by the Airmail Centenary Commemoration Group of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia, NSW (inc).

The re-enactment of Maurice Guillaux' flight is planned for July 12-14, 2014.

The purpose of the re-enactment is to raise public awareness of Australia's rich aviation heritage.

The Aviation Historical Society is a non-profit organisation which aims to collect, preserve and publicise Australia's aviation history and heritage.

FIRST AIRMAIL FLIGHT
AUSTRALIA 1914-2014

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IN THE WORLD, there are fewer than 30 aircraft still preserved that were made before the start of World War I.

THE WRIGHT FLYER, preserved in the Smithsonian Museum is certainly the most significant.

LOUIS BLERIOT'S AIRCRAFT, preserved in the Museé des Artes et Metiers in Paris is the next most significant – in this aircraft Louis Bleriot became the first person to fly the English Channel.

POWERHOUSE MUSUEM, Sydney, holds the next most significant aircraft…

Find out why this is so!…

FIRST AIRMAIL FLIGHT
AUSTRALIA 1914-2014

Australia's first airmail flight, 16-18 July 1914

The PowerHouse Museum Bleriot made one of the great flights of the pre- World War I era.

On July16-18 1914 Maurice Guillaux flew it from Melbourne to Sydney, carrying Australia's first airmail - 1785 postcards – and Australia's first air freight - some lemon juice and Lipton's tea.
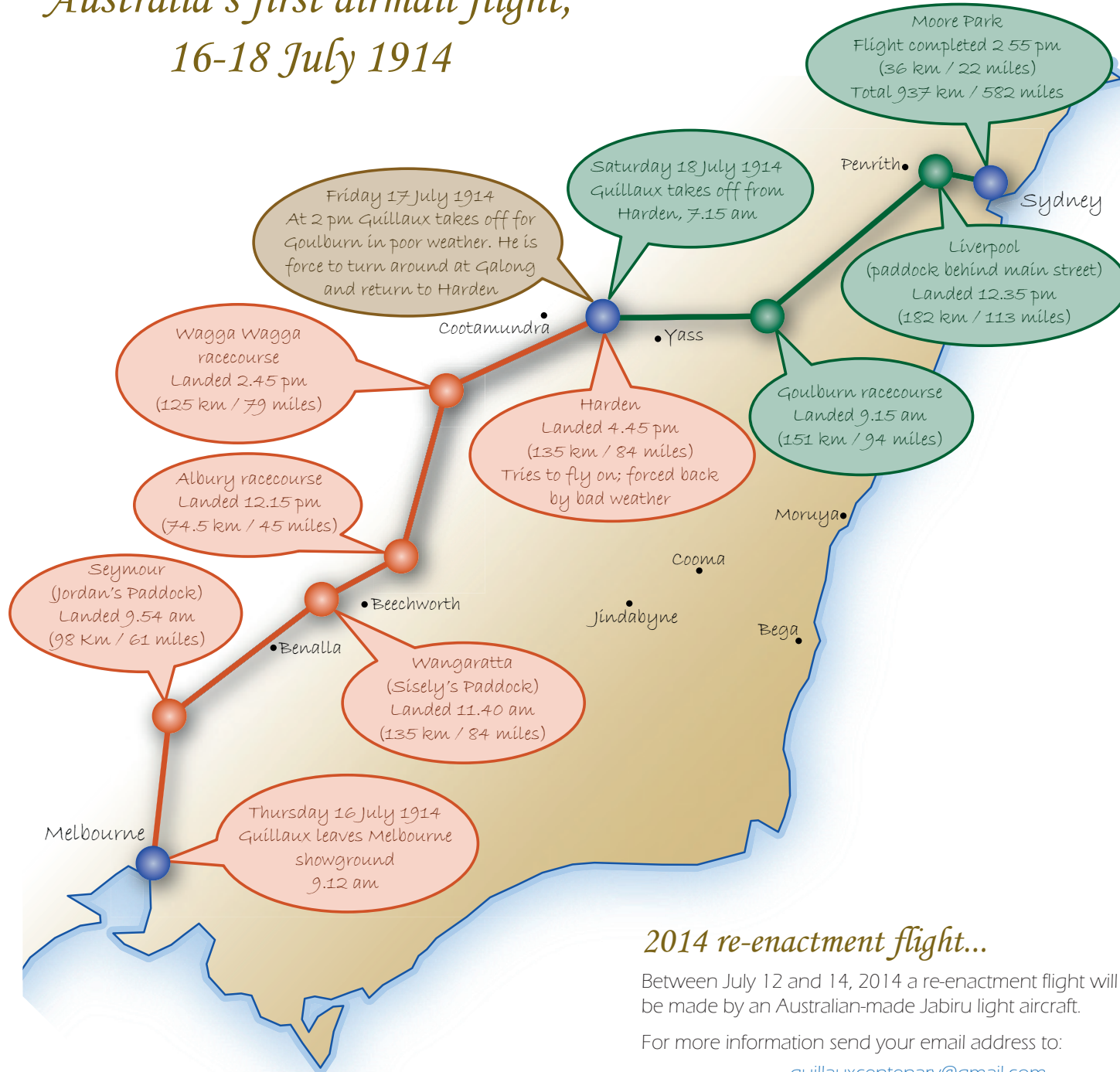
The flight took two days, five hours and 43 minutes to cover 937 km (582 miles).

It was believed to be the longest such flight, and was a sensational news story, worldwide.

Only a few weeks later World War I broke out and this remarkable flight was almost forgotten.

National Library of Australia

Moore Park
Flight completed 2 55 pm
(36 km / 22 miles)
Total 937 km / 582 miles

Saturday 18 July 1914
Guillaux takes off from Harden, 7.15 am

Friday 17 July 1914
At 2 pm Guillaux takes off for Goulburn in poor weather. He is force to turn around at Galong and return to Harden

Penrith

Sydney

Liverpool
(paddock behind main street)
Landed 12.35 pm
(182 km / 113 miles)

Wagga Wagga racecourse
Landed 2.45 pm
(125 km / 79 miles)

Cootamundra

Yass

Harden
Landed 4.45 pm
(135 km / 84 miles)
Tries to fly on; forced back by bad weather

Goulburn racecourse
Landed 9.15 am
(151 km / 94 miles)

Albury racecourse
Landed 12.15 pm
(74.5 km / 45 miles)

Moruya

Seymour
(Jordan's Paddock)
Landed 9.54 am
(98 Km / 61 miles)

Cooma

Beechworth

Jindabyne

Bega

Benalla

Wangaratta
(Sisely's Paddock)
Landed 11.40 am
(135 km / 84 miles)

Melbourne

Thursday 16 July 1914
Guillaux leaves Melbourne showground
9.12 am

2014 re-enactment flight...

Between July 12 and 14, 2014 a re-enactment flight will be made by an Australian-made Jabiru light aircraft.

For more information send your email address to:
guillauxcentenary@gmail.com

Visit the website: www.australiasfirstairmail.com