

National Library of Australia

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- nla.pic-vn4939926
- Darge, Algernon, 1878-1941.
- **Acting Post Master General W.B. Crosby handing over the mailbag to Maurice Guillaux in his Bleriot XI monoplane for Australia's first air mail delivery from Melbourne to Sydney, 18 July 1914 [picture]**



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(previous page)

- Maurice Guillaux in his Bleriot XI monoplane holding aerial mail bag at the Agricultural Society's show grounds before flying to Sydney on first air mail delivery, Melbourne, 16 July 1914 [picture]
- 1914. 1 photograph : b&w ; 10.0 x 15.3 cm., on mount 19.9 x 25.0 cm.



SYDNEY BY AIR.

GUILLAUX'S FLIGHT BEGUN.

FIRST AERIAL POST.

REACHES HARDEN, 352 MILES.

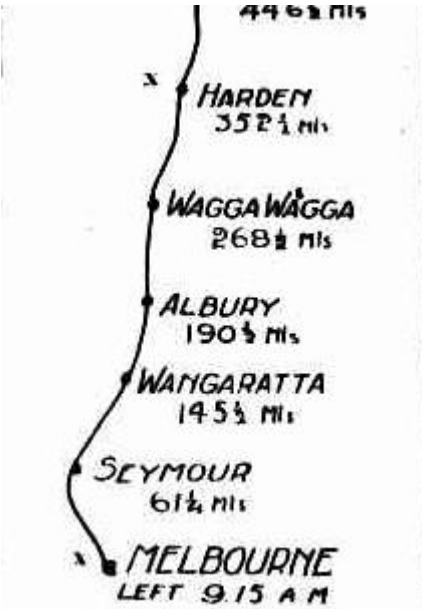
GUILLAUX'S TIME TABLE.

Melbourne	Dep. 9.12 a.m.
Wandong (34 miles)	Arr. 9.25 a.m.
Wangaratta (145½ miles)	Arr. 11.40 a.m.
	Dep. 12.15 p.m.
Chiltern (169 miles)	Arr. 12.30 p.m.
Albury (190½ miles)	Arr. 12.50 p.m.
	Dep. 1.35 p.m.
Culcairn (222 miles)	Arr. 2.15 p.m.
Wagga (269 miles)	Arr. 2.50 p.m.
	Dep. 3.30 p.m.
Junee (291 miles)	Arr. 3.45 p.m.
Harden (352 miles)	Arr. 4.6 p.m.

M. Guillaux, the French aviator, who for some weeks past has been delighting the Victorian public with his skilful and daring displays of aviation, left Melbourne early yesterday morning on a flight to Sydney. He reached Albury shortly before 1 o'clock, and messages from our correspondents record his subsequent movements until he ran into Harden, with a magnificent burst of speed, flying at the rate of two miles a minute, and brought to a close his day's journey of 352 miles.

Guillaux was early astir yesterday. He sat down to his morning cutlet at the Cafe Denat punctually at 6 o'clock, and a few minutes later set out in a motor-car for the Royal Agricultural Society's show-grounds at Flemington, where his Bleriot monoplane was housed and ready for his great undertaking—a flight to Sydney with the first aerial mail carried in Australia.

On his arrival at the show-grounds, the aviator, assisted by members of his mechanical staff, ran the Bleriot out on to the oval, and the careful overhaul of the machine began. Guillaux had stated that he would leave Melbourne for Sydney at 9 o'clock, and at that hour he was standing beside the cab of his machine, ready to start. The fact that it was 12 minutes past the hour before he got away was no fault of his, for the clock in the aviator's cab had ticked off a good five minutes after the hour before the mail arrived from the



Plan Showing the Route Taken by Guillaux on his Flight to Sydney.

The Towns Shown are the Stopping Places en Route.

General Post-office, in charge of Mr. W. B. Crosbie, acting deputy postmaster-general. The mail was promptly placed on board, good wishes and handshaking occupied a few moments, and then, to the accompaniment of hearty cheering from the 250 or 300 people present, Guillaux soared gracefully into the air, and on reaching a height of about 1,000ft. took his bearings like a carrier pigeon, and set his course northwards.

The first Australian aerial mail consisted of 1,785 postcards, for each of which some enthusiast had paid two shillings. That represented £178/10. But the postage on these communications represented an uncertain amount. Many of the cards were addressed via Sydney to the remitters themselves, to be returned by the ordinary mail, and philatelists, recognising the increased value that they would possess in after years by being extra stamped, did not hesitate to invest an extra few pence on the postage. Many of them bore shilling stamps, many more were stamped at sixpence, while the threepenny stamp was a common authority for the carriage of the postcard. In addition to the postcards, which weighed a trifle over the 40lb. which Guillaux had decided to carry, the aviator carried a letter of greeting from the Governor of Victoria (Sir Arthur Stanley) to the Governor of New South Wales (Sir Gerald Strickland), and a letter from the French vice-consul in Melbourne (M. Homery) to the French Consul-General at Sydney (M. Chavot). A mayoral greeting from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne (Councillor D. V. Hennessy) to the Lord Mayor of Sydney was to have been carried, but by some mischance it did not arrive at the show-grounds, so Guillaux will convey a verbal greeting to Sydney's Lord Mayor instead. Several persons had prevailed on the aviator to carry small packages to relatives or friends in Sydney by the heavenly route, and these, with the airman's own valise, made up his "cargo."

On his way over the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Guillaux flew comparatively low, and when passing over Essendon the noise of the tractor attracted those—they were not very many—who had forgotten the time and route of the aero-mailman's passage. The eyes of most folk out of

the time and route of the aero-mailman's passage. The eyes of most folk out of doors were turned upwards, and children on their way to school or congregated in the school grounds waved their caps in the air, and cheered lustily.

Complete arrangements had been made by the aviator's staff for meeting any possible emergency en route. At each of the stopping-places, Albury alone excepted, a member of the staff was stationed, with a supply of petrol, and it was arranged that in the event of any mishap to the airman word would be sent to the nearest of these depots, from which point the attendant could be speedily conveyed by motor-car to any place required.

THE AIRMAN'S PROGRESS.

INTEREST ALONG THE ROUTE.

WANDONG.—M. Guillaux, the aviator, passed over this town in his Bleriot at 25 minutes past 9 this morning, at an altitude of about 300ft. only, causing wonderment amongst some of the lower animals. Dogs barked, fowls cackled, horses neighed and pranced about, and, with a final stare, kicked up their heels, and stampeded. The aviator could be plainly seen, comfortably seated.

WANGARATTA.—M. Guillaux arrived here at 11.40, and left at 12.15.

CHILTERN.—M. Guillaux, the aviator, passed over Chiltern at 12.30. The whistle at the flour mill blew as he left Wangaratta, to notify the public that he was coming. The streets were lined with spectators. The airman was travelling at about fifty miles an hour.

ALBURY.—M. Guillaux arrived at the Albury racecourse at 12.50. He was met by the mayor, Alderman Waugh, and Alderman Freer. The aviator passed over Albury at an altitude of nearly 3,000ft. Approaching the racecourse he made a sharp descent, and circled the grandstand, where several persons had assembled. Guillaux at once examined the machine, replenished the petrol-tank, and oiled the engine. He then went to lunch

with Alderman Freer, who is a fellow-countryman.

In conversation, M. Guillaux said that the trip so far had been pleasant, and exceedingly interesting. Between Melbourne and Seymour the fog was very dense, and he had to rely largely on the compass. Crossing the mountains he found the cold very severe, but from Seymour on glorious sunshine prevailed. His actual flying time from Melbourne to Albury was 7 hours 25 minutes.

Guillaux left Albury at 1.35 for Wagga, where he intended to make a brief stay, thence to Harden, where he is billed to give an exhibition this afternoon, and then resuming his journey to Goulburn, where he will stay to-night.

CULCAIRN.—M. Guillaux, the French aviator, passed over the public school at Culcairn at 2.15 p.m., travelling at about 80 miles an hour. A great crowd of townspeople watched the flight, including the teachers and pupils of the school.

WAGGA.—Guillaux arrived at Wagga at 10 minutes to 3 p.m., the journey from Albury occupying 1 hour 5 minutes.

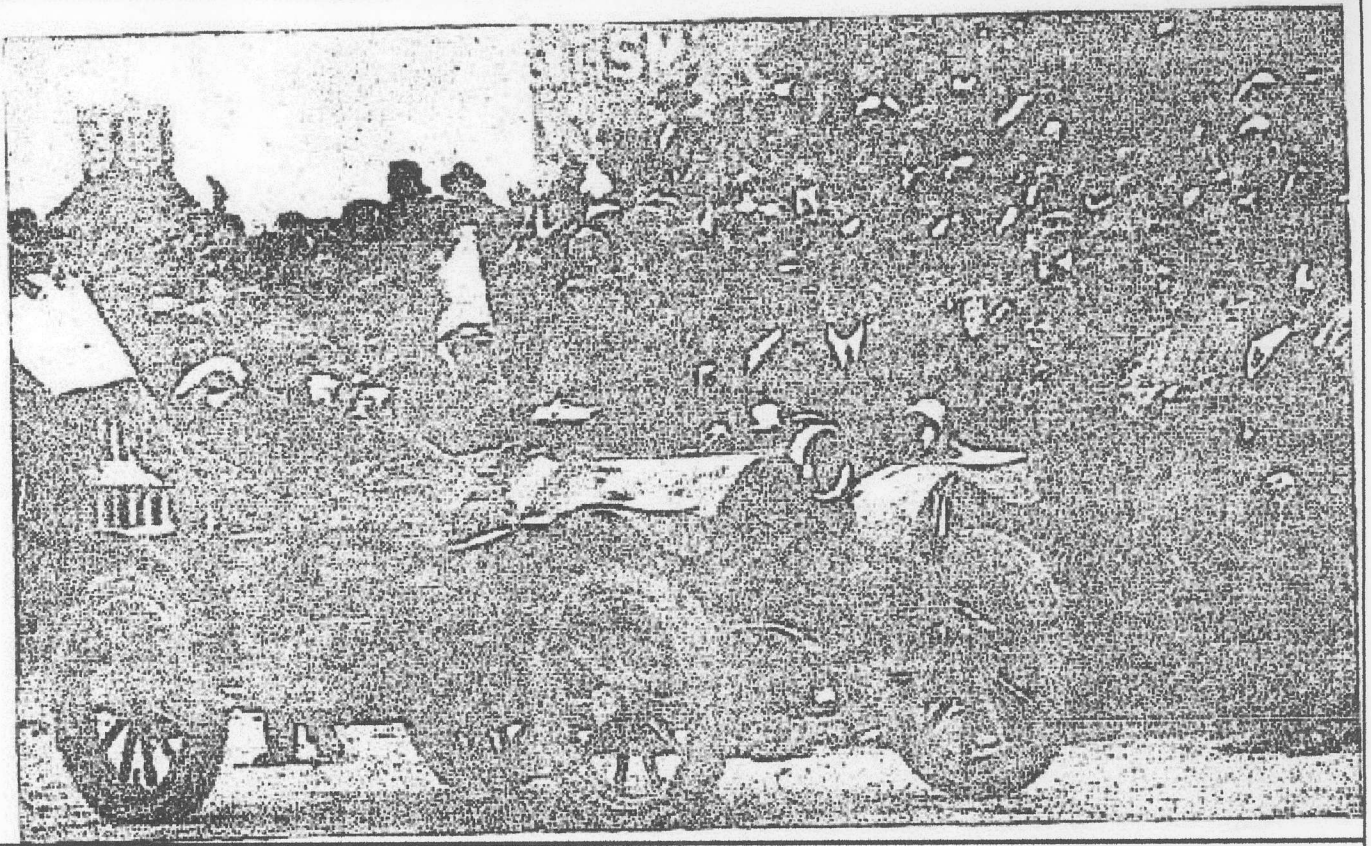
at 10 minutes to 3 p.m., the journey from Albury occupying 1 hour 5 minutes. The 17 miles between The Rock and Wagga were covered in 9½ minutes. The aviator landed on the Wagga racecourse, and resumed his journey at half-past 3 p.m., amidst the cheers of a large crowd.

HARDEN.—Guillaux arrived here at 6 minutes past 4 o'clock, having covered the journey from Junee, 61 miles, in 3½ minutes. He spent the night here.

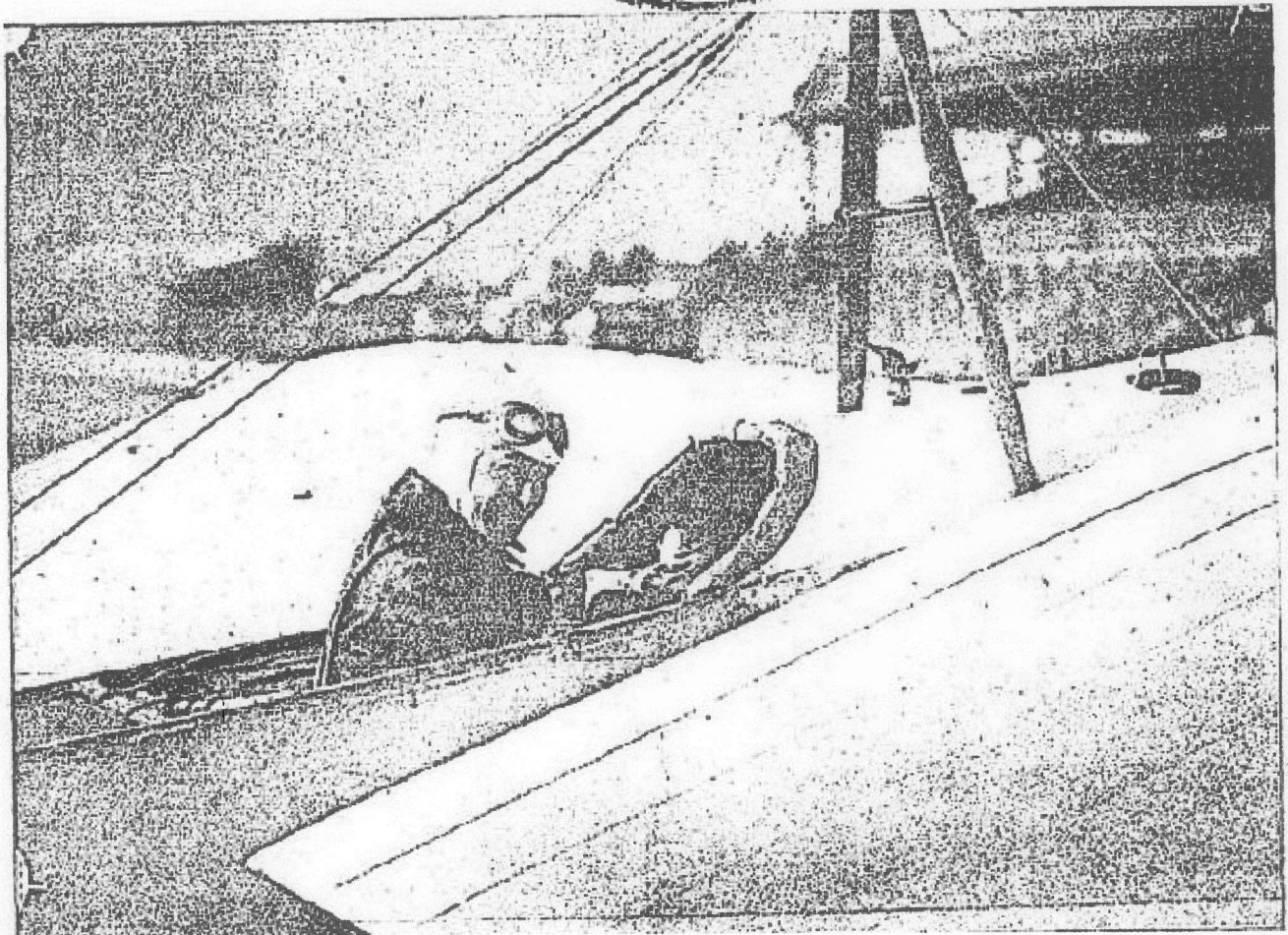
AUSTRALIAN-MADE MACHINE.

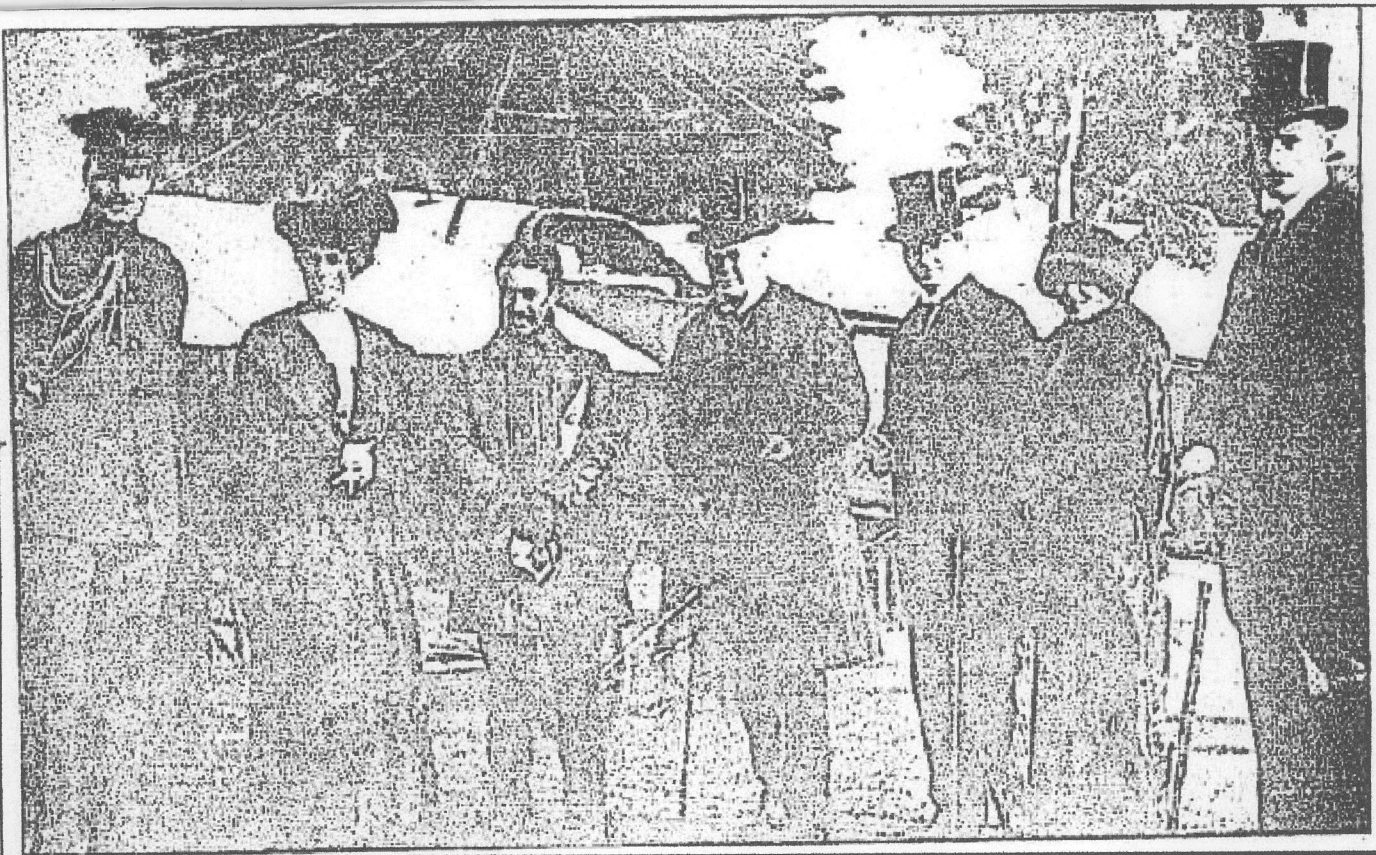
MOSSVALE (N.S.W.), Thursday.—Mr. Delphos Badgery, the Mossvale airman, son of the late Mr. Andrew Badgery, of Sutton Forest, made a very successful flight yesterday morning in an aeroplane built by himself. The engine worked very smoothly. Mr. Badgery intends making a flight to Sydney as soon as weather conditions are favourable.

LIEUT. PETRE. MONS. GULLAUX. LIEUT. HARIJSCN.



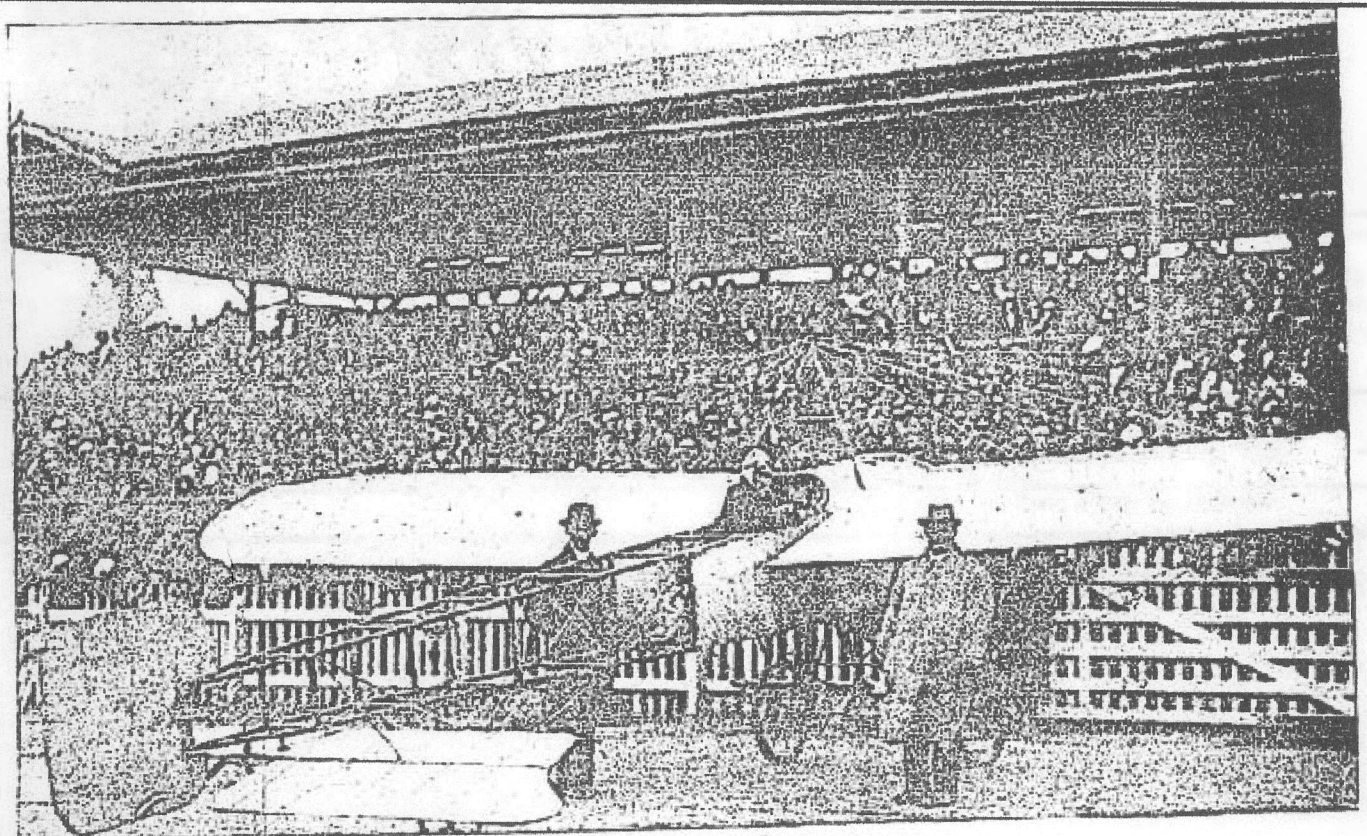
MR. DARGE AND MONS. GULLAUX ARRIVING AT THE SHOW GROUNDS.



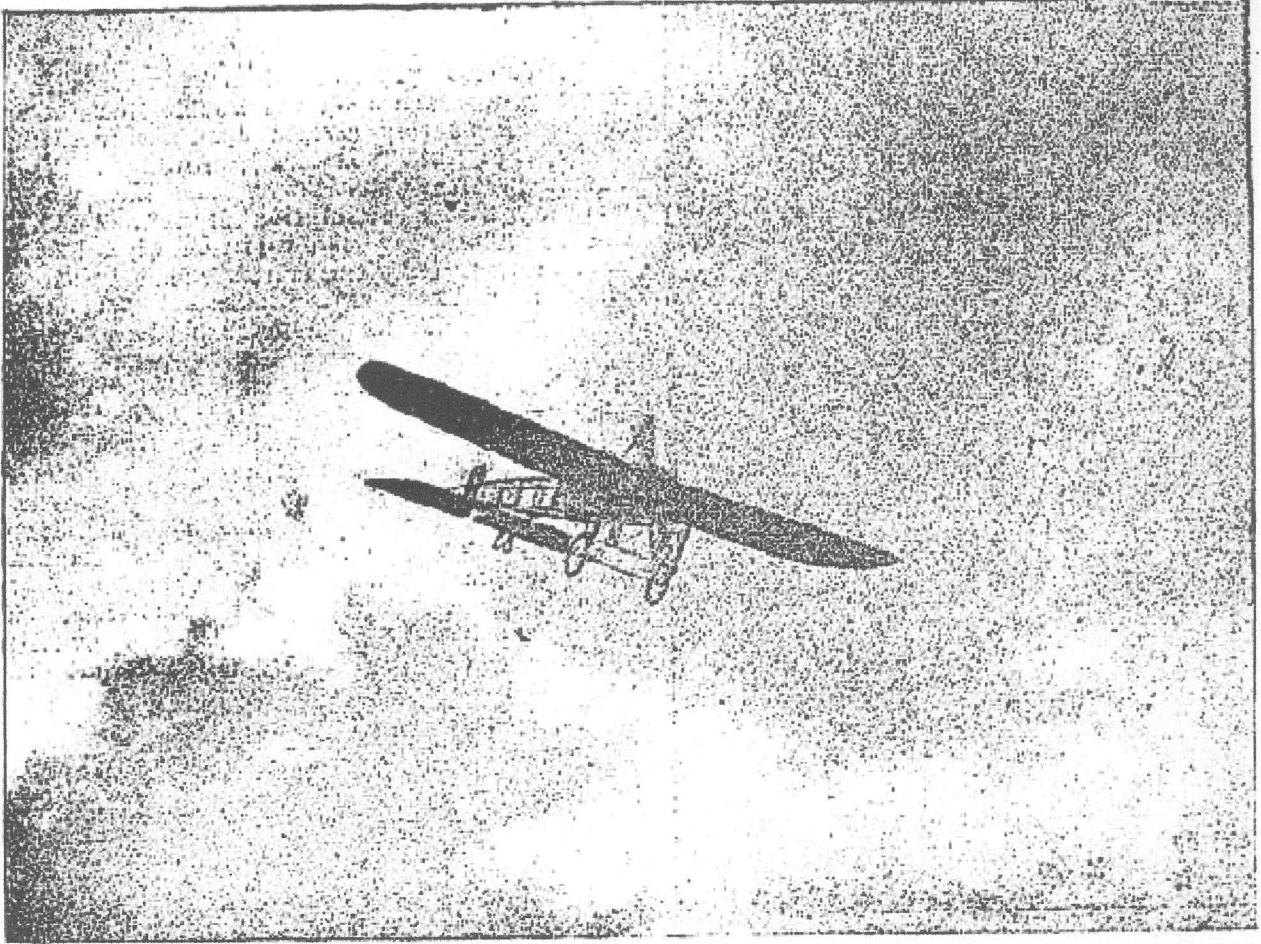


Captain Anstruther, Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, M. Guillaux, His Excellency the Governor-General, His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, the Lady Stanley, Captain Wilson, Captain Gale.

MONS. GUILLAUX IN HIS MONOPLANE.



MONS. RAPUSSAN, MONS. GUILLAUX, MONS. MAISTRE JUST PREVIOUS TO THE FLIGHT.



MONS. GUILLAUX SOARING THROUGH THE AIR AT 100 MILES PER HOUR.



FROM LEFT MONS. GUILLAUX, LIEUT. HARTSCH.