

Aviation Historical Society of Australia (NSW) inc

Airmail Centenary Commemoration Group

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Please continue to send me email addresses of people who would be interested in this project. If you are new to the project and want basic information, go to the website, 'Latest News' and read the 'Basic Information' file.

18 June: 23 days to go

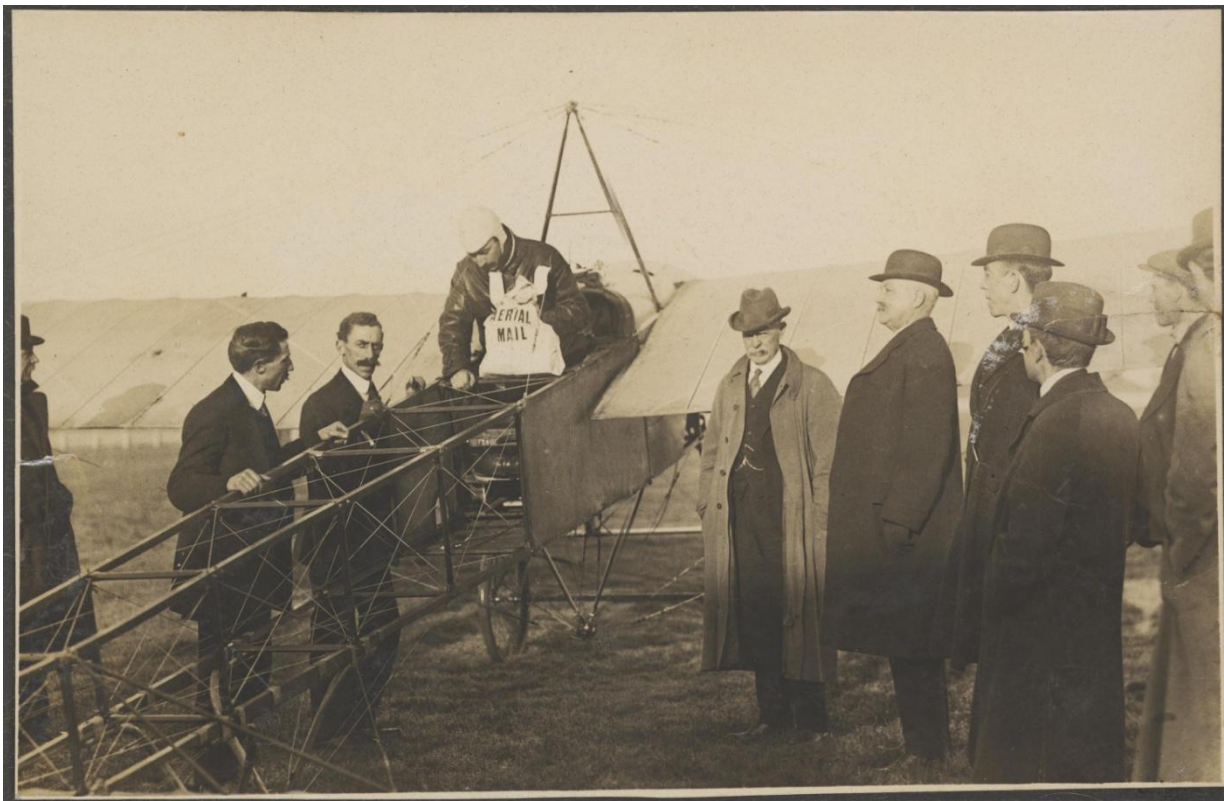
A quick recapitulation of the itinerary: We have circulated thousands of copies of our original timetable, when we were looking at a two-aircraft operation, but as the event has grown, new itineraries are being worked out. These are more flexible, to allow for aircraft of different speeds to participate, and arrivals and departures will occur over a longer period at each stop. And of course weather is the imponderable factor. The basic outline is

Saturday 12 July: depart Essendon: the original departure was 9 12 am (because the delivery of the mail was delayed twelve minutes). Mangalore – Benalla – Wangaratta – Albury to arrive about 4pm. The majority of the time on the ground will be at Benalla and Wangaratta.

Sunday 13 July: depart Albury for Wagga Wagga, breakfast with the Aero Club; (today we heard that the Alliance Francaise of Wagga will be welcoming the aviators to Wagga); then Temora Aviation Museum, and arrive at Harden by 2 30. Among many other things, Chris and Judy Hawker have advised that they are attending, with their Hawker memorabilia display – so the celebration of Australian aviation history takes on yet another aspect. The display can be seen on <http://www.harryhawker.com.au/Photos.html>

Monday 14 July: Harden to Goulburn, (John Ferrara, airport owner with help from others arranging time on ground at Goulburn) then to Mittagong, home of the Berrima Aero Club. Jabiru pilot Owen Zupp comes from the area and the local aviators are keen to participate. Mittagong to Bankstown to arrive by 1 30 pm. Lunch at the Aviation Museum at Bankstown will mark the end of the air event. The mail will be taken by road to the Powerhouse Museum, and details of this are still to be finalised. The air mail will be 'backstamped' on **18 July** and sent to its recipients. !8 July is the exact hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the 1914 mail.

The departure from Melbourne, 16 July 1914.



There are less than two minutes of movie film of Guillaux in action, and very few good photos. The photograph on the previous page comes from the National Library collection, and was taken by the famous photographer Algernon



Darge. The museum has provided us with the best possible quality reproduction of this photograph and it has some very interesting details.

The steering was done by warping the wings, and the pulley system below the cockpit can just be distinguished. The Bleriot was one of the first aircraft to have something like a joystick control.

In the morning of Thursday 16 July, Guillaux had a cutlet for breakfast at Cafe Denat, 80 Bourke Street Melbourne, now the Florentino Restaurant, and then was driven by automobile to Flemington Showgrounds, adjoining the racecourse. His aircraft had been based here, and it was from

here that he had made his Melbourne display on 30 May, before travelling to Ballarat, Bendigo and Adelaide and returning to Melbourne and giving a display at Geelong.

We tried to take off for our re-enactment from Flemington racecourse, but, though the racecourse authorities were keen to help, it could not be done. We will be taking off from the nearby Essendon airport, itself a very historic site.

The weather at this time of the year can be difficult. Early aircraft followed the railway, which of course took the most level path, and flying through the Kilmore Gap was the standard route. Even in the time of Kingsford-Smith's airline the aviators would often follow the 'iron compass' of the railway.

Pictures above are enlargements of sections of the picture on page 1. The picture on the right is probably the best likeness of Guillaux in Australia



*Guillaux at Wangaratta,
NLA pic vn372553v*

A reminder:

Postcards are on sale through the website. If you are having problems with your purchase, or you want a special number not available, please email guillauxcentenary@gmail.com or contact Mike Hill of Bexley Stamps, whose contact details are on the website. By your purchase you acquire an interesting and attractive collectable item, and help the running of the re-enactment.

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