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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Secretary,
Department of Air,
"Victoria Barracks",
MELBOURNE, S.C.1

A.19/183 BEAUFIGHTER VMZQAH : 28th FEBRUARY, 1945

This Department's Flight Control Officer, Cloncurry, has forwarded a report regarding aircraft A.19/183 (Beaufighter) VMZQAH, unadvised arrival and failure of radio communication while seeking navigational assistance on 28th February, 1945. The report reads as follows-

"At approximately 5.50 p.m. 0750Z, this station was called by R.A.A.F. aircraft VMZQAH. The aircraft appeared to be unable to receive the reply and other communications addressed to it.

At 0810Z the aircraft called for a D/F bearing. The R.A.A.F. H/F D/F station was advised and the aircraft directed to transmit the long dashes on 3270 Kc/s in accordance with established procedure. No reply or compliance was rendered by the aircraft and during the ensuing forty minutes the Aeradio Operator endeavoured persistently to re-establish communication without result.

At 0845 VMZQAH gave a call on R/T requesting the transmission of a magnetic course to steer to reach the station. On this R/T transmission the D/F operator advised the Control Officer upon request that a rough bearing of 320 was observed.

At 0850 approximately the aircraft was heard to call again and was immediately given the magnetic course to steer, 135. This was acknowledged and about five minutes later the aircraft advised that the aerodrome was in sight and was given landing instructions.

On arrival at 0900 it was discovered that a Group Captain was on the aircraft which had flown direct from Gove. No advice of the movement of this aircraft had been received at this station but a special "Mauve Travel" Signal regarding it was subsequently received, which appears to have taken about two and a quarter hours in transit.

The operator of the aircraft, when questioned, could give no rational explanation for the failure to receive the persistent replies from Cloncurry. The attention and service of the station was monopolised for almost an hour and probably occasioned troublesome interference with the work of other stations.

The matter was discussed with the R.A.A.F. Commanding Officer, who advised that I should discuss the incident and a suggested precautionary measure directly with the Controller of Communications, North-eastern Area. He promptly obtained telephone contact with that officer, who after hearing an account of the incident, advised that a letter should be written to that office setting out the full circumstances."

Action has not been taken by this Department to communicate with the Controller of Communications, North-eastern Area. Extracts from Cloncurry Aeradio Log relative to the flight are attached.

[Signature]
(R. Badenach)

For Director-General of Civil Aviation