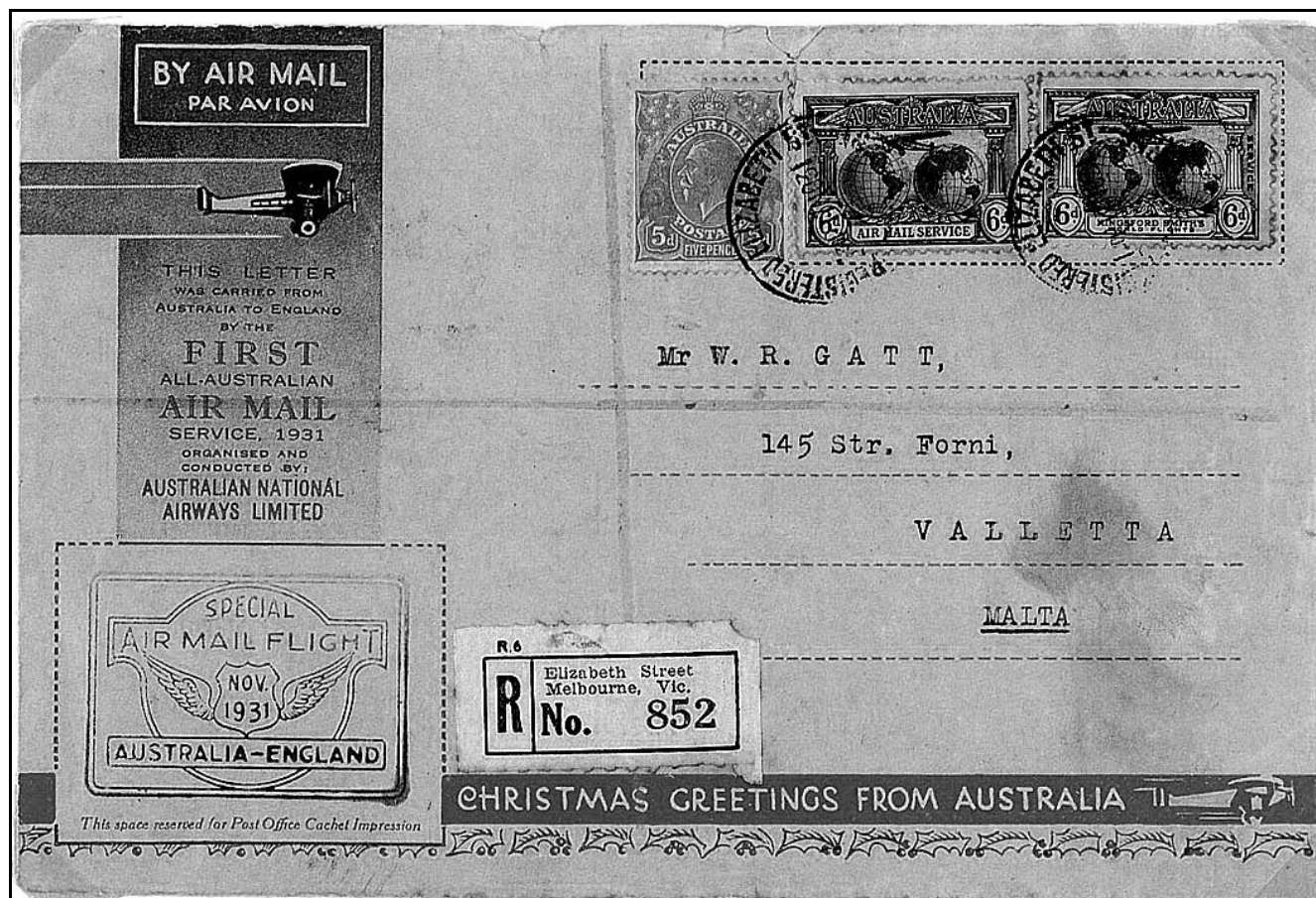


CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA 1931

By Brian Moore

Brian thought this article would be a nice follow up to Doug Ward's Aircraft Photos, also being addressed to Uncle Willie.—Editor

On the 19th of November 1931 a modified Avro X VH-UNA Southern Sun departed Hobart with approximately 52,000 items of mail, destination London England.



Australian National Airways Ltd. was founded by Charles Kingsford Smith and Charles Ulm in December 1928 to operate passenger, mail and freight service. They bought 5 Avro 618 Ten aircraft the first of which entered service on 1st January 1930 on the Brisbane to Sydney route.

VH-UMF Southern Cloud
VH-UMG Southern Star
VH-UMH Southern Sky
VH-UMI Southern Moon
VH-UNA Southern Sun

The Airline folded due to two of its fleet becoming lost, Southern Cloud in the Toolong range of Australian Alps on 21st March 1931 and the Southern Sun in Malaya on the 26th November 1931. This article is about the last trip of the Southern Sun VH-UNA.

This was the first attempt by Australian National Airways Ltd. to operate the first all Australian air mail flight to England, carrying special air mail for the Christmas of 1931. The Pilot was G U 'Scotty' Allan with relief pilot R N Boulton and L M Callaghan as wireless operator. Besides the mail, there was one passenger Lt. Col. Horace Brinsmead, the first controller of Civil Aviation who was picked up at Melbourne.

The Southern Sun departed Hobart Tasmania with approximately 52,000 items of mail on the 19th November 1931 destination London England.

Their intended route:

Hobart - Melbourne - Sydney - Brisbane - Longreach - Camooweal - Kupang - Surabaya - Batavia - Singapore - Alor Setar - Rangoon - Calcutta - Allahabad - Jodpur - Karachi - Jask - Bushehr - Baghdad - Aleppo - Athens - Rome - Lyons - London.



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Left to right: Lt. Col. Horace Brinsmead & G U 'Scotty' Allan.

The actual route taken:

Hobart	to	Melbourne	Victoria
Melbourne	to	Sydney	New South Wales
Sydney	to	Brisbane	Queensland
Brisbane	to	Longreach	Queensland
Longreach	to	Camooweal	Queensland
Camooweal	to	Newcastle Waters	Northern Territory
Newcastle Waters	to	Darwin	Northern Territory
Darwin	to	Kupang	West Timor
Kupang	to	Bima	Sumbawa Indonesia
Bima	to	Surabaya	East Java Indonesia
Surabaya	to	Batavia	Jakarta Indonesia
Batavia	to	Singapore	South East Asia
Singapore	to	Alor Setar	Kedah

The Aircraft landed safely at Alor Setar but due to the heavy rain that had saddened the airfield the Southern Sun crashed on takeoff which wrecked the aircraft.

Alor Setar Kedah



Kingsford Smith was summoned to the rescue and he duly arrived at Alor Setar on the 5th December 1931 in the Southern Star GH-UMG. The salvaged mail plus 'Scotty Allan, Boulton and Callaghan as extra crew continue the journey with Kingsford Smith in the Southern Star to England. Lt. Col. Brinsmead however, decided to catch the KLM service which crashed on takeoff at Bangkok Thailand on the 7th December 1931. He was badly injured and remained an invalid unit he died on 11th March 1934 in Melbourne.

The actual route taken from Alor Setar:

Alor Setar	to	Rangoon	Burma
Rangoon	to	Calcutta	Eastern India
Calcutta	to	Gaya	Bihar India
Gaya	to	Allahabad	India
Allahabad	to	Jodpur	India
Jodpur	to	Karachi	Pakistan
Karachi	to	Jask	Iran
Jask	to	Bushehr	Iran
Brshehr	to	Baghdad	Iraq
Baghdad	to	Aleppo	Syria
Aleppo	to	Athens	Greece
Athens	to	Rome	Italy
Rome	to	Lyons	France
Lyons	to	Le Touquet (Beach)	France
Le Touquet	to	Croydon Airport	London England



Kingsford Smith arriving at London on the 16th December 1931 in the Southern Star after rescued the mail at Alor Setar.