



Australian Government



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Kingsford-Smith. Flight to New Zealand, 1935

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

No. ~~P. D. 314/A~~

~~6344/1/8~~  
~~6173/2~~  
C314/1/7

SUBJECT:

KINGSFORD - SMITH, FLIGHT TO N.Z. 1935.

RETAIN PERMANENTLY

DISPOSAL AUTHORITY RDA951	DISPOSAL CLASS 1-1
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WB/EN  
HF/BE

28th November, 1935.

C.314/1/8.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 8th October, 1935, I am directed to inform you that the matter of compensating senders for the loss of registered mails jettisoned from the aeroplane "Southern Cross" on the occasion of the attempted Jubilee Air Flight from Sydney to New Zealand on 15th May, 1935, has been fully considered but the Government regrets that it is unable to see its way to accept responsibility as the loss arose from a cause beyond control.

I am to add that your suggestion that all registered senders of air mail lost be presented with Silver Jubilee stamps to the value of £2 is appreciated, but in view of the decision indicated above, the proposal cannot be adopted.

Yours faithfully,

*F*  
Secretary.

Grahame Dickson, Esq.,  
Sexton Street,  
SOUTH BRISBANE. Q'LD.

COPY P.M.G'S.

28 NOV 1935

*F m*

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE  
**Director General.**  
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE  
No. G.35/10499.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.  
TREASURY GARDENS, MELBOURNE, C.2. TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 5551.

NOV 20 1935

25 NOV 1935



The Secretary,  
Prime Minister's Department,  
Canberra, F.C.T.

With reference to the letter addressed to the Prime Minister by Mr. Grahame Dickson of Sexton Street, South Brisbane, which you referred to this office on the 21st October, 1935, the fullest consideration has been given to the matter of compensating senders for the loss of registered mails jettisoned from the aeroplane "Southern Cross" on the occasion of the attempted Jubilee Air Flight from Sydney to New Zealand on 15th May, 1935, and the decision given was <sup>that</sup> the Department could not <sup>see its way to</sup> accept responsibility as the loss arose from a cause beyond control.

*It was decided*

2. <sup>to add</sup> Mr. Dickson's suggestion that all registered senders of air mail lost be presented with Silver Jubilee stamps to the value of £2 is appreciated, but in view of the decision already given the Department cannot see its way <sup>to</sup> favourably consider it.

(C. G. Brown)  
for the Director General.

WT/EN

21st November, 1935.  
C.314/1/8.

MEMORANDUM for :-

The Director-General  
of Posts and Telegraphs.

---

I desire to invite attention to my minute of 21st October, 1935, forwarding a copy of a letter from Mr. Grahame Dickson, of South Brisbane, in which he embodies a suggestion for compensating the senders of registered mail lost on the occasion of Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's attempt to cross the Tasman Sea, and should be glad if you would kindly expedite a reply in the matter.

*MB*  
Secretary.

*R/S 12/12*

WB/FO'C.

18th October, 1935.  
C.314/1/8.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th October, 1935, in regard to air mail lost in the aeroplane flight attempted by Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith from Australia to New Zealand, and to inform you that the representations made in connection with the matter have been noted and will be given consideration.

Yours faithfully,

*AS*  
Secretary.

Grahame Dickson, Esq.,  
Sexton Street,  
SOUTH BRISBANE. Q'LAND.

COPY P.M.G'S.  
(ADVICE).

*2/10*

*11/11/35*

*Mural*

*RP/40*

Sexton Street,  
South Brisbane.  
8th October 1935.

The Right Hon. J.A. Lyons, P.C.M.P.,  
Prime Minister  
Commonwealth of Australia.  
Canberra, F.C.T.

15 OCT 1935



Dear Prime Minister,

I note in the Daily Press that the matter of the loss of the Registered Air Mail jettisoned from the Southern Cross over the Tasman Sea last May is still rankling in the minds of many & naturally increasing, all which tends to reflect upon one at an inopportune occasion, may I therefore submit e'er it be too late as I thought the matter long dead that the Postal Department do honour its obligations to registered senders in the manner as here in stated, in lieu of treating all with silent contempt which is the worst side to adopt in loosing the support and sympathy of its clients .

There are thousands of Collectors who use the Posts to enhance their Collections and pay the extra charge to secure the safe carriage of their mails placing confidence in your Posts that some recompense will be forthcoming in the event of loss & I am certain will in all cases where loss arises from no fault of the Department AND the Department also suffers loss with the sender assist and rest content with their Bad Luck &c.

Needless to say "Touch ones pocket & you will always be remembered" is still alive for how many have suffered as on ~~XXXXXX~~ account of the Great Silver Jubilee occasion, many who could ill-afford any loss sent Air Mails for others who they wished would appreciate the same and to be defeated when the irony of it all is "That UNregistered Mails were safe".

The fact the the Department is liable and ignoring its liability is dormant when far greater effects prevail for may I draw attention to the recent two last defeats of the Queensland Nationals, who imposed restrictions upon owners (Cutting out their bananas) They were requested to amend but ignored so the first opportunity Election put 5 Metropolitan seats out and the others next time & I may say never to come again ?

It appears useless to create illfeeling when amends are easily available, e.g.

The Total Mails carried represented about 29,000 letter upon which postage (as many had valuable stamps far in excess of requirements &c) average 1/6 per letter	-----	Total £ 2,170-
& giving credit for Expenses &c	-----	670-
Gives a Credit in fav our of the Posts @		£1500-

Upon this basis the registered Letters would be extremely limited in numbers in ratio and for reasons herein I think your Posts should do something to uphold its prestige and good name and moreso when the same can be done with little or no large expense, in fact in my opinion & greatly to its benefit,

I suggest that the POSTAL DEPARTMENT notify all Registered Senders of Air Mails lost and present them with Silver Jubilee Stamps to Value of £2 in sheets as follows viz:-

- 1, Sheet of King George Jubilee 2/-
- 12 Stamps i.e. 3 Rows of 4 Stamps ----- £ 1 : 4 :-
- " King George Jubilee 3d-
- 30 Stamps i.e. 5 Rows of 6 Stamps ----- 7 : 6
- " King George Jubilee 2d-
- 48 Stamps i.e. 6 Rows of 8 Stamps ----- 8 : -

N.P.

Each Sheet to have the Printers Name at foot  
with Date " 15 May 1935 " (Date of Flight)

These being issued to Registered Senders can also be open to the Public to buy in sheets but Date Omitted as the act of the Posts will give additional interest in the Issue and the price be more within the reach of many &c.

This I submit would be a Creditable and remunerative way of settling an ugly position &c

I have the honour to be

COPY P.M.G'S  
(ADV.)

Yours faithfully &c

*Graham Dickson*

P.S. Wish you and your good Lady best life & health after your arduous trip &c.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

SYDNEY.

24th May, 1935.

My dear Acting Prime Minister,

I enclose an article from "The Bulletin", regarding the posters meeting one at every street corner with a statement that the Government allows foolhardy flights.

As you know the circumstances quite well, and it was only under pressure and to help Kingsford Smith that the flight was allowed, I think a statement from you would not be inadvisable.

Yours sincerely,

*Archdale Parkhill*  
(Archdale Parkhill)

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Earle Page, M.P.,  
A/g. Prime Minister,  
Commonwealth Offices,  
SYDNEY.

*No action now necessary  
Kingsford Smith in current  
issue of Bulletin Australasian  
week. 28.5.35*

*File in 207/35*



SYDNEY.

24th May, 1935.

My dear Acting Prime Minister,

-----  
I enclose an article from "The Bulletin", regarding the posters meeting one at every street corner with a statement that the Government allows foolhardy flights.

As you know the circumstances quite well, and it was only under pressure and to help Kingsford Smith that the flight was allowed, I think a statement from you would not be inadvisable.

Yours sincerely,

(Archdale Parkhill)

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Earle Page, M.P.,  
A/g. Prime Minister,  
Commonwealth Offices,  
SYDNEY.

would assuredly encompass the defeat of his party at the next Commonwealth elections.

**"OVERLOADED" AND OUT OF DATE.**

THE latter-day history of aviation, civil and military, in Australia is a sorry record of sins of commission and omission on the part of constituted authority. Inert for the most part, with the result that the country is without modern machines and is short of aerodromes and trained men (though the material available is the best in the world), it is even more foolish in its rare bursts of energy.

There was no room in the R.A.A.F. or the Civil Aviation Department for Charles Ulm or Charles Kingsford Smith, but Ulm was received with open arms when he proposed to fly the Pacific in a twin-engined 'plane and asked for a Commonwealth guarantee. As a Minister put it, Canberra was convinced that the "flight would have a very favorable influence towards establishing a trans-Pacific air service," and a guarantee of £8000 was given—without Parliamentary authority. The machine was of a type which no mail contractor would use over a 400-mile sea route on a regular service. It did not reach Honolulu.

Afterwards a measure was introduced granting Ulm's widow £5000. That was not the only bill the Commonwealth had to meet, and the cost would have been far greater had the U.S. Navy charged for the very elaborate search it made. As it was, many gallant Americans took great risks in the effort to save the three valuable Australian lives that were lost.

Undeterred by this experience, the Post Office backed and the Civil Aviation Department sanctioned a mail flight to Maoriland by Kingsford Smith and party in the Southern Cross. Again there was no good purpose to be served. The Tasman has been flown several times. Mail 'planes with double the speed of the Southern Cross make nightly journeys across the U.S.A. in all weathers. There is a regular mail run from Africa to S. America over water as turbulent and a course as long.

The venture nevertheless had a good press and made a strong popular appeal, especially to collectors of stamps and curios. A second machine, Ulm's Faith in Australia, was requisitioned to carry the excess mail. She and her sister ship were seven years old—out of date, according to long-distance mail-carrying standards. At the last moment the flight was delayed because a storm at sea was reported. Another hitch occurred—in the time available no competent navigator could be found for the second machine. It was thereupon decided, presumably with official permission, to let the Southern Cross take a double load. According to a newspaper, "it was found that the Southern Cross could accommodate the whole of the mail and freight without overloading." Kingsford Smith's own words after the event were: "She was overloaded with mail and freight."

Six hundred miles out an exhaust pipe broke, and flying metal smashed the starboard propeller. The port and centre engines began to fail. For hours Australia was in danger of losing two of its finest pilots and a wireless operator. Twenty-seven thousand letters had to be thrown overboard, the Post Office concurring. The A.W.A. rose to the occasion, as always, but it had to double its operating staff for the day. N. S. Wales was put to the cost and inconvenience of sending the Sydney pilot steamer on a search mission. The Commonwealth ordered steam to be got up on H.M.A.S. Sussex, a 10,000-ton cruiser. The Air Board "found itself almost powerless to help." The "almost" is redundant.

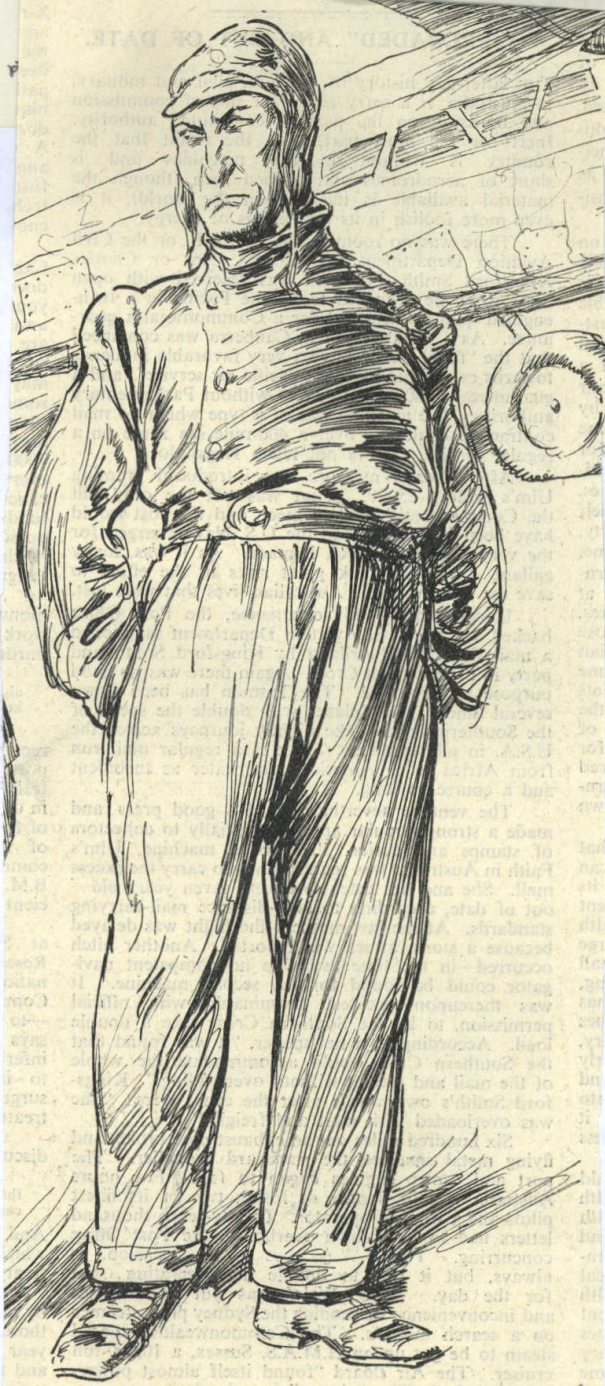
Nerve and skill were exhibited by Kingsford Smith in bringing the injured 'plane back to Mascot over 600 miles of sea; resourcefulness and intrepidity by P. G. Taylor in climbing along an oil-soaked spar to feed the limping engines with oil. But Australia knows these men, and it did not require an unnecessary hazard to demonstrate that such qualities were at their command. Sensational papers lard them with praise and familiar impertinences. To sober-minded Australians it is a lamentable thing that such men should be officially encouraged to engage in a perilous adventure in an obsolete and "overloaded" machine when there is so much to be done in the legitimate field of civil aviation, and when Australia does not possess a naval 'plane which it is reasonably safe to

send a couple of hundred miles off the coast, or a fighting squadron which could get within 80 m.p.h. of the speed at which Germans, Russians, French and Italians are trained to fight.

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5/2



NORMAN

POST OFFICE MUST HAVE ITS S  
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 en need bread, so we are expected to give 'em circus stuff.

The



may.

MAY 22, 1935.

ould, send a couple of hundred miles off the coast, or a  
ern- fighting squadron which could get within 80 m.p.h  
ater of the speed at which Germans, Russians, French and  
me- Italians are trained to fight.  
the

# PRIME MINISTER.

---

13th May, 1935.

DD.314/4.

5/5


Dear Sir:

With further reference to your letter of 6th April in regard to the aeroplane flight which Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith has arranged to make from Australia to New Zealand in association with the celebration of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee, I am advised that a reply has been furnished direct by the Postmaster-General's Department in respect of the application for permission to carry an official air mail on that occasion.

The Acting Prime Minister has addressed a communication to the Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand for despatch by this official air mail.

I have ascertained on enquiry that His Excellency the Governor-General has also written letters for inclusion in this mail.

Yours faithfully,

  
J.H. STARLING,  
Secretary.

John S.W. Stannage, Esq.,  
Room 28, 11th Floor,  
Kembla Building,  
Margaret Street,  
SYDNEY.



We Starling  
of original of this  
has been  
despatches

Sept 9  
57  
35-

*Staff phoned by  
Mr Edward - - Sgt  
H.A.*

Acting

9th May, 1935.

My dear Acting Prime Minister,

As you are doubtless aware, authority has been given by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for official mail to be conveyed to New Zealand by Air-Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, A.F.C., M.C., in an aeroplane flight which ~~is~~<sup>he</sup> has been arranged to make next week, in association with the celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne.

Several flights across the Tasman Sea have been made and in one instance an air mail from Australia to New Zealand was so carried.

The Commonwealth Government welcomes every provision for closer relations and intercourse between the two Dominions, and I feel that I cannot allow to pass this opportunity of repeating the most cordial greetings which were conveyed from the Prime Minister of Australia to the Prime Minister of New Zealand by the earlier air mail, and of expressing our joyfulness to be linked with other portions of the Empire, in tendering most loyal and affectionate congratulations and fervent good wishes to His Majesty on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee.

We are convinced that our mutual problems can be solved by meetings from time to time, and by the fullest discussion of subjects of mutual interest and concern, and that any improvement of our means of communication - an air mail service is particularly helpful in this respect - will be of considerable assistance in promoting that good understanding which we both so earnestly desire to maintain.

Yours sincerely,

*Sgt* Earle Page  
Acting Prime Minister.

The Hon. E.A. Ransome, M.P.,  
Acting Prime Minister,  
WELLINGTON. N.Z.

*I have ascertained, no enquiry  
that letters to the Gov Gen have been despatched  
by NZ and others how  
by the Gov. Gen. for  
by this air mail  
13.5.35*

26th April, 1935.  
DD. 314/4.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 6th April, 1935, making application on behalf of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith for permission to carry a Jubilee air mail from Australia to New Zealand, I am directed to inform you that after having consulted with the Postmaster-General's Department the Government regrets it is unable to see its way to grant permission for Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to carry an official air mail on the occasion under notice.

In the event of its being decided by Sir Charles to carry out the proposed flight the Acting Prime Minister would be pleased to entrust to him a letter to the Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand conveying greetings, and to communicate his request to His Excellency the Governor-General, and, if so desired, to the Premiers of the several States.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

John S.W. Stannage, Esq.,  
Room 28, 11th Floor,  
Kembla Building,  
Margaret Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

*Submitted for approval.*  
*JHS 26.4.35*

COPY P.M.G.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR-  
GENERAL, POSTS AND TELE-  
GRAPHS.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
TREASURY GARDENS, MELBOURNE, C.2. TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 5551.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.

G.35/3766.

18 APR 1935

23 APR 1935

MEMORANDUM to -

The Secretary,  
Prime Minister's Department,  
CANBERRA. F.C.T.



With reference to your memorandum of 10.4.35, A.D.314/4, concerning an application made on behalf of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith for permission to carry a Jubilee Air Mail from Australia to New Zealand, it is considered that, whilst the proposed air mail despatch would doubtless be of considerable interest to philatelists, it would serve no useful purpose from a postal viewpoint.

2. In this connection it may be mentioned that an application made on behalf of the late Mr. C.T.P.Ulm for permission to carry an official air mail to New Zealand in connection with the visit of the Duke of Gloucester to that Dominion, and also a recent request from Squadron Leader White to convey an official air mail from Australia to Japan were declined, as it is against the policy of the Department to despatch air mails by such flights.

*M. B. Harry*  
(M. B. Harry).  
for the Director-General.

JU/DB.

15th April, 1935.

DD.314/4.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th April, 1935, asking on behalf of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to be allowed to participate in certain directions in the celebrations of the King's Jubilee, and to inform you that your application will receive consideration.

A further communication will be addressed to you in the matter at as early a date as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Secretary.

John S.W. Stannage, Esq.,  
Room 28, 11th Floor,  
Kembla Building,  
Margaret St.,  
SYDNEY.

PS 23/4/35

JU/DB.

10th April, 1935.

DD. 314/4.

MEMORANDUM FOR :-

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

I am directed to request that you will kindly furnish your views regarding the enclosed application for a Jubilee Air Mail to New Zealand.

*H*  
Secretary.

①  
Letter to be ackd.  
11/4

②  
See by *Adair R.*  
11/4

15 APR 1935

(2)

The Honorable Dr. Earle Page,  
Canberra:

April 6th, 1935.

"In reply to your enquiry, I have pleasure in advising you that the participation of the 'Sydney Morning Herald' in the first flight to New Zealand on the terms we discussed has been approved.

With best wishes for the success of the undertaking."

It is also probable that the British film incorporating the life of His Majesty will be despatched to New Zealand by the plane, after it has been rushed from England by Air Mail.

We contend, Sir, that the granting of this Jubilee Air Mail will be considered a magnificent gesture on the part of the Commonwealth to New Zealand, which will certainly reciprocate.

Sir Charles, after landing at New Plymouth will personally fly the Jubilee greetings of the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and the various State Premiers, to Wellington, where he will deliver them to their respective addresses.

We realise, Sir, that time is limited, and respectfully ask for prompt consideration. Mr. Percival and myself will be only too glad to fly to Canberra to interview you, on receipt of telegram, telephone message or letter.

I have the honour, Sir, to be your obedient servant,

*John S. W. Stannage*

For Sir Charles Kingsford Smith:

COPY P.M.G.

*cc*  
*For discussion*  
||  
-encs- *sz* *db*

*Sir Charles Kingsford Smith*

Telephone: B 3207

Room 28, 11th Floor

*Hembla Building,  
Margaret Street,*

*Sydney, April 6th, 1935.*

*RD*

The Honorable Dr. Earle Page,  
Acting Prime Minister,  
Prime Minister's Department,  
CANBERRA. F.C.T.



Dear Sir:

I was instructed last night by wireless telephone from Wellington, New Zealand, by Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to officially apply for :-

- (a) .. An official His Majesty the King's Jubilee Air Mail from Australia to New Zealand, in which the general public of Australia can send Jubilee greetings to their friends in New Zealand.
- (b) .. For Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to act as courier of the Governor General of Australia and the Acting Prime Minister and the Premiers of the various States, in carrying across the Tasman Sea by air in the 'Southern Cross', greetings from the Commonwealth Government and the various States to the Governor General and Government of the Dominion, on the occasion of the King's Jubilee.

I wish to respectfully point out, Sir, that the 'Sydney Morning Herald', which is publishing a special Jubilee issue, is for the first time in its history, behind an aviation venture of this description. Mr. Percival, on behalf of Sir Charles, has received the following letter from the Business Manager of the 'Sydney Morning Herald', Mr. Codlin:-



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

Canberra, 26th April, 1935.  
DD. 314/4.

*In reply quote No.*

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 6th April, 1935, making application on behalf of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith for permission to carry a Jubilee air mail from Australia to New Zealand, I am directed to inform you that after having consulted with the Postmaster-General's Department the Government regrets it is unable to see its way to grant permission for Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to carry an official air mail on the occasion under notice.

In the event of its being decided by Sir Charles to carry out the proposed flight the Acting Prime Minister would be pleased to entrust to him a letter to the Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand conveying greetings, and to communicate his request to His Excellency the Governor-General and, if so desired, to the Premiers of the several States.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

John S.W. Stannage, Esq.,  
Room 28, 11th Floor,  
Kembla Building,  
Margaret Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

# PRIME MINISTER.

WB/DB.

D.D. 314/4.

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

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Referred, in connection with your memorandum of  
18th April, 1935, No. G. 35/3766.

Secretary,  
Prime Minister's Department.

# PRIME MINISTER.

---

26th April, 1935.  
DD. 314/4.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of 6th April, 1935, making application on behalf of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith for permission to carry a Jubilee air mail from Australia to New Zealand, I am directed to inform you that after having consulted with the Postmaster-General's Department the Government regrets it is unable to see its way to grant permission for Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to carry an official air mail on the occasion under notice.

In the event of its being decided by Sir Charles to carry out the proposed flight the Acting Prime Minister would be pleased to entrust to him a letter to the Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand conveying greetings, and to communicate his request to His Excellency the Governor-General and, if so desired, to the Premiers of the several States.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

John S.W. Stannage, Esq.,  
Room 28, 11th Floor,  
Kembla Building,  
Margaret Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.



# PRIME MINISTER.

---

## JUBILEE AIR FLIGHT TO NEW ZEALAND.

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who is carrying the Jubilee issue of the "Sydney Morning Herald" across the Tasman Sea, and considers it probable that he will carry on the same flight the film depicting the life of His Majesty, applies for -

- (a) permission to carry on a Jubilee Air Mail from Australia to New Zealand, enabling the general public of Australia to send Jubilee greetings to friends in New Zealand;
- (b) the privilege of acting as courier of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, the Acting Prime Minister and State Premiers to convey their greetings to the Governor General and Government of the Dominion on the occasion of the Jubilee.

In regard to (a) the Postmaster-General's Department considers that while the proposal would doubtless be of considerable interest to philatelists it would serve no useful purpose from a postal viewpoint..

An application made on behalf of the late Mr. C.T.P.Ulm for permission to carry an official air mail to New Zealand in connection with the visit of the Duke of Gloucester to that Dominion and also a recent request from Squadron Leader White to convey an official mail to Japan were refused as it is against the policy of the Postmaster-General's Department to despatch air mails by such flights.

24.4.35.