

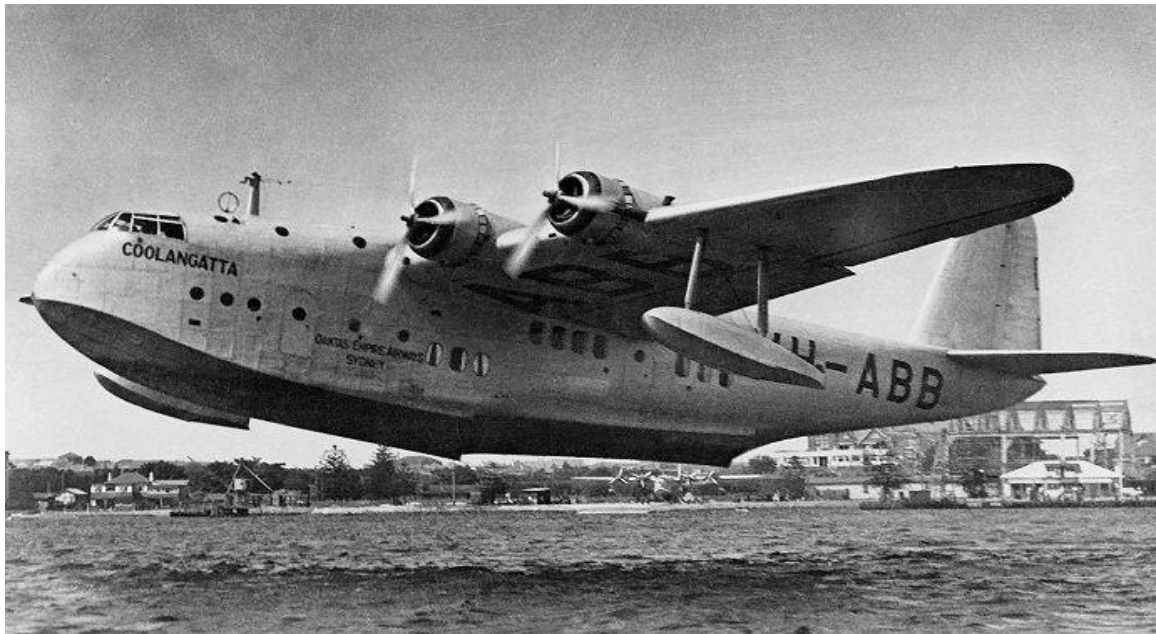
A Flight to New Zealand in 1947

From two letters written by Arthur 'Mal' Mallinson

Date	Time		Mal's Narrative
May 5, 1947	12:00 PM	Received tickets	We did not know for certain that we were on the plane until mid-day Monday (May 5), when by that time I had the air tickets in my pocket.
	5:30 PM	Checked in at BOAC Office	We had to meet at the BOAC office in London at 5:30 PM that night and there our trip began by bus to Waterloo
	6:30 PM	Caught train to Bournemouth	to catch the 6:30 train to Bournemouth,
	9:30 PM	Arrived in Bournemouth	reached there at 9:30 PM and stopped at the Grand Hotel. We sent off our letters, telegrams, etc. and got to bed as quickly as possible ready for an early start next morning.
May 6, 1947	8:00 AM	Took off from Poole in Dorset	We were away in the air by 8 AM and heading south across France and to the sunshine. Dorothy was a little nervous to start with but this soon passed off.
		Landed at Marseilles	We were aground for 1 hour in Marseilles for fuel for both plane and passengers and then away over the blue of the Med to Sicily.
	4:00 PM	Arrived in Augusta, Sicily	We arrived in Augusta about 4 PM to find lovely spring-like weather, the gardens full of flowers and a soft balmy night. What a change to the cold wet morning we had left behind in Poole that same morning. Such is air travel in a single day you can fly from cold to the lovely summer sunshine of the Mediterranean. We spent the night at Augusta
May 7, 1947	10:00 AM	Left Augusta for Cairo	and did not make an early start the next day. Left at 10 AM for Cairo, so had time for a leisurely breakfast and finish out our sleep.
	4:00 PM	Arrived in Cairo	We arrived in Cairo about 4 PM the same evening after a not very interesting trip across the sea all the time.
May 8, 1947	9:00 AM	Left Cairo	We left Cairo about 9 AM and headed for Basra. This is a 6 hour hop and over the hot desert all the way. It was a bit bumpy on this trip and a good number of the passengers were ill. Dorothy was not so good this day.
	3:00 PM	Stopped at Basra	After an hour's stop at Basra we again took wing and hopped down to Bahrein on the west coast of the Persian Gulf.
		Arrived in Bahrein	It was long after dark when we arrived but a night landing to the BOAC is child's play.

Date	Time		Mal's Narrative
May 9, 1947		Left Bahrein	The next morning before leaving we were given a ride into the town on a bus and took a walk to the bazaar. Dorothy tried to buy sandals for the hot days ahead but strange to say in that eastern bazaar could only find English made shoes, high heels, evening shoes, everything but locally made sandals which she wanted. Our next hop was to Karachi.
	4:00 PM	Arrived in Karachi	We landed there about 4 PM and a party of us took a taxi up into the city 15 miles away, and there Dorothy got fixed up with sandals. Her shoes had become very uncomfortable due to her feet swelling in the heat.
May 10, 1947	12:00 AM	Left Karachi	We left Karachi for Calcutta at midnight. The bunks were made up and we settled down to sleep. I slept well but Dorothy did not get much sleep this night. When we awoke next morning we found that we were flying on 3 engines only. Apparently one engine had failed about 3 AM when we were half way across the country.
	8:30 AM	Arrived in Calcutta	The captain had nursed the others all night and we made an excellent landing on the Hooghly in Calcutta only half an hour behind schedule. We had a wait in Calcutta of four and a half hours until the engine was fixed OK
	1:00 PM	Left Calcutta	and left at 1 pm for Rangoon only 4 hours away.
	5:00 PM	Arrived in Rangoon	At Rangoon we really saw the effects of war. The town is stripped of everything. No electricity yet available in bulk and everything very much knocked about. We stayed the night here and that was long enough.
May 11, 1947		Left Rangoon	The next day we flew on to Singapore and there you would not know there had been a war.
		Arrived Singapore	Everything was clean and orderly and we really enjoyed our night there. We stayed at the famous Raffles hotel. Singapore and Malaya were lovely and green, such a contrast to the dry deserts we had flown over the previous days.
May 12, 1947		Left Singapore	Our next hop was to Java
		Arrived Surabaya	where we stayed at Surabaya for the night
May 13, 1947		Left Surabaya	and then flew on the next day to Darwin in Australia. This was a most interesting day's flying and included a trip over the top of an old volcano 12,000 ft high on the island of Lombok. Rinjani is the name of the mountain if you are looking it up on the map.
		Stopped in Darwin	Darwin is a very small place and because of a strike at the airport we did not stay the night but flew on through the night to

Date	Time		Mal's Narrative
May 14, 1947	8:00 PM	Stopped in Bowen Arrived in Sydney	Bowen in North Queensland, and then on next day to Sydney. We arrived in Sydney at 8 PM on Wednesday the 14th and were booked to leave for N.Z. on the 16th, Friday.
May 15, 1947		Stayed in Sydney	
May 16, 1947		Left Sydney	We duly left at the appointed time but after flying out over the Tasman Sea for 3 3/4 hours had to turn back because of bad weather in N.Z. We were returned to Sydney where we stayed another night
May 17, 1947		Left Sydney again	and then made the flight the next day, Saturday. This meant that we missed our Wellington plane and had to wait till Monday.
May 19, 1947		Arrived in Wellington	We therefore arrived back in Wellington in time for tea on Monday the 19th having taken just a fortnight to get here. Although we were both rather tired Dorothy was no worse for the trip and soon made up the lost sleep of the previous two weeks. It really was a marvellous trip and we are both happy at having been able to travel out together this way.



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