

GOOD SCENESS. COCOS ISLAND.

1. CU SIGN 'COCOS ISLAND, ALTITUDE 10 FEET'
2. AIR V FLYING OVER COCOS ISLAND.
3. AIR V FROM PLANE AS IT COMES IN TO LAND.
4. GV CONTROL BUILDING ON AIRPORT.
5. SV DITTO, CAR PARKED OUTSIDE.
6. GV COCOS ISLAND, SHOWING HUTS & COASTLINE.
7. GV DITTO, SHOWING HUTS & COASTLINE.
8. GTV COASTLINE OF COCOS ISLAND.
9. GV PAN FROM SEA OVER HUTS TO LANBING STRIP?

R/Blue.



BEA news

NEW ZEALAND AIR RACE.

The following are five personal messages cabled by Mr. Peter Masefield, Chief Executive of BEA, to a member of the BEA staff in London. Flying as a pilot of the BEA Viscount, he wrote them in the air race and handed them in at each port of call. They were immediately transmitted to London - in some cases arriving there within a few minutes.

FROM BAHREIN:

"Landed Bahrein after uneventful flight ex-London in 10 hours 10 minutes take-off to touchdown average speed 310 miles per hour for 3,200 miles STOP All crew in excellent form and aircraft perfect STOP Aircraft lifted easily at take-off at London Airport weighing 62,000 pounds with 2,850 gallons fuel STOP Climbed to 15,000 feet in first 15 minutes and watched deep red sunset at 22,000 feet over Luxembourg after 50 minutes flying STOP All crew enjoyed hot meal of steak carrots and icecream at 30,000 feet south of Rome and 325 miles per hour true airspeed STOP Winds have averaged 100 knots on beam with no tail component STOP Saw lights of Beirut and Damascus and dawn at 0150 hours near Baghdad STOP Pilots duty roster two hours each Baillie Johnson Masefield Jones Johnson STOP Radio contact good except for thunderstorms STOP Received news of KLM at Rome Hastings at Athens Canberras at Shaibah obviously excellent race developing STOP Leaving Bahrain for Negombo due there 1030 hours GMT STOP Although do not expect to win on handicap all crew happy and enjoying flight feeling untired thanks to turbo-props STOP"

FROM COLOMBO:

"Crew of Endeavour still going strong aircraft and engines likewise STOP Second leg flight Bahrein Ceylon long daylight overwater haul mostly flown 25,000 feet true airspeed 310 miles an hour STOP Flight time Bahrein Negombo 8 hours 3 minutes weather mostly fine but some weaving required dodging cummings and inter tropical front STOP Transit time Colombo 18 minutes STOP Most of crew had some sleep this leg STOP All enjoying race and send good wishes Royal Aero Club officials for all courtesy at start STOP Next leg to Cocos about 6 hours with night landing STOP Meals being regulated by tummy time as times

from

"of day now utterly confused STOP No repeat
no confusion though on magnificent performance
of aircraft and engines which are giving us a
very comfortable ride STOP We expect rough
weather on next leg however across equator
STOP Watching KLM progress closely and admiring
their fine effort STOP"

FROM COCOS:

"Having left steamy sunshine of Ceylon
we have battled across 1,800 miles of storm
ridden Indian Ocean through darkness and tropical
rainstorms to land at Cocos STOP Flying time 6
hours 26 minutes including dodging storms STOP
In spite of initially rough passage aircraft and
crew in good shape and ready for next stage to
Australia STOP At 1640 GMT today 24 hours out
from London and 300 miles from Cocos we had
covered total of 7,200 miles with two stops and
had spent total of 33 minutes on ground STOP
Throughout had little help from winds STOP Head-
winds Ceylon Cocos STOP Thanks smoothness turbo-
prop engines crew not repeat not tired STOP Please
convey Airlines Ball Albert Hall tonight good
wishes of all aboard BEA Endeavour STOP With you
in thoughts STOP Routine now firmly established
on aircraft STOP Four pilots and two Radio Officers
take two hour watches STOP Navigator fully employed
STOP Additionally Masefield in charge cruise con-
trol Profumo cuisine STOP Estimate land Perth
Australia just after midnight tonight GMT STOP"

FROM MELBOURNE:

"BEA Viscount Endeavour made landfall
Australia 29 hours 55 minutes after leaving London
Airport STOP Australia sighted at dawn 2230 hours
GMT Friday Chief Executive at controls STOP Favour-
able winds made possible direct flight Cocos to
Melbourne in 10 hours 15 minutes 350 miles per
hour STOP Viscount has been flying comfortably at
32,000 feet ground speed 405 miles an hour STOP
All well on board and operations routine STOP
Hope to complete last leg to Christchurch across
Tasman Sea in about 4 hours 50 minutes estimation
land Christchurch approximately 0945 Saturday
morning GMT all on board send good wishes to all
in BEA flag flying high STOP Believe have esta-
blished new London Melbourne record halving 1934
MacRobertson race winning time of 71 hours STOP"

FROM CHRISTCHURCH N.Z.:

"BEA Viscount Endeavour crossed finishing
line Christchurch New Zealand 0921 hours GMT
Saturday thus being first transport aeroplane
to finish race and fifth arrival STOP Course
flown of 12,365 miles completed in elapsed time
of 40 hours 41 minutes and flying time of 39
hours 38 minutes STOP Average speed overall 305
miles an hour STOP Both crew and aircraft in
perfect condition and ready to go on round world

"immediately after standard 15 minute refuelling
if required STOP This flight demonstrated speed
and reliability of modern British turbo-prop
aircraft and especially BEA's standard Vickers
Viscount Fleet STOP Rolls Royce Dart engines
have completed 125,000,000 revolutions in race
without faltering or even making a noise about
it STOP Regards STOP"

Issued by:

Press & Information Branch,
British European Airways,
Lower Regent Street, S.W.1.

October, 1953.