

FLYING BOATS FOR AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, January 26.

The Australian Commonwealth Line cargo steamer Ferndale, which will arrive at Melbourne to-day, carries the two largest packing cases ever landed in Australia. They contain portions of the two super-marine Southampton flying boats, which have been brought out for the Royal Australian Air Force at a cost of £17,000 each.

The supermarine flying boats will be assembled at Point Cook and tested, and crews then will be trained to man them. The boats are equipped with twin 450 h.p. Napier Lion engines, and have a full loaded weight of 14,300 lbs. each. They are 49 feet 8 inches in length, 18 feet 7 inches in height, and have a span of 75 feet. They can climb to a height of 5,000 feet in 10 minutes, and have a landing speed of 52 miles an hour.

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New Supermarines

Arrival in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, January 27.

The Commonwealth liner Ferndale arrived yesterday with the two new supermarine flying boats for the Royal Australian Air Force. The machines cost £34,000 each.

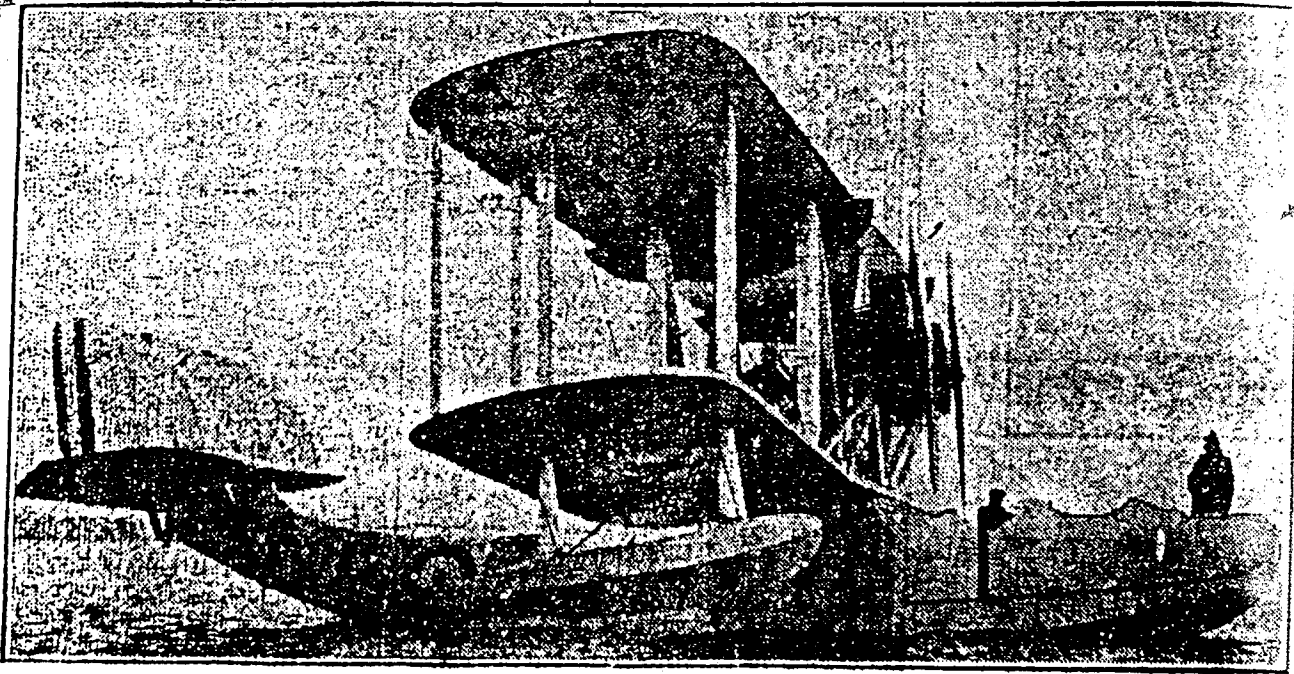
Four similar machines of the British Air Force are flying to Australia, and it was originally intended that the two that came yesterday should meet the others at Singapore. The Secretary to the Air Board (Major P. E. Coleman) said that it was doubtful if the assembling and training of the crews and trial flights could be completed in time to permit of this long journey. Every effort would be made, however, for the new flying boats to meet the visiting machines outside Australian waters.

LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS.

The Air Board has not yet discussed the possibility of using this type of flying boat for a flight to New Zealand. In spite of their cost the two new purchases would not be able to cross the Tasman Sea in one hop, mainly because they have not sufficient petrol range. The same difficulty would have to be considered if long Pacific flights were suggested.

The new machines will be seen in all the States about June, when they will co-operate with the British section in exhibition flights.

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FOR ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Two super-marine Southampton all-metal flying boats arrived at Fremantle on the Ferndale to-day. They are being shipped to Point Cook for the Royal Australian Air Force. They are fitted with two Napier-Lion engines, and are built of duralumin with stainless steel fittings, eliminating both rust and corrosion. The weight saved, as compared with a wooden hull, is 500lb. Due to the absence of water-soakage there is a further saving of 400lb. Four machines of this type are being used on the Far East cruise, via Egypt, India, Singapore, and round Australia. Broome will be the first port of call, and here they will be joined by the two flying boats now on the Ferndale.

19-1-28 WA PAPER

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

New Flying Boats.

MELBOURNE, May 18.—Australia's first super-marine flying boat was given its official tests this morning at Point Cook and they proved most successful. The boat cost £17,000 and is the largest machine owned by the Australian Air Force.

There is accommodation in the body for a crew of six and folding metal sleeping bunks are provided. The hull is of finely polished wood. There is also accommodation for a wireless operator. Two 450 horse power Napier engines provide the power for the flying boat and provision is made for the carriage of three Lewis guns.

When the engines were started this morning the boat moved off gracefully and rose without a hitch. The landing was perfect. Air Force officials expressed themselves very satisfied with it. The second super-marine flying boat is expected to be completed in a week or so and will participate in the welcome to the flying boats from England.

5-28 WA PAPER