

the RAAF Fairey IIID seaplane flight around Australia (see AIRCRAFT, May 1974). In his History Of Australian Aviation (The Hawthorn Press, 1960), Stanley Brogden relates that "the flight ... was hailed at the time in England as another triumph for British aircraft."

Of more importance than the honours and tributes, however, was the official report of the flight compiled in 1927 by the CAS. This comprehensive defence assessment was submitted to the Minister for Defence on May 31. The report formed the basis for strategic air planning in the Pacific islands adjacent to Australia until the advent of the 1939-45 War; when, of course, the PNG - New Ireland - Solomons theatre of war became an Achilles heel in the Japanese plan to conquer the Pacific. There is no doubt that of all the flights made by Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, KBE, CB, DSO, the most significant was his 1926 strategic survey.