

THE VIVIAN HEWITT CORRESPONDENCE 1925 - 1953

April 26, 1912



Many historians, dismissing Robert Loraine's landing off Howth on September 11, 1910, credit Denys Corbett Wilson with the first flight across the Irish Sea. In fact Corbett Wilson did not fly the Irish Sea but the St. George's Channel, and the Irish Sea crossing was not made until April 26, 1912, when a twenty-two year old Grimsby-born aviator, Vivian Hewitt, received the honour. The description of his flight was told in the "Dublin Mail" of April 26:

"Shortly after 11.30 this morning Dublin folk with keen ears heard a strange noise in the air, and, on looking upwards they saw at a tremendous height a bird man making in the direction of the Phoenix Park. Amongst Dublin airmen hopes were temporarily raised that it might be the missing aviator, Allen, who might have been quietly sequestered since last heard of, in either Wicklow or Welsh hills. But such was not the case. It was Mr. Vivian Hewitt who had made all the noise in crossing the city, and who subsequently landed safely in the Phoenix Park, near the Royal Hibernian Military School. There were a number of people about at the time and some of the boys at the school who were out of doors raised cheers for the intrepid aviator. Mr. Hewitt subsequently told a representative of the "Mail" that the flight had been a most trying one and that he had lost sight of land shortly after leaving Holyhead. There was a heavy fog at the time and for fifty minutes he saw nothing appertaining to the earth. "I then saw the Wicklow Hills and changed course to the north east", said Mr. Hewitt, "which brought me over the city at about two thousand feet. My real trouble came when crossing the city and I struck several air pockets. On one occasion over Trinity College the machine was nearly turned upside down on me. Again crossing Guinness's Brewery I hit a pocket which was the worst I ever met and I thought my flight was going to finish in the Liffey".

The Irish Sea finally had been crossed by aeroplane. The following day when leaving Dublin, Hewitt offered a special thanks to the members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police who had protected his airplane from "... members of the fair sex who tried to inscribe their names on my machine. I do not like people writing their names on the canvas as someone with a hard pencil will bore holes through the fabric covering".

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POST CARD

FOR COMMUNICATION

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

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POST CARD

Correspondence.

Address.

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(Photo by Wills Jones Magnet Studio, Rhyl.)



Vivian Hewitt Esq. - Flying over Rhyl Sands

FIRST FLIGHT

BY VIVIAN HEWITT

HOULMEAD DUBLIN:

THE VIVIAN HEWITT CORRESPONDENCE 1925 - 1953

April 26, 1912 / April 23, 1938 / May 14, 1938 / October 30, 1938

Posted Simla on April 23, May 14 and on October 30, 1938,
and carried by Imperial Airways services India - London.
Forwarded to Rhyl, Captain Vivian Hewitt.



NOTE ALL LETTERS TO EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA, EGYPT, PALESTINE, INDIA, BURMA, MALAYA, CO BY AIR

1/2 D. FOR EACH HALF OUNCE