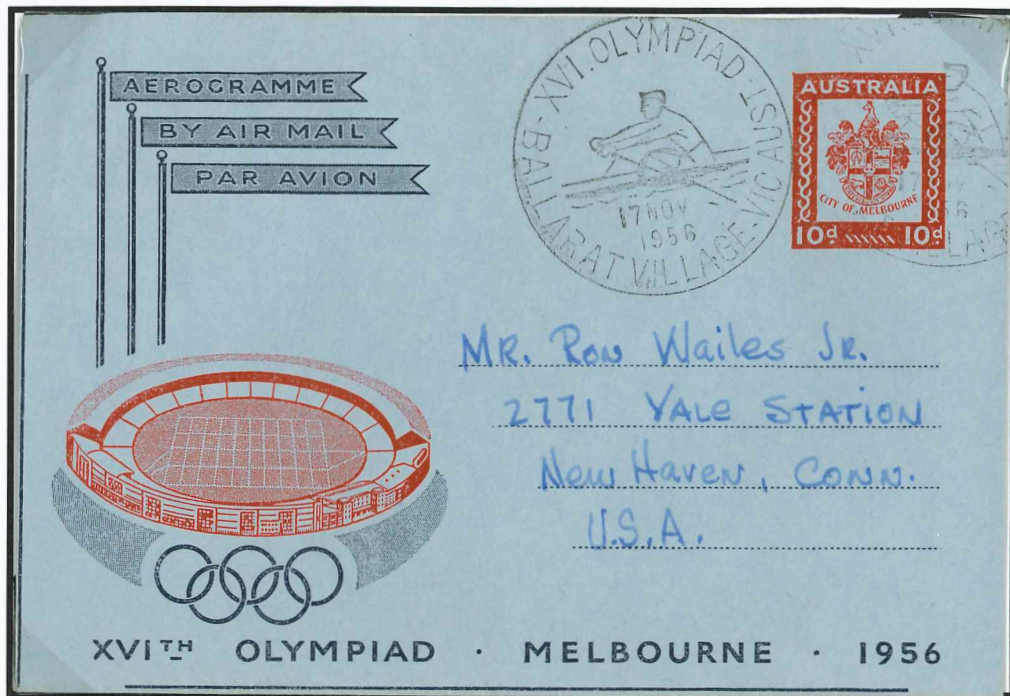


Games of the XVIth Olympiad Melbourne 1956

Rowing: Coxed Eights



Richard "Rusty" Wailes, member of the winning US crew sent this aerogramme to his brother from the Olympic Village for the rowers at Ballarat, not far from Lake Wendouree.

The message reads:

"Dear Ron,

.....We get up at 6:30 & eat at 7:00 then at 10:00 we go out for a morning row – say 5 to 9 miles – lunch sack and 5:00 row again – 5-7 miles – dinner when we get in and sack at 10:00 – The lake is just large enough so that using the longest diagonal – and our tillers in the sand at the start – and bows running up on the beach at the finish we get in 2000 meters – so when we take a long row we just go around and around the lake.

The weather has been louzy – wetter and rougher than what we left behind in New Haven!! It really wouldn't be so bad – if we could have warm showers – and a place to dry our clothes – but it has rained every day – sometimes in a downpour....

The crews we are watching – are first Australia then Canada – then Check [sic], Russia, Sweden, even Italy – though they train on wine – and the Germans on beer – the Russians really go for the coca-cola & ice cream – so we try and make sure they get enough. However I believe the Australians will be tougher than the Canadians – The U.B.C. [University of British Columbia] boys are 6'3" 180 as compared to the Aussies 6'4" 194 - they are big, strong & row damn well – another Corn-hole!!

However the course is always damn rough – and always with a head wind – we had a calm day so we rowed a 6:13 2000 at 31 – and the next day with a head wind the U.B.C. boys did a 7:09 & the Check 7:39 – Some of the Aussies bet us we couldn't break 7:00 so this morning – rough as hell – had to row the first 1000 at 29 – then up to 31 then 33 we broke 7 – though we announced the time as 7:07. Oh yes – the same ole game ---

George & Jim say hallo – and me also – until Xmas

Rusty"



Happy Birthday!



Made by Grandpa & Granny
April 2021