

---

---

# THE AIRPOST JOURNAL

---

---

- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
- AMERICAN AIR MAIL SOCIETY
- APRIL, 1936 VOL. VII. No. 7.
- ISSUE 72 - - 10c PER COPY



# Australia's Silver Jubilee

## ROCKET EXPERIMENTS

by ALAN H. YOUNG  
President and Experimenter  
Australian Rocket Society

NOEL S. MORRISON  
Hon. Secretary, Australian  
Rocket Society

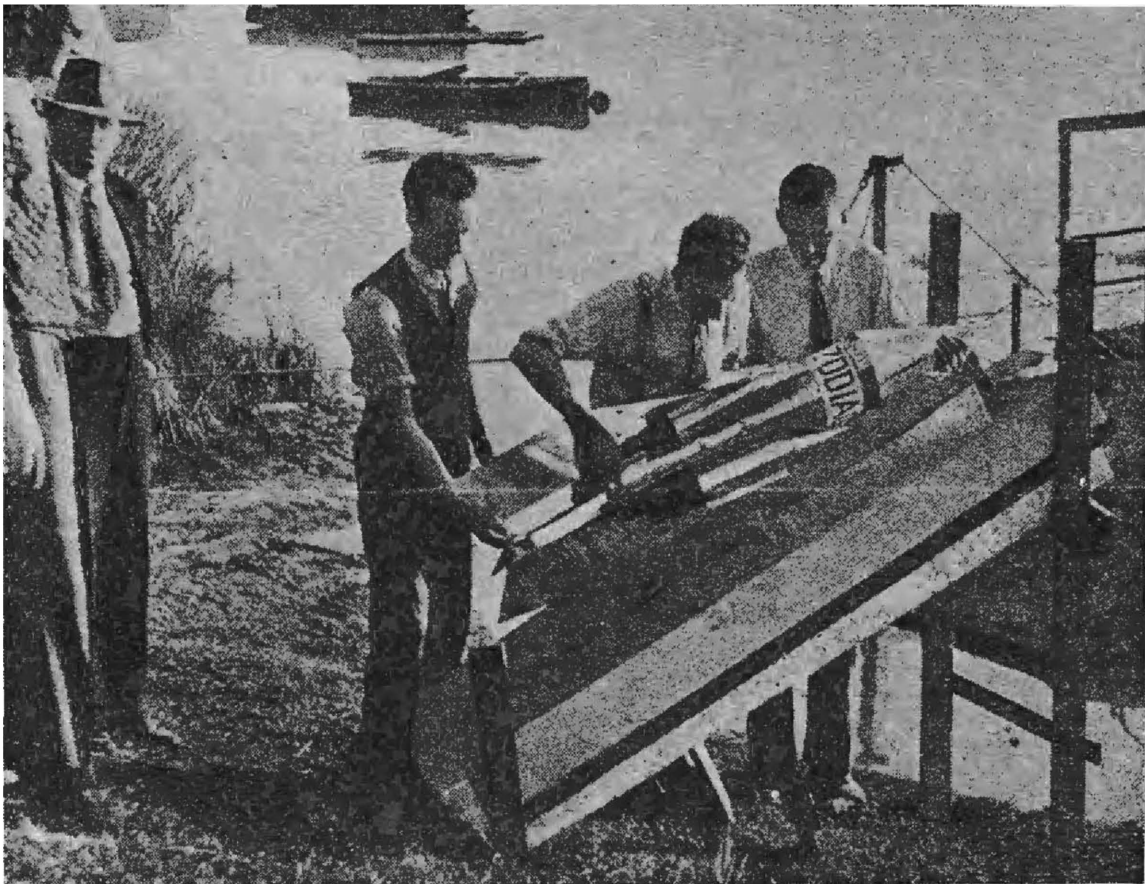
**T**HE FOURTH attempt in Australia to carry mail matter by rocket was carried out near Brisbane on October 28, 1935. The site chosen was on the South bank of the Brisbane River at Riverview. The object being to convey a mail across the river to the adjoining village of Moggill.

A special rocket carrying the name "Zodiac" was designed and constructed by the President of the Australian Rocket Society, Mr. Alan H. Young. The shell

was of aluminum and housed five separate charges. These were fixed by means of fuses so adjusted to give added impetus before reaching the zenith of the parabola of flight.

The members of the Society including the committee of management arrived on the scene by car shortly after 4 a.m. The experiment was carried out under the supervision of Constable A. G. Eiser of Redbank, permission for the firing having been obtained from the Commissioner of Police for Queensland. Press reporters, photographers and a number of interested spectators were also present.

A runway was erected at the selected spot and after the lighting of the fuses it was soon discovered that the experiment was not to proceed as scheduled. The charges broke adrift from the casing and members narrowly missed injury. The rocket was blown from the runway, travelling about 25 yards, finally coming



• THE "ZODIAC" being placed on the runway preparatory to the first Silver Jubilee rocket experiment in Australia, October 28th. 1935

# THE AIRPOST JOURNAL



**ALAN H. YOUNG, president and experimenter of the Australian Rocket Society, with the "Zodiac."**

to rest in the river. An inspection of the wreckage showed that the connecting link between the charges and frame had burnt through, releasing the charges from their containers.

A second attempt was to have been undertaken with the rocket "Orion" the same morning but as the charges in this rocket were fixed in a similar manner, it

was decided to postpone this attempt to allow a different method of fixing the charges.

Four hundred letters were carried, numbered 1 to 400 consecutively. Each cover bears the crest of the Australian Rocket Society, is suitably inscribed and contains a replica in miniature of the frontispiece of the Royal Silver Jubilee issue of the Brisbane "Telegraph" newspaper. Ninety-nine postcards, depicting the experimenter Mr. A. H. Young and the rocket "Zodiac" were also carried. Each cover and card carried a special rocket stamp in blue and these were suitably cacheted in red. Five hundred blocks of four of these stamps were issued, each block numbered 1 to 500 consecutively and endorsed "Issued by the Australian Rocket Society." These rocket stamps were submitted to the Postal Authorities in Brisbane and permission obtained to affix them to the front of covers for conveyance through the post. A large number of covers and cards were damaged by both fire and water, several having to be re-addressed at the Moggill post office before posting. After the firing all mail was posted at the Moggill post office and bears the postmark of that office dated 28th. October 1935. Thirteen covers were conveyed by registered post and this is believed to be the first occasion on which rocket mail has been accepted for registration.

Press reports of the experiment appeared in the Brisbane "Telegraph" Oct. 28th, Brisbane "Courier-Mail" Oct. 29th and a full page of photographs in the "Weekly Queenslander" of Oct. 31st. A detailed account was also given over the Queensland wireless stations on the evening of Oct. 28th and the morning of October 29th.

**T**HE FIFTH attempt in Australia to convey mail by Rocket was carried out near Brisbane on February 24, 1936, by The Australian Rocket Society. This rocket, the "Orion" was to have been fired on October 28th, 1935 just after the firing of the rocket "Zodiac." Owing to the accident to the "Zodiac" the "Orion" was completely rebuilt and a steel core with a special bolting apparatus for the charges, was fitted. Five separate charges were again employed and with the newly designed charge chamber, performed perfectly during the experiment.

Selecting a site on the North bank of the Brisbane River at Moggill Ferry, a new runway was erected. From here an attempt was made to convey mail across the river to the village of Riverview. Arriving on the scene at 6:00 a.m., members of the Society, accompanied by Constable A. G. Eiser of Redbank, made final adjustments for the firing. The fuses were lit soon after 7:00 a.m. and after a wait of a minute the rocket began to move up the chute. It gained a terrific speed in the matter of a split-second,

## USED AIRPOST

AUSTRIA 706/16	.....\$ .95
706/20 Cpl.	..... 5.30
ALBANIA 1/7	..... 2.20
CZECHOSLOV. 513/20	..... 2.60
DANZIG 432	..... .65
438/42	..... .50
HUNGARY 962/73	..... 2.35
976/84	..... 2.20
LITHUANIA 466/71	..... 2.10
Reg. Postage 25c always extra	
Many Others Want Lists Filled	

### M. CHLUMECKY

Geweygasse 11

Vienna XIX. AUSTRIA

Payments to my account with The National City Bank of New York East Midtown Branch. N. Y.

and when leaving the chute the naked eye lost all power to determine the true course taken by the straying projectile. It was possible to note that after traveling a short distance the rocket nose-dived, struck a tall pine tree and was deflected into the river. When brought to the bank it was discovered that the air chamber had been smashed in and the waterproof silk bag containing the mail badly torn. The mail was completely saturated and took some ten hours to dry out. The photo-postcards with their highly glazed surfaces suffered considerably, and in some cases had to be re-addressed and stamped. All mail was posted at Brisbane G.P.O. at 10:30 p.m. on February 24th and bears the postmark 11:30 p.m. of that date.

Permission for this experiment was obtained from the Commissioner of Police for Queensland, and was carried out in the presence of press reporters and photographers and a number of interested spectators.

Four hundred letters were carried, numbered 1 to 400 consecutively, and each cover bears the official crest of the Australian Rocket Society with a suitable inscription. As an enclosure, a miniature of the frontispiece of the Royal Silver Jubilee issue of the Brisbane Daily "Telegraph" newspaper is printed on air-mail paper. One hundred postcards of the rocket designer, Mr. A. H. Young and the original "Orion" were also carried. Each cover and card has a special rocket vignette in red, cacheted in violet. Five

hundred blocks of four of these stamps were printed and the blocks were also numbered from 1 to 500, and endorsed "Issued by the Australian Rocket Society." They were submitted to the postal authorities in Brisbane and permission obtained to affix them to the front of the covers for conveyance through the post. One hundred twenty-five blocks of vignettes were used up on the mail.

Each cover and card bears a violet cachet in two lines "EXPERIMENT POSTPONED, ROCKET FIRED 24.2.'36", and before posting, another cachet in two lines was also applied "MAIL DAMAGED BY WATER.", this latter being in red.

Press notices of this experiment appeared in the Brisbane "Telegraph", Feb. 24th, and the Brisbane "Courier-Mail" Feb. 25th. A number of photographs, including a very fine picture of the rocket in flight, were included in the same issue of the "Courier-Mail". A detailed account was also given over Queensland wireless stations on Feb. 24th and a special feature was included on the programme of 4BK, The "Courier-Mail" station on the evening of Feb. 25th.

Though the desired result was not obtained in this experiment, it has proved of tremendous value to the active members of the Australian Rocket Society. The conveyance of 21 pounds, at the rate of 80 miles per hour by rocket, no matter what the ultimate result, is achieving something.



● ROCKET COVER carried on the "Orion" in the second Silver Jubilee rocket experiment. February 24, 1936. The rocket fell into the river, damaging mail bags.