

thereupon were examined thoroughly for tropical diseases. No one could approach us or the airplane until we had passed muster. If this work is done at all it should be thorough, and I approved the methods, although the formalities delayed refueling operations.

The customs officials had to clear the Electra as if she were an ocean-going vessel, but that was done with much dispatch. Inasmuch as we carried little but one suitcase apiece and had nothing in the plane but spare parts, fuel and oil, the process was simplified. At Darwin, by the way, we left the parachutes we had carried that far, to be shipped home. A parachute would not help over the Pacific.

Two things in Australia I especially wanted to do were to meet Jean Batten, its famous woman flyer, and to see a Koala bear. I missed out on both. However, a cordial telegram of good wishes came from Miss Batten, then at Sydney.

Not found in newspaper story

on Fred Noonan and I met C.L.A. Abbott, Administrator of the Northern Territory. He issued cordial invitations for various pleasant functions but, alas, we could not be very social as at dawn we were to end our so-brief stay on the fringe of our fifth continent and shove off easterly, homeward bound.