

= Ivor McIntyre =

Ivor Ewing McIntyre , CBE , AFC & Bar (6 October 1899 ? 12 March 1928) was a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) . He gained national recognition in 1924 when he and Wing Commander Stanley Goble became the first men to circumnavigate Australia by air . Two years later , under the command of Group Captain Richard Williams , McIntyre piloted the first international flight undertaken by an RAAF plane and crew ; this feat earned him the first Air Force Cross awarded to an RAAF member . Born and raised in England , McIntyre had served with the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Air Force in World War I before joining the RAAF . He left the Air Force in 1927 to become an instructor with the South Australian branch of the Australian Aero Club , and died after a plane crash the following year .

= = Early career = =

Ivor Ewing McIntyre was born on 6 October 1899 in Kent , England , the son of Captain Duncan McIntyre . He joined the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) in 1917 , and saw action in World War I as a flight sub @-@ lieutenant . McIntyre transferred to the Royal Air Force (RAF) on its creation as an independent service in 1918 , and was a lieutenant when awarded the Air Force Cross in the 1919 New Year Honours . He was granted a short @-@ service commission in the RAF as a flying officer on 12 December 1919 .

McIntyre joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1923 . In November that year , he piloted a survey flight between Melbourne and Sydney , and carried out a similar mission between Melbourne and Hobart in February 1924 . In July 1925 , McIntyre was tasked by the Chief of the Air Staff with intercepting a squadron of the United States Pacific Fleet as it approached Melbourne on a flag @-@ waving visit ; he succeeded in doing so despite poor weather and not without , according to the official history of the inter @-@ war RAAF , " an enormous element of luck , not to mention risk " .

= = Pioneering flights = =

= = = Circumnavigation of Australia = = =

In 1924 , McIntyre and Wing Commander (later Air Vice Marshal) Stanley Goble , another veteran of the RNAS , became the first men to circumnavigate Australia by air . McIntyre was lead pilot while Goble , who was Chief of the Air Staff at the time , acted as commander and navigator . The pair took off from Point Cook , Victoria , on 6 April 1924 in a single @-@ engined Fairey IIID floatplane . They flew anticlockwise along the eastern coast to Thursday Island , Queensland , then crossed the Gulf of Carpentaria to Darwin , Northern Territory , and continued along the Western Australian and South Australian coasts . Along the way they faced adverse weather , fatigue and illness , and had to deal with engine problems and fuel leaks .

McIntyre and Goble returned to Victoria after covering 8 @,@ 450 miles (13 @,@ 600 km) in 44 days . As they flew over Point Cook , 12 RAAF aircraft took off to escort them to their landing place at St Kilda Beach , where a crowd of 10 @,@ 000 people was waiting to welcome them . Prime Minister Stanley Bruce called the journey " one of the most wonderful accomplishments in the history of aviation " ; his government presented McIntyre with a gift of ? 250 , while mission commander Goble received ? 500 . The British Royal Aero Club awarded the duo the annual Britannia Trophy , and they were appointed Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the King 's Birthday Honours . McIntyre was also awarded the Oswald Watt Gold Medal for 1924 , and promoted to flight lieutenant effective from 31 March that year .

= = = Pacific Islands flight = = =

In 1926 , McIntyre was selected as lead pilot on another pioneering Australian flight under the command of the then @-@ Chief of the Air Staff , Group Captain (later Air Marshal Sir) Richard Williams , to study the South Pacific region as a potential theatre of operations . In company with Flight Sergeant Les Trist , they took off from Point Cook on 26 September 1926 and made a 10 @,@ 000 @-@ mile (16 @,@ 000 km) round trip to the Solomon Islands in a De Havilland DH.50A floatplane . The DH.50 's fuselage bore the words " Royal Australian Air Force " , the first aircraft to do so . Like the circumnavigation of Australia in 1924 , this flight was not without its difficulties . Approaching Southport , Queensland , on 29 September , the DH.50 lost power and had to land in the ocean ; after making repairs , McIntyre was twice thrown clear of the aircraft while taxiing to the beach in heavy surf . The expedition returned on 7 December to a 12 @-@ plane RAAF escort and a 300 @-@ man honour guard .

Though subsequently described as partly a " matter of prestige " owing to rumours of other countries planning such a journey , as well as a " reaction " by Williams to the 1924 expedition led by Goble , Williams ' rival at the time for leadership of the young Air Force , this was the first international flight undertaken by an RAAF plane and crew . McIntyre was awarded a second Oswald Watt Gold Medal , and a Bar to his AFC , for his part in the flight ; it marked the first occasion that the AFC was awarded to a member of the RAAF . Trist received the Air Force Medal , and Williams was appointed a CBE .

= = Death and legacy = =

McIntyre left the RAAF in November 1927 to become a flying instructor for the newly formed South Australian section of the Australian Aero Club . He died in an Adelaide hospital on 12 March 1928 of injuries received the previous day , when he crashed the club 's Moth trainer while giving an aerobatics display at Parafield . Goble said of him , " That he did sterling work with our air force is well known , but it is doubtful whether the majority of the people in Australia have a true appreciation of the greatness of this man and the magnitude and difficulties of many of the tasks he performed . "

In 1994 , McIntyre and Goble were honoured by the issue of a postage stamp by Australia Post , one of a series depicting Australian aviators that also included Freda Thompson , Lawrence Hargrave , Sir Keith and Sir Ross Macpherson Smith .