



FOKKER F. VIIB-3m 'SOUTHERN CROSS'

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's 'Southern Cross' is probably the most legendary Fokker transport aircraft of all time. The 'Old Bus', as Sir Charles called it, is now an Australian relic as it forms the centre piece of the Kingsford Smith memorial at Brisbane's Eagle Farm airport.

These were the highlights of the aircraft's career: In 1928, C. Kingsford Smith, C. T. P. Wm. H. Lyon and J. Warner with the 'Southern Cross' made the first flight across the Pacific, from San Francisco to Brisbane.

The next year, Kingsford Smith broke the Australian-England record in 12 days and 18 hours. In 1930, this F.VIIB-3m was flown by Kingsford Smith, Van Dijk, Saul and Stannage from Dublin, Ireland, to Harbour Grace Airfield, Newfoundland. For the first time a successful East to West flight over the Northern Atlantic was accomplished. Flight time was 30 1/2 hours.

The aircraft equipped with three 225 h.p. Wright Whirlwind J5 engines was the first trimotor of the 'b' version with the enlarged wing.

Its first owner, in 1925, was the Arctic explorer Sir George Hubert Wilkins.

Type: Cantilever high-wing transport monoplane with three aircooled radial engines.

Main data for the aircraft as used on its' Atlantic crossing: span: 21.71m;

length: 14.60m; height: 3.90m; wing area: 67.6 sq. m; empty weight: 2,699 kg;

all-up weight: 6,840 kg; cruising speed: 160 km/h; range: 5,920 km.

