

Customs Dover

25 July 1909

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Hon Sir.

I have to report that M Bleriot, with his monoplane, successfully crossed the Channel from Calais this morning, and landed in a meadow at the East side of Dover Castle, about 2 miles from our Watch House shortly after 5 am, having occupied 33 minutes in crossing.

A wireless message was conveyed to our officers announcing his departure, but he was flying at such a height that they could not trace him with a telescope.

I visited the spot where he landed at 6.30 am, and got into ~~an~~ conversation with an individual largely interested in the Wright aeroplane who gave it as his opinion that although airships will never come into commercial use, there are great possibilities in store for

them, and I think that a time
may come when this Department
will have to treat their arrival
seriously, and take steps to ensure
that no opportunity be given for
Revenue interests to suffer through
indiscriminate landings of airships
in this country.

Respy.

A. S. Williams

Collec.

Collector Inver.

Was any action taken by the Dept.

AS 26
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The Surveyor

For report.

A. S. Williams 27
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The Collector.

Sir.

On the arrival of the Monoplane from Calais, the Port Man in charge interviewed M. Blériot, & issued to him a Quarantine Certificate, thereby treating it as a yacht, & the Aviator as Master & owner.

Your Obedient Servant.

J. M. Johnson Esq.
procurator

Customs Dover

27 July 1909

Hon Sir.

Some three weeks ago, when the question was first mooted, I gave instructions to the Surveyor that the crossing of the Channel by airship was not to be treated officially by our officers, as I considered

that an attempt to impose Customs regulations on anyone engaged in experiments with aerial navigation would only tend to bring this Department into ridicule without doing any practical good.

I now find that an officer, doubtless carried away by the excitement of the moment, failed to carry out these instructions with the result stated by the pro Sur.

Respy.

A. S. Williams

Coler

To the Chief Survey General.

It seems undesirable to take any action in these very isolated cases.

J. S. $\frac{28}{7}$

Certainly. The time has not yet arrived for any action.

Respy