

Enclosure in Western Pacific despatch
Secret of 4th March, 1939.

SUVA,
CONFIDENTIAL COPY

28th February, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC AVIATION SURVEY
EXPEDITION.

Your Excellency,

On return to Suva and prior to my departure for New Zealand I was instructed to present to you a brief report on the expedition's activities on the various islands visited both within those island groups coming under the administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony as well as those visited within New Zealand's sphere of influence. Unfortunately with the great rush in which all of the expedition's work has been carried out it has been impossible as yet to prepare any charts or maps of the islands visited or supply, in accurate form, any of the great amount of technical data obtained. The attached report is therefore merely a brief description of general activities, the islands visited, and my opinion so far as I have yet been able to form one, of their potential value for military and civil aviation. A more exact

His Excellency

The High Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

exact and detailed technical report complete with maps and other data will no doubt be supplied from New Zealand at a later date should you so desire.

In conclusion may I thank you personally for the very great assistance that has been given to the expedition throughout its sojourn in the Pacific not only by yourself but by the Secretary to the High Commission, the Colonial Secretary and the members of the staffs coming under those two gentlemen. I would like to add that the service of the personnel loaned to the expedition from the Fijian Administration was satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most

obedient servant,

(Signed) E.A. Gibson,

Squadron-Leader,
Royal New Zealand Air Force.