Series details: B5535

Series number: B5535

Title: Classified correspondence files. single number series with GAF (Government Aircraft Factories) prefix

Accumulation dates: 01 Jan 1956 - 31 Dec 1986

Contents dates: 01 Jan 1956 - 31 Dec 1986

Items in this series on RecordSearch: 1

Click to see items listed on RecordSearch. Please contact the National Reference Service if you can’t find the record you want as not all items from the series may be on RecordSearch.

Agency/person recording: 01 Jan 1956 - 31 Dec 1986. CA 6573, Government Aircraft Factories, Fishermen’s Bend, Victoria

Agency/person controlling: 14 Apr 1942. CA 46, Department of Defence [B], Central Office

Quantity and location: 1.98 metres held in VIC

System of arrangement/ control: Single number series with GAF prefix

Range of control symbols: GAF 1 to GAF 73

Predominant physical format: PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS

Series note:

These records were created by the engineers of the Design and Development Section of the Government Aircraft Factories. They refer to various projects, project management, design studies, guided weapons, design services, airworthiness, materials, and processes. The following subjects concerning specialized areas of aircraft design, manufacture, and evaluation are included within the files:

- aerodynamics
- aircraft performance, stability and control analysis
- aircraft performance design studies
- human factors design investigations
- development proposals
- electrical/electronic component design
- flight test design/development
- guided weapon/target displays
- aerodynamics by the Industries Commission
- investigation into aircraft accidents
- program of engineering go
- process control
- presentation of contracts
- production development and activities
- program charts/origami
- research and development
- design specifications
- structural design
- cost analysis
- user specifications

These records were not part of the Design and Development Registry. They were held by a number of engineers and design staffs, being kept on individual desks when needed.

There were no control records in the form of index cards, registers, or (non-unique) cards created at the time the files were rejected. Today, a new single number system with GAF (Government Aircraft Factories) prefix has been adopted. This was done by the Department of Defence, Regional Office (Victoria) in 1985.

The series contains classified files, denoted by the letters C (confidential), F (secret), and R (restricted).

Quantity in agency:

Class Code: 2.42 metres

Date registered: 23 May 1990
### Item details for: B5535, GAF 37

**Title**: G. Bennett - Sabah Air Nomad - Report by Government Aircraft Factories (GAF) investigation team on a crash of Nomad aircraft in Malaysia 9M - ATZ on 6 June 1976

**Contents date range**: 1976 - 1976

**Series number**: B5535

Click to see which government agency or person created this item.

**Control symbol**: GAF 37

**Citation**: NAA: B5535, GAF 37

**Item barcode**: 12867295

**Location**: Melbourne

**Access status**: Open with exception

**Reason for restriction**: 32132

**Date of decision**: 17 Sep 2012

**Physical format**: PAPER FILES AND DOCUMENTS (allocated at series level)

**Extent**: 0.50cm

**Records authority class number**: 1607492

**Date registered**: 25 Aug 2011
1. Decision
After examining this record I have decided to open it for public access except for certain material which is identified below.

2. Basis for decision
I have taken into account:
- the content of the record requested,
- the relevant provisions of the Archives Act 1983 (the Act),
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records, and
- information provided by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

3. Material withheld
Where a folio has been withheld pending agency advice, a supplementary statement of decision will be provided once a National Archives decision on access to that material has been finalised.

Please note: Information has been excised from original folio number 142. It is not known when this excision occurred or where the removed information can now be located. This information is not exempt under the Archives Act.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of material withheld</th>
<th>Number of total folios per category</th>
<th>List each folio separately by category of material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partially exempted folios (certain parts of the text have been expunged)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholly exempted folios</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1-22, 23-27, 28-34, 40-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folios not within the open access period as defined in s3 (7) of the Act</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folios withheld pending</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Findings of fact and reasons for decision

A. Findings of fact
In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided a summary of my findings of fact where I have invoked specific provisions under s 33 of the Act. By invoking these provisions, I have relied on material listed in part 2 above in order to arrive at my decision.

B. Reasons for decision
In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided the reasons for my decision for each folio exempted and those reasons are derived from the findings of fact.

5. Appeal rights
National Archives undertakes careful examination of a record before making a decision to exempt any part of a record. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with my decision to exempt information under a provision of s 33 of the Act, you can contact a reference officer in National Archives and seek a further explanation.

If you are still not happy with the decision and within 28 days of receiving it, you can formally appeal by:
1) first applying to Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2) if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the National Archives Fact Sheet 12: What to do if we refuse you access. You can also lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to the decision.

Decision maker    Gay Hogan
Designation       APS6
Date              14 March 2012
## Annexure 1

### Table A: Material exempted by folio number and grouped by the application of exemption provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant legislative provision invoked under s33 of the Act</th>
<th>Folios</th>
<th>Finding of facts</th>
<th>Reasons for Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S 33(1) (a) - information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.</td>
<td>1-22, 23-27, 28-34, 36, 40-50</td>
<td>These records contain the following references: 1. Some technical detail of an investigation into an aircraft crash in Malaysia where Australia took part in the investigation under the requirements of Annex 13 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation – Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation. 2. Details which could impact on the Commonwealth’s relations with the current government of a foreign country.</td>
<td>1. Annex 13 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation – Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation requires that a participating state in an investigation not release details of the investigation without the permission of the main investigating state. 2. Malaysia has not as yet publicly released their final and full report of the investigation. 3. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau undertakes investigation of aircraft accidents under Annex 13. The public disclosure of this information would lessen the confidence of foreign governments in Australia’s commitment to meeting the requirements of Annex 13 and compromise the future activities of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau and impair its ability to carry out its statutory function. 4. Release of the information could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the international relations of the Commonwealth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 33(1) (b) - information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of</td>
<td>23-27, 40-50</td>
<td>These records contain one or more of the following references: 1. Part or all of the information contained</td>
<td>1. The information was of an inherently confidential nature when communicated to the Australian government. The information is still afforded security protection by the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organization to the Government of the Commonwealth, or an authority of the Commonwealth or a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth or of an authority of the Commonwealth, being information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of that confidence. | in the record has been provided in confidence by a foreign government or agency to Australia with the expectation that it not be released to the public. The information is still regarded as sensitive. | Foreign government and it has asked that the information not be disclosed to the public.  
2. The disclosure of this information would therefore constitute a breach of confidence owed to that foreign government. |
**WORK ORDER**

**GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT FACTORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET CODE</th>
<th>SALE ORDER</th>
<th>CUSTOMER ORDER</th>
<th>WORK ORDER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>19-04-0109</td>
<td>N13189</td>
<td>73615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TO**

**MOHAD DESIGN PROJECT MANAGER**

**FROM**

**ABST PROJECT MANAGER AIRCRAFT**

The following work is required and completion is requested by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>MANUFACTURING SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses associated with visit of Mr. Hooper and Mr. Pearce to Sabah in connection with the investigation into crash of Nomad L6 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXT DESTINATION</th>
<th>REQUESTED BY</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED BY</th>
<th>APPROVED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A.C. NORRIS</td>
<td></td>
<td>C.C. Norr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19-7-1976</td>
<td></td>
<td>22-7-1976</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<th>LABOUR AND OVERHEAD</th>
<th>DISTRIBUTION</th>
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<td>DEC. Contracting Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GREEN Inspection Sect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST**

$2,000
NOMAD AA34397
PGM M MLB 015

106
1/34397

SMA 2549 MAA246 JMA 344 SUKCC02 CO02
AAML HL NASU 013
KUALALUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUBANG 18 18 1415

LT
BEAUF AIR
MELBOURNE VIC

FOR D HOOPER CHIEF DESIGNER
WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF NOMAD REPORT
REGARDS BOB BORDAIR KUALALUMPUR

(LT BEAUF AIR D HOOPER NOMAD )

RECEIVED 19 JUL 89
AA34397
V0

NOMAD AA34397
PGM M MLB 015

106
1/34397

SMA 2549 MAA246 JMA 344 SUKLCG2 CO02
AAML HL MASU C18
KUALALUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SUBANG 18 16 1415

LT
BEAUFARI
MELBURN VIC

FOR D HOOPER CHIEF DESIGNER
WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF NOMAD REPORT
REGARDS 30B BORDAIR KUALALUMPUR

(LT BEAUFARI D HOOPER NOMAD)

D AA34397
RR RAYZCX
DE RAYZAY 783 1880525
ZN R UUUU
R 0605252 JUL 76
FM GAF MELBOURNE
TO CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA TELEX MA 30999
BT
UNCLAS
Y29B6/601-2-12
FOR R WILLIAMS FROM D R HOOBER
1. COPIES OF FACTORY APPROVED
   WILL LEAVE GAF ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY.
2. THE REPORTS WILL COME TO YOU VIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT. IF THEY
   HAVE NOT ARRIVED BY 14 JULY TELEX ME. REGARDS DAVID
BT

DR Hoober

NNNNKFGMWQMH
MV Turn 404.
COMMUNICATIONS

SOME CHATTER (JUNE 1976)

NO. 5

TO ALL MEMBERS OF G.A.F.

The crash of the Nomad on June 6th in Sabah caused us all considerable concern.

Firstly we were all shocked by the tragic loss of life, and that concern remains with us. Secondly there was the fear that the crash and therefore the tragedy, could have been due to a failure of the Aircraft.

David Hooper, Acting Chief Designer, and Stuart Pearce, Chief Test Pilot, agreed to go to Sabah at short notice to assist the Malaysian official investigation. We will have to await the official announcement by the Malaysian Authorities of the findings of the investigation, and no statement can be made by the Factory or the Department in the meanwhile.

Nevertheless I am very aware of the second matter of concern mentioned above, and in that respect I believe we can cease worrying. Pending the announcement by the Malaysian Authorities, please do not chase David Hooper or Stuart Pearce, because they are obliged to avoid comment. We hope the announcement will be made in the comparatively near future.

[Signature]
J. H. Dolphin, Manager 2/6/76
DO NOT OPEN

This acid free mask contains .......... 46 .......... folios
with the date range .......... 1976 .......... 

The contents of the mask are:

☐ Exempt from public access under paragraph(s)
    You have a statutory right to seek a review of
    the exemption.

☐ Not in the open period as defined by the
    Archives Act 1983.

☐ Withheld pending agency advice

Date mask applied .......... 14.3.2012 .......... 

Signature .......... Cay Hogan ..........