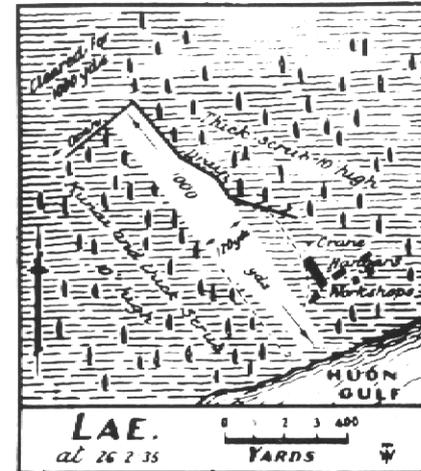




LAE STRIP at the time of Amelia Earhart's visit. (Courtesy Jim Collopy)

return to Bandoeng from Saurabaya because "certain further adjustments of faulty long-distance flying instruments were necessary" ("Last Flight"), it seems incredibly illogical that Noonan would have departed from Lae without the chronometers set accurately and the plane's radio working. Furthermore, the radio in the plane worked well during the early portion of the long hop to Howland.

Collopy wrote, "The take-off run was 3000 feet which was the total length of the runway and believe me she used it all. She bounced off at the very edge of the seaward end and dropped down to about 10 feet above the water and held it there in 'ground effect' for 3 to 5 miles before she pulled up to a very gentle climb."



CLASS OF GROUND: Aerodrome suitable for all types of landplanes.
PROPRIETORS: Administration, Territory of New Guinea.
POSITION: At Lae, on coast, near the mouth of the Markham River.
 Lat. 6°48'S. Long. 147°2'E.
MAGNETIC VARIATION: 5½° E. approx.
DISTINCTIVE FEATURES: Sea on south, Lae Township in the north-east, Markham River, 1½ miles west.
MARKINGS: Nil.
DESCRIPTION: One way ground running north-west from coast.
DIMENSIONS: NW - SE. 1000 yards by about 120 yards wide.
HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL: 25 ft. approx.
APPROACHES: South - east over sea.
 North - west over clearing with timber beyond.
SURROUNDING COUNTRY: Timbered with hills to the north-east.
PETROL AND OIL: At Lae.
WATER SUPPLY: Tanks on aerodrome.
WORKSHOPS: Guinea Airways, on Aerodrome.
HANGAR ACCOMMODATION: Limited space available in Guinea Airways Hangars.
TELEPHONE: Nil.
TELEGRAPH: Guinea Airway's private radio can communicate with Salamaua.
NEAREST TOWN: Lae.
NEAREST RAILWAY STATION: Nil.
CHARGES: Nil.
REMARKS: Normal winds - north-west during mornings and south-east during afternoons.

A. A. McComb

A/CONTROLLER OF CIVIL AVIATION.

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DATA on Lae Aerodrome at the time of Amelia Earhart's visit.
 (Courtesy of Jim Collopy)