

Tango Victor Charlie – 30 November 1961



ATC = Frederick Alfred Charters

Radar = Raymond James Ernest Bockman

FNG = Captain C. C. (Hank) Henry

pre 1900 ATC (to FNG): It's not the night for you to be flying, Hank.
FNG: Oh you can say that again.
ATC: It looks a bit rough out there.
FNG: We just came in.
ATC: Did you?
FNG: We came in about twenty past six.
ATC: It's rough all right.
FNG: You can say that again.

circa 1908: ATC (to FNG): This is not group-captain's weather; you should send the sergeant-pilot out.

1911.19 ATC (to Neyle): Tango Victor Charlie to Canberra.
Neyle: TVC! Holy hell! Got nothing on him. Call you back.

1912.33 Neyle: Yes Brian, I didn't have this TVC when I quizzed Al about that bloke coming in down 222. (to TVC) TVC, proceed to Canberra. Change of plan via the 244 diversion to 37 DME thence direct to Marulan. Cruise flight level 160.

1914.08 ATC: [gives clearance]
TVC: Go ahead.

1914.15 Radar: I don't think it matters much which way they turn now. The worst of this stuff is slowly moving east and it's either side of the runway heading.

1915.08: ATC: TVC, proceed to Canberra. Change of plan via the 244 diversion till 37 DME direct Marulan. Cruise flight level 160. Read back.
TVC: TVC, change of route. 244 to 37 DME thence direct Marulan cruise 160.
ATC: [acknowledges]

1915.39 TVC: TVC. Ready.

1915.43 ATC: TVC, continue runway heading to 3000 before turning left and to pass over the field at 5000 or above. Read back. Clear for take-off.

1915.55 TVC: TVC, continue runway heading to 3000. Turn left and pass over the field at 5000.

1916.00 ATC: [acknowledges]. That'll clear him of everything.
Radar: Yes, I'd say so. (*Thunder*)
A controller: It sounds like a plane's blown up.

1918.48 ATC: [TVC, there's a heavy storm to the south. Cloud over the field] around about 750 and clear in the Padstow area.

1920 Special Aerodrome Weather Report: 'Thunderstorms.'

1921.50 ATC: TVC, report altitude.

1921.53 TVC: TVC, we are at—er, 6000.
ATC: [acknowledges]

1922.05 ATC: TVC, now if you haven't passed over the field you can proceed via the 217 from Padstow. The 222 is available but I suggest the 217 due to the storm to the south of the field. Report setting course from Padstow 217.

1922.20 TVC: TVC. Thank you, the 217.

1925.00 TVL: (*lands*) [Pilot later says weather 'was the worst that I have ever seen in my experience.']

1925.10 ATC: TVC, have you set course yet?

1925.25 ATC: TVC, this is Sydney tower.

1925.44 ATC: TVC, this is Sydney tower.

1926.05 ATC: TVC, this is Sydney tower.

1926.29 ATC: [declares Uncertainty Phase of Search and Rescue procedures (SAR)]

1926.35 ATC: TVC, TVC, this is Sydney tower. Do you read?

1926.46 ATC: TVC, TVC, I'm not receiving. If you're receiving me go ahead with two key clicks.

1927.02 ATC: TVC, TVC, I'm not receiving anything from you. Continue on track via the 217 from Padstow to Canberra and attempt to contact Canberra tower or area control now, on 118—correction, 128 decimal 5.

1929.26 ATC: TVC, TVC, this is Sydney tower.

1931.50 ATC: [declares Alert Phase of SAR]

2010.00 ATC: [declares Distress Phase of SAR]