

Yacoob Khodacabus was the air traffic controller on duty at Plaisance Airport when contact was lost with the Helderberg. He was the last person to speak to the crew. He misinterpreted Captain Uys's communication that the Helderberg was 65 miles from its next checkpoint as being 65 miles from Mauritius. The Helderberg was in fact at that stage a full 130 miles from the island

[The Star]

IKTAV Post # 916

Student

The "65nm" could have been MISTAKEN as the DME distance - relative to the VOR at the field.....

Well, if the MRU ATC transcription is corrent, it is unlikely that someone made a mistake, because:

23:50:40	MRU	Springbok Two Nine Five, Plaisance.
23:50:44	295	Eh, go ahead.
23:50:46	MRU	Request your actual position please and your DME distance.
23:50:51	295	Eh, we haven't got the DME yet.
23:50:55	MRU	Eh, Roger and your actual position please.

obviously, the a/c was not yet equipped with the DME.