

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.



Route: Douala to New York via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal by Special Mission. Natal-Trinidad-New York by Pan American South American local service carrying mail under contract FAM-6. Despatch Douala 10 April. Transit Miami 7 May. Washington 13 May 1942.

Rate: Normal rate would be 2.50 Fr. surface, 2.50 Fr. registration, 16 Fr. air fee, making total of 21 Fr. However, actual rate paid was 18.75 Fr. suggesting a different rate for official mail?

Censor: Lagos 21 April. Trinidad 8043 (IE). Censored 2 May, released 5 May.

Features: Pan American flew clandestine "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail. This cover was almost certainly carried on such a flight.



## Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.  
Douala to New York 10 April 1942



# DUPLICATE IMAGE

## World War 2 Airmail

### Cameroun to USA via Lagos

Airmail cover from Nanga Eboko to Washington DC via the Pan American FAM-22 route through Miami. Despatch Nanga Eboko 18<sup>th</sup> April 1943 but no transit or arrival information. Cover opened and re-sealed under "L'Autorite Militaire" rules, together with the Controle Postale Commission B mark, and a further apparent opening and re-closure in Nigeria with the octagonal PP/13 censor strike applied. Cover endorsed by sender "By Air Mail via Lagos".

Rate paid difficult to ascertain since the "Elephant" issue carried the values of 1f, 1F50c and 1f60c in the same brown colour, so total could be 36f., 36f.50c or 36f.60c.



Foreign basic 2f50  
air 16f

## World War 2 Airmail

### Cameroun to Cuba via Lagos

Cameroun to Cuba 1945. Airmail cover from Douala to Havana via Lagos and FAM-22 Clipper service. Despatch Douala 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1945 and arrival in Havana March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1945. Cover opened and re-sealed in Lagos by Nigerian PC-90 and boxed PP/12 (I think) octagonal censor cachet. Cover also carries cachet of the Cuban Ministry of Defence censor "No. 1 Pasado".

Handstamped "Par Avion" and "jusqu'à destination"

Rate paid 42f.



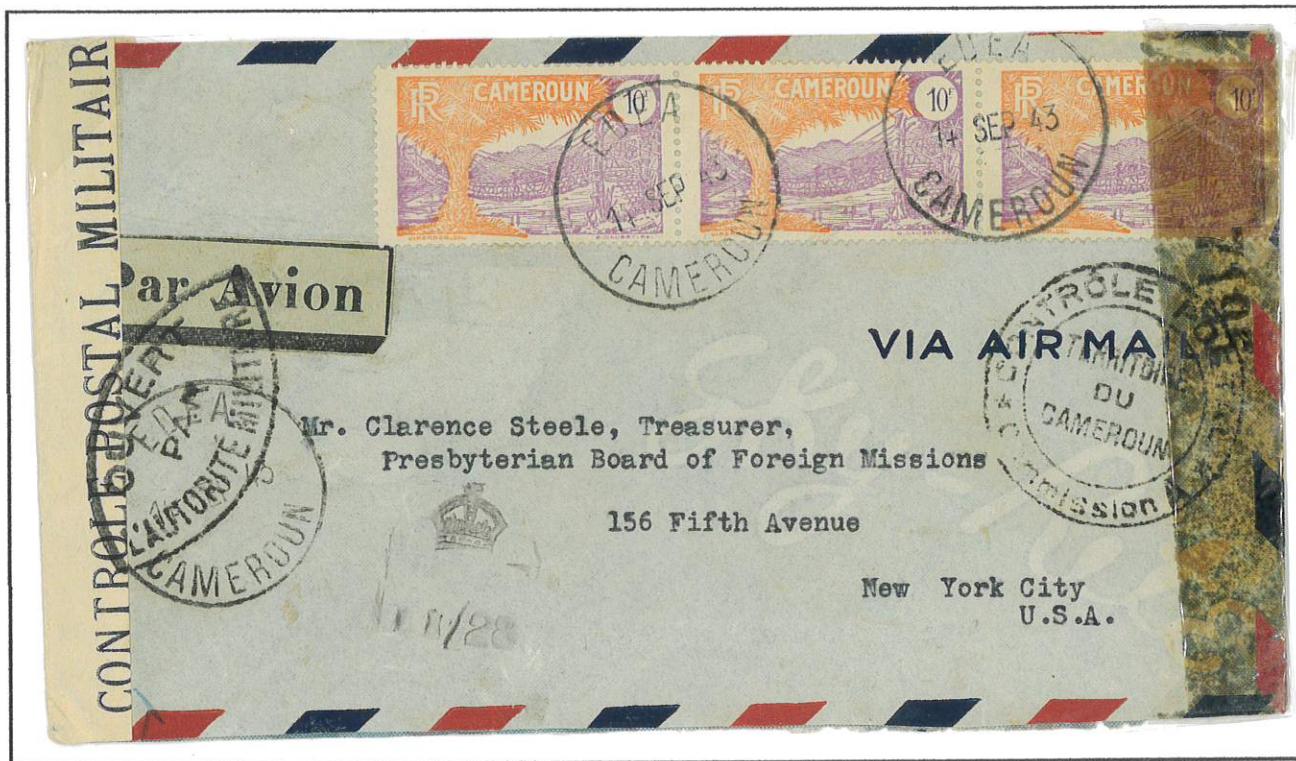
Foreign basic 4f (1. Feb 44)  
air 2 x 19

## World War 2 Airmail

### Cameroun to USA via Lagos

Cameroun to USA 1943. Airmail cover from Edea to New York via Lagos and the FAM-22 service through Miami. Despatch Edea 14<sup>th</sup> September 1943. Cover opened and resealed by French "Controle Postale Militaire" tape, Nigerian PP/28 censor cachet applied in Lagos then opened and re-sealed by the US clear tape sealing strip in America.

Rate paid 34f.50c (stamps on rear of cover).



Foreign basic 2f50  
air 2x16f

Lose tape

# World War 2 Airmail

## Cameroun to USA via Lagos

Cameroun to USA 1943. Airmail cover from Yaounde to Ohio via the FAM-22 Clipper route. Yaounde despatch 10<sup>th</sup> February 1943. Opened and re-sealed by French military authority then transit to Lagos where re-opened and re-sealed by Nigerian PC-90 and boxed Nigerian PP/13 octagonal cachet. Cover endorsed by sender "Panam Clipper Lagos to USA". Sadly, no transit or arrival dates.

Rate paid 18f.50c



Foreign basic 2f50  
air 16f

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "LATI substitute" "O" service. United States to Cameroun 1943.



Route: Probably New York-Bermuda-Horta-Lisbon-Bolama-Fisherman's Lake by "LATI substitute" clockwise service. Fisherman's Lake to Lagos by ATC. Possibly Lagos to Douala by Sabena, but may have been surface. Despatch 4 August 1943. Transit Douala 30 September 1943.

Rate: Combined air fee 60c.

Censor: New York censor 5452 (under Cameroun tape), Commision "A" and resealing label of Douala.

Features: Cover almost certainly carried by the clockwise "O" service of the "LATI substitute" flights. No other trans-Atlantic service available. Had the cover flown by the anti-clockwise service it is likely that censorship would have been at Miami.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

United States to Cameroun and return via UK 1943.

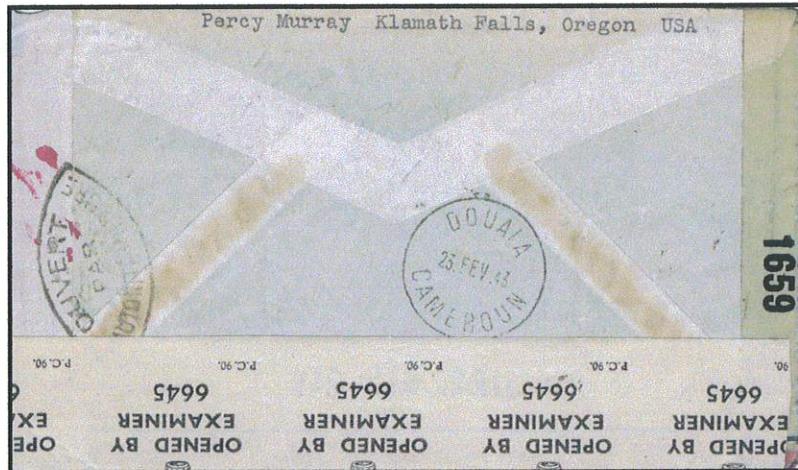


Route: Oregon 22 January 1943-San Francisco-Miami-Special Mission flight to Fisherman's Lake-Lagos-Douala, arriving 23 February.

Rate: 60c half-ounce rate introduced 2 December 1942.

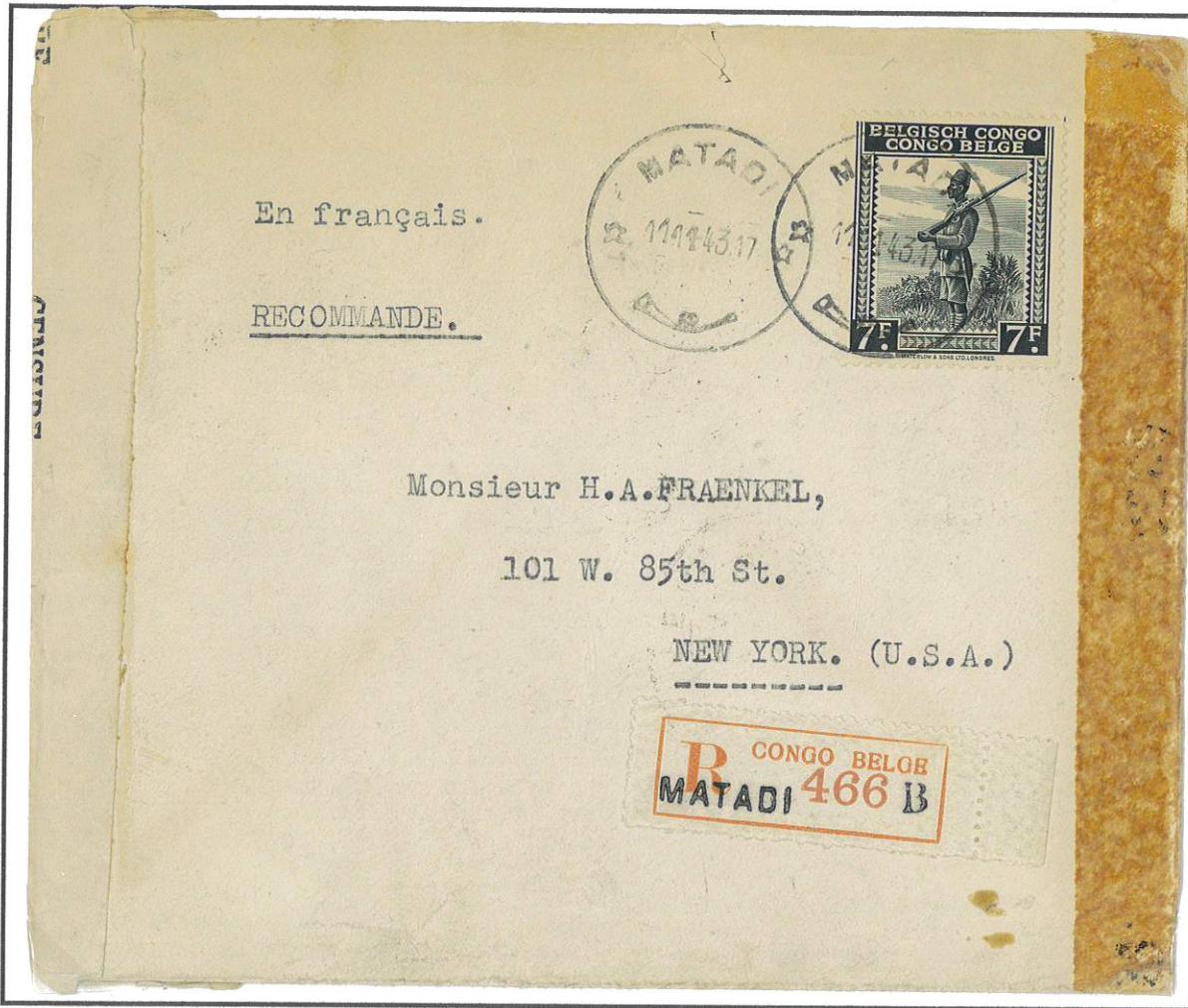
Censor: San Francisco 1659 ? Re-sealing tape Cameroun, re-sealing tape 6645 UK.

Features: Cannot explain the San Francisco censor tape, but cover carried (eventually) from Miami by Pan American "Special Mission" flight to Fisherman's Lake then by ATC to Lagos, then by BOAC or SABENA to Douala. Returned to sender by surface via UK-New York.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail (or not)

Matadi to New York via Leopoldville and surface transport



Route:

Matadi-Leopoldville-Matadi by rail. Matadi-New York by sea.

Rate:

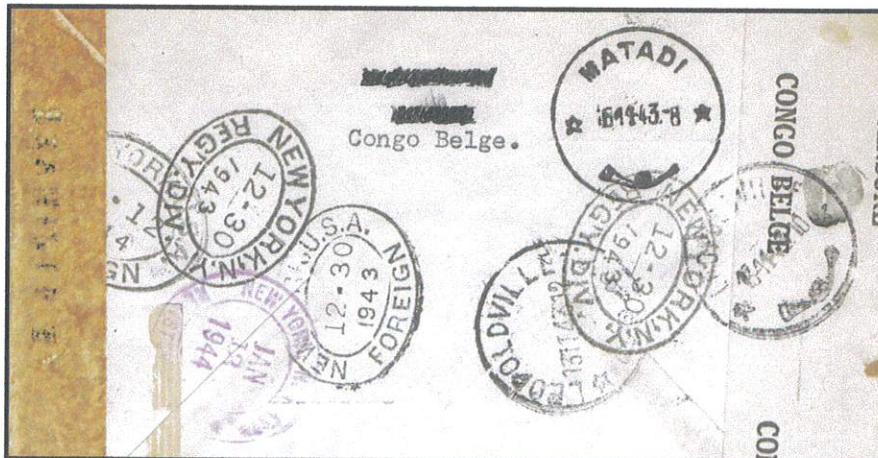
Surface rate of 3.50 Fr. Registration 3.50 Fr. = 7 Fr.

Censor:

Leopoldville censor and New York 63xx.

Features:

To illustrate sea journey time from Belgian Congo to USA. Cover posted Matadi 11 November 1942 sent by rail to Leopoldville for censorship. Arrive Leopoldville 13 November and returned by rail the same day, arriving back in Matadi 16 November. By sea to New York, arriving 30 December 1942. Rail journey Matadi-Leopoldville normally two days.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States September 1942.



Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal by special mission shuttle. Natal to Miami by Pan American. Miami to New York by Eastern. Despatch Douala 26 September 1942.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 2 x 16 Fr. air fee. Total 34.50 Fr.

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon".

Features: French censorship accepted as valid for journey except for Lagos transit "half moon" check mark. Jusqu'a destination unique to Douala and not seen on mail from other Cameroun locations.

The special missions after June/July 1942 carried out five "shuttle" flights between Fisherman's Lake and Natal. Mail carried to Natal on a shuttle would be transferred at Natal to regular Pan American South American services (FAM-6) and carried to Miami.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States August 1942.



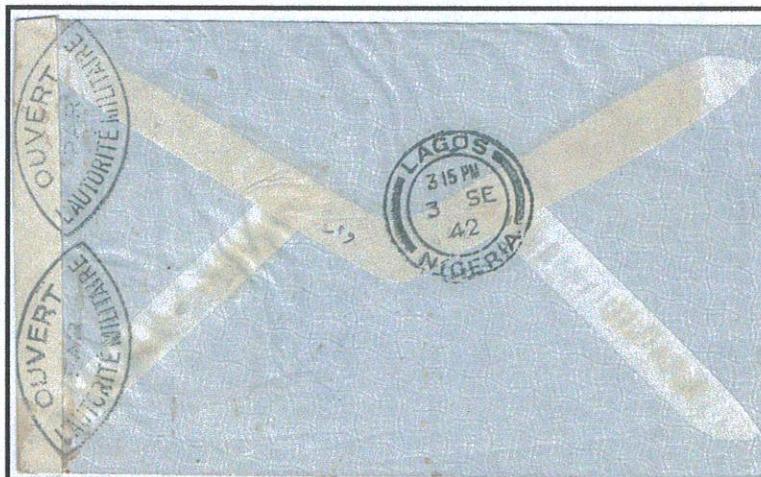
Route: Yaounde to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch Yaounde 29 August 1942. Lagos transit 3 September.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee (From February 1942). Total 18.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon".

Features: Pan American flew military "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel.

Covers such as this cast doubt on the accepted view of "FAM-22", and speculative timetables (Proud and Aitink & Hovenkamp) show no correlation with dates on this cover.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to Uruguay 1942.



Route: Douala to Montevideo via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal. Despatch Douala 2 February 1942. Lagos (?) February. Natal 8 February. Arrive Montevideo 10 February 1942 (10.II.42).

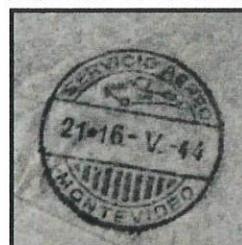
Rate: 23 Fr. paid. No rate information exists for mail from Cameroun to South America (Picirilli).

Censor: Cameroun "Ouvert" and "Controle Postal Militaire" label. Nigeria PC-90 and hexagonal Censor 12, together with Nigeria L/1 triangle..

Features: Pan American flew clandestine "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel. This cover may well have been carried on Special Mission 13 which flew from New York to Lagos via Natal and carried out two Lagos-Natal shuttles before returning to New York. SM13 cargo summary lists 1429 kilos of Post Office mail being carried. Covers such as this cast doubt on the accepted view of "FAM-22", and speculative timetables (Proud and Aitink & Hovenkamp) show no correlation with dates on this cover.



This cover



Typical Montevideo Roman cancel

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States September 1942.



Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch Abong-M'bang 4 September 1942. No transit or arrival dates.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee (From February 1942). Total 18.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria PC-90 and Censor 12. Nigeria triangle L/6.

Features: Pan American flew military "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel.

Covers such as this cast doubt on the accepted view of "FAM-22", and speculative timetables (Proud and Aitink & Hovenkamp) show no correlation with dates on this cover.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States May 1943.



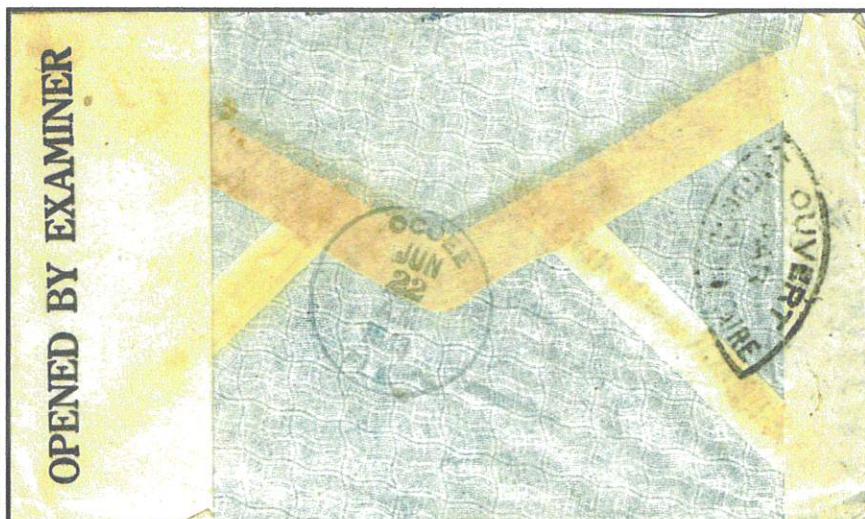
Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch M'Balmayo 11 May 1943. Arrival Wooster 19 June. Redirect to Florida.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee (From February 1942). Total 18.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. NigeriaPC-90 and Censor PP/13.

Features: Pan American flew military "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel.

The special mission flights to and from Lagos ended in June 1943, mail then being carried by the military cargo flights of Air Transport Command.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States August 1942.



Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch M'Balmayo 31 August 1942.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee. Total 18.50 Fr. Overpaid for convenience 19Fr.

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon". Trinidad PC-90 Examiner 8024 I/E.

Features: Pan American flew military "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel.

Covers such as this cast doubt on the accepted view of "FAM-22", and speculative timetables (Proud and Aitink & Hovenkamp) show no correlation with dates on this cover.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States July 1942.



Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch Kribi 16 July 1942. Endorsed arrival 3 August.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee (From February 1942). Total 18.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission A (Douala) and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria PC-90 and Censor 12 boxed stamp.

Features: Pan American flew military "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel.

The special mission flights to and from Lagos ended in June 1943, mail then being carried by the military cargo flights of Air Transport Command.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American ATC flight from Cameroun to United States February 1944.



Route: Douala to Accra by Sabena. Accra-Natal-Miami by Air Transport Command.  
Despatch Abong-M'bang 18 February 1944.

Rate: Foreign basic 4Fr (from 1 February 1944); 19 Fr. air fee (from October 1943). Total 23Fr.

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Miami examiner 30319.

Features: Illustrates regularity of transatlantic carriage by Air Transport Command. Official "History of South Atlantic Division" records 90 aircraft per month between Natal and Accra.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight? Cameroun to United States 1941/2.



Route: Ebolowa to Klamath Falls via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad. Despatch Ebolowa 18 December 1941. Transit Lagos 27 December 1941. No other transit or arrival marks.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 13 Fr. air fee. Total 15.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel). Actually paid 15.05 Fr.

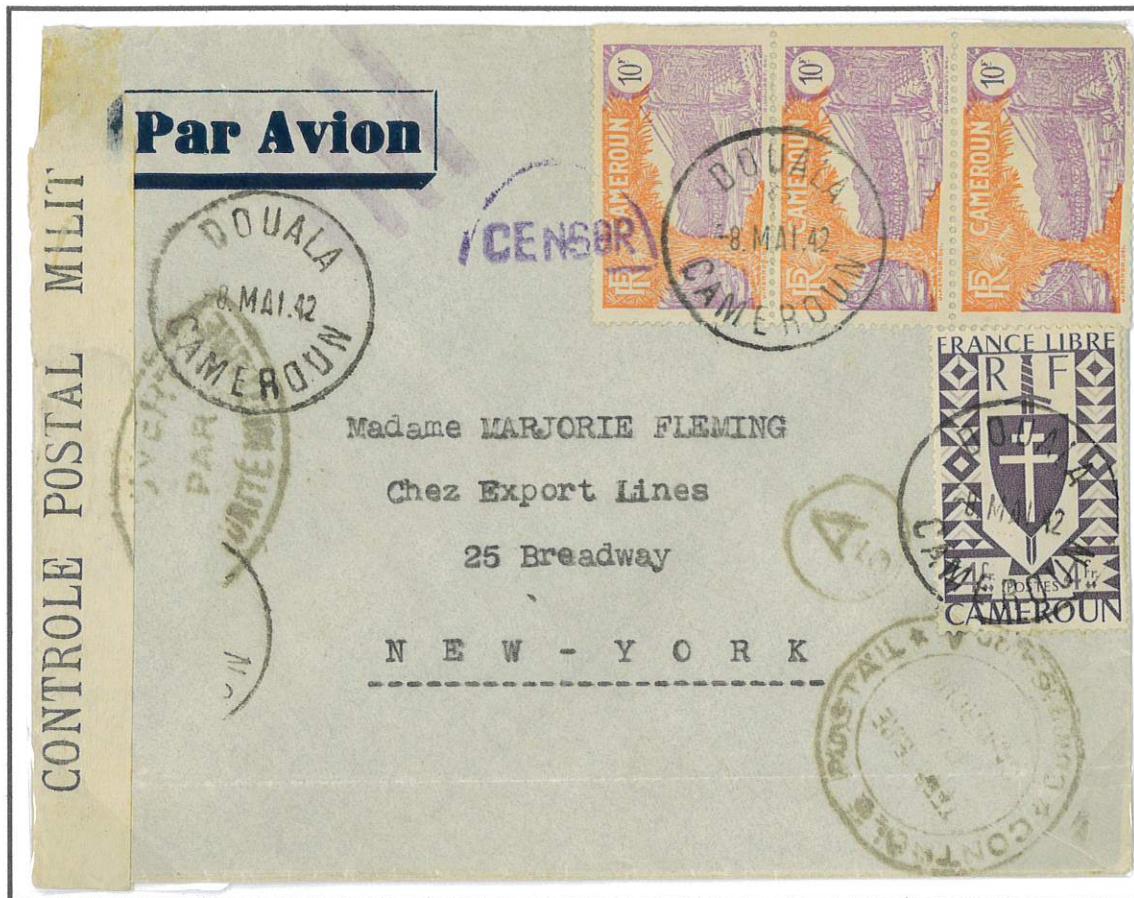
Censor: Cameroun "Commission A" and "Control Postal Militaire" label.

Features: This cover may have been carried on the second Leopoldville to Miami flight or on one of the Special Mission flights SM6, SM7 or SM8, all of which are recorded as carrying mail.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States May 1942.



Route: Douala to Lagos by BOAC/Sabena. Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad by Pan American. Despatch Douala 8 May 1942. Did it travel by air?

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 2 x 16 Fr. air fee. Total 34.50 Fr. but missing 50c.

Censor: Cameroun "Commission A (Douala) and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria 'Half Moon' transit.

Features: Four bar obliterator cancelling "Par Avion". Style suggests application in New York (McQueen 1995) but why cancel on arrival unless to indicate reason for late delivery? Possible missing 50c stamp at lower left corner leading to underpayment for air mail and consequent despatch by surface?

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.



Route: Douala to New York via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad. Despatch Douala 18 August 1942. No transit or arrival marks.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 16 Fr. air fee. Total 18.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission A" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon".

Features: This cover was probably carried on Special Mission 43 or 44 which flew from New York to Fisherman's Lake and carried out five Fish Lake-Natal shuttles before returning to New York.

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.



Route: Douala to New York via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad. Despatch Douala 9 May 1942. Trinidad 21 May. Boston 25 May.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 2 x 16 Fr. air fee. Total 34.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel). Underpaid 50c.

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon", Trinidad 8009.

Features: Pan American flew clandestine "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel. This cover was probably carried on Special Mission 28 which flew from New York to Lagos via Natal and carried out two Lagos-Natal shuttles before returning to New York. See official secret order on back of this sheet.



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S E C R E T

WAR DEPARTMENT  
FOREIGN WING  
AIR FORCE FERRRYING COMMAND  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SM 28  
Folder 31

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ORDER )

NO. 23 )

Date 5/4/62

1. In compliance with Secret Contract No. DA-W535 AG-415 dated August 12th, airplane No. N 18606, Boeing 314A, will proceed from New York on May 4th, 1942, to Lagos via Miami and Natal, making as many shuttles thereafter, between Natal and Lagos as is consistent with the safe operation and maintenance of the aircraft before returning to New York, N.Y. for overhaul.

2. Above aircraft will transport passengers, cargo, and mail, in accordance with directives from the Commanding General, Army Air Force Ferrying Command and Air Force Ferrying Command Control Officers along the route.

For the Commanding General:

  
T. L. MOSLEY,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
Executive for Operations.

S E C R E T

# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.



Route: Yaounde to Boston via Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad. Despatch ~~Dec~~ 21 January 1942. Lagos 27 January. Trinidad 18 February. Miami 21 February. Boston 23 February.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 2.50 Fr. registration; 13 Fr. air fee. Total 18 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission B" and "Poste Militaire" label. Nigeria "Half moon", Trinidad 8040 (IE).

Features: Pan American flew clandestine "Special Missions" from Miami to Lagos via Natal and Fisherman's Lake, with shuttles between Lagos and Natal via Fisherman's Lake. Documents in the Pan American Archive confirm that these flights carried commercial mail in addition to military supplies and personnel. This cover was probably carried on Special Mission 14 which flew from New York to Lagos via Natal and carried out two Lagos-Natal shuttles before returning to New York. SM14 cargo summary lists a total of 593 kilos of Post Office mail being carried.

Covers such as this cast doubt on the accepted view of "FAM-22", and speculative timetables (Proud and Aitink & Hovenkamp) show no correlation with dates on this cover.



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American "Special Mission" flight from Cameroun to United States 1942.



Route: Ebolowa to New York via Douala-Lagos-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Trinidad. Despatch Ebolowa 29 January 1942. Transit Lagos 2 February 1942.

Rate: 2.50 Fr. surface (Foreign); 13 Fr. air fee. Total 15.50 Fr. (Picirilli/Bratzel).

Censor: Cameroun "Commission A" and "Autorité Militaire" label. Nigeria "L in Triangle".

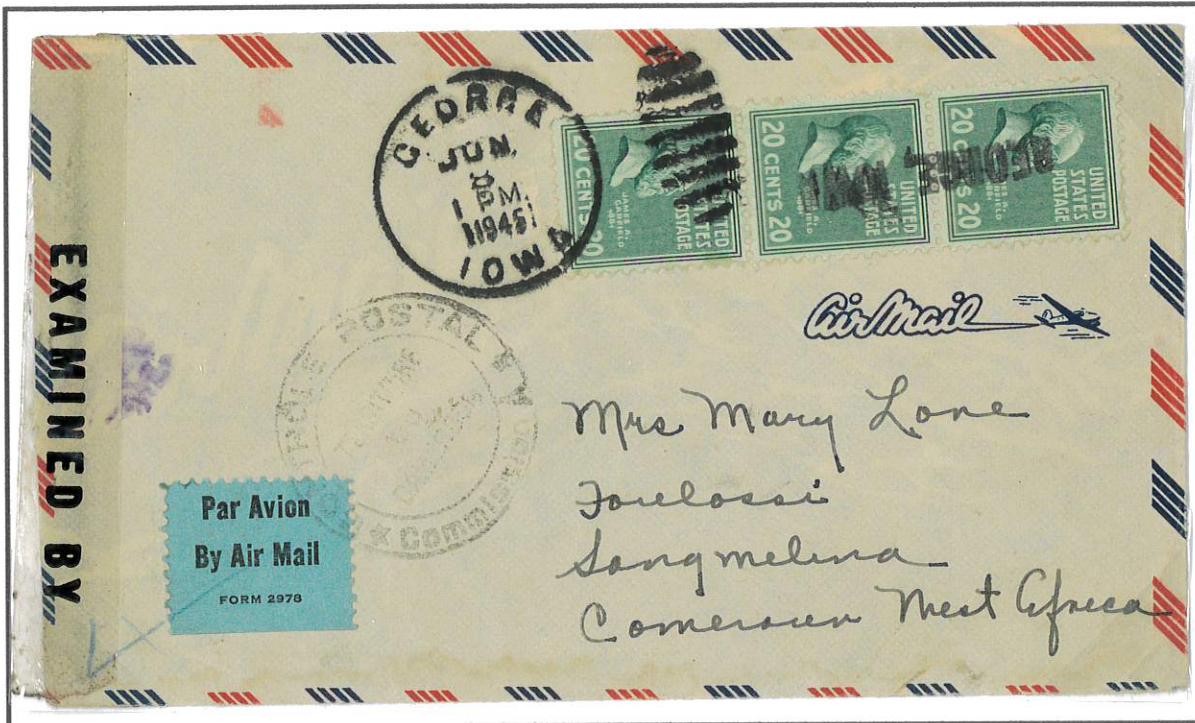
Features: The 13 Fr. air fee was increased in February to 16FR. (Picirilli) but actual date not confirmed. This cover predates the change. Routed via twice-weekly Sabena service Douala-Lagos SS-103 arriving Lagos 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Then by Pan American Special Mission 13 (second shuttle) from Lagos to New York. SM 13 did not call at Miami. SM13 first shuttle Lagos-Natal-Lagos did not carry Post Office mail. Second shuttle Lagos-Natal-New York carried 303 Lbs of PO mail from Lagos, arriving New York 10<sup>th</sup> February. Interesting "Received Unsealed At.....Wooster, Ohio"



# Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan Am/ATC South Atlantic from America to Cameroun 1945.

The end of the war but not of censorship



Route: Miami-Accra-Lagos by PAA/ATC. Lagos-Douala by Sabena. Despatch 8 June 1945. Transit Lagos 15 August 1945. Inexplicable delay.

Rate: 60c. all air rate to Cameroun.

Censor: Miami Examiner 31268. Miami "double blue tick". French "Commission A" of Douala.

Features: Must have travelled by air to Lagos since a sea route from New York would have been direct to Cameroun. Inexplicable delay possibly caused by ending of war in Europe?

