

Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Germany to "Graf Spee" internee by Italian LATI service 1940.



Route: Hamburg to Buenos Aires via Rome and the Italian LATI service. Despatch 8 April 1940.

Rate: Surface rate 25 Rpf. Air fee 150 Rpf. Total 175 Rpf.

Censor: German OKW re-sealing labels. No other transit censorship as was the advantage of the LATI route.

Features: Cover address to a German "Mech Gefr." of the VIth Division of the "Graf Spee" crew, via the German Embassy in Buenos Aires. Helmuth Wentorf is confirmed in the crew list of the "Graf Spee". Cover redirected to Cordoba. The 12 Rpf. stamp is clearly spurious, having been added after the Hamburg cancellation and the Argentinian redirection endorsement.



Prisoner of War Airmail
Germany to Argentina 1941 "Graf Spee"

Cover from a German civilian to a German prisoner of war from the "Graf Spee" held in the camp on Isla Martin Garcia in the River Plate. Despatched Frankenstein 17.10.41, opened and re-sealed by the Wehrmacht censor in Berlin, the cover carries an arrival strike of Martin Garcia dated 9/11/41 indicating a relatively fast transit. The addressee is shown in the 3rd Division of the Graf Spee crew lists. POW surface mail was carried free but could be conveyed by air on payment of a surcharge, in this case corresponding to the rate for carriage by Italian LATI service from Rome to South America. The LATI flights corresponding to the cover dates are those of 23rd October or 30th October 1941.

Prior to late 1944 the air mail fee was recorded by the use of the Taxe Percue handstamp, allegedly because the German authorities were cautious about "secret" messages being written underneath postage stamps or airmail labels on incoming or outgoing mail.

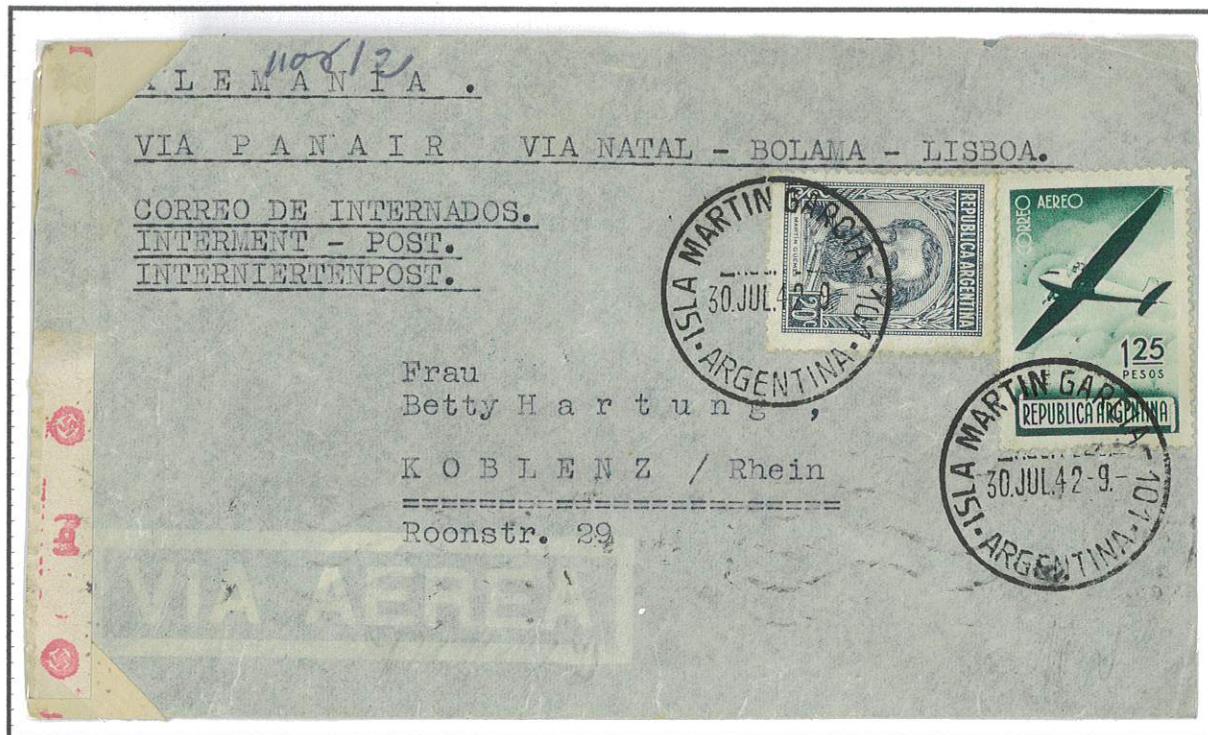
Rate paid: Rm 1.50. Normal LATI rate was 25pf surface (free) plus Rm 1.50 air surcharge.

Routed via Rome-Seville-Villa Cisneros-Sal-Recife-Rio de Janeiro.



Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American LATI substitute service Argentina to Germany 1942 intercepted San Juan



Route: Martin Garcia Island to Koblenz via Natal-Trinidad-San Juan-Bermuda-New York-Lisbon-Berlin. Despatch 30 July 1942. Endorsed "Natal-Bolama-Lisboa" but carried via New York.

Rate: Original LATI rate: 20c. surface; 125c. air fee = 145c.

Censor: Intercepted San Juan. Re-sealed by POW censor 431 in New York; OKW censor Berlin.

Features: Axis related cover intercepted in San Juan (San Juan tracking numbers) then sent to New York for examination before being forwarded to Germany via Lisbon. Carried on flight 8014 clockwise departing Natal 6 August and arriving at San Juan 7 August. After long delay, cover forwarded to Germany via Lisbon ten months later on 1 June 1943. Sender was crew member of "Graf Spee" interned on Martin Garcia Island.



Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American LATI substitute service Argentina to Germany 1942 from "Graf Spee"



Route: Buenos Aires to Furstenwalde via Natal-Bathurst-Lisbon-Berlin. Despatch 3 October 1942. Arrive 15 December 1942. Endorsed "Natal-Bolama- Lisboa via Panair".

Rate: Original LATI rate: 20c. surface; 20c. Registration; 125c. air fee = 165c.

Censor: Diverted to San Juan for examination. San Juan tracking numbers bag 7115, batch 495 (on cover front as required by San Juan procedures). Berlin Ab.

Features: Sender shown as Matr.Ob.gef. Eduard Vowe. There is only one explanation for a German Naval Obergefreiter being in Argentina in 1942, and sure enough Ob.gef. Eduard Vowe appears in the crew lists of the "Graf Spee". So here we have a German crew member of the "Graf Spee" living in civilian surroundings and paying the civilian rate for posting a letter back to Germany.



Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American LATI substitute service Argentina to Germany 1942 from "Graf Spee"



Original identity record from Argentine archives. The archive was acquired and sold on eBay as individual items. This card is for Eduardo Vowe who served in the 5th Division of the crew of the 'Graf Spee'.

The card is associated with an airmail cover from Vowe to his wife in Germany and sent in 1942 when Vowe was living free in Buenos Aires.

Prisoner of War Airmail

PanAm LATI substitute service Germany to Argentina 1942 "Graf Spee"



Route: Stassfurt to Martin Garcia Island via Lisbon-Bolama-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 12 May 1942. Arrive 6 June 1942.

Rate: Surface rate free for Internees and POWs. Handwritten endorsement by German postal clerk indicating special arrangements (use of prepayment of air fee). Journey time confirms carriage by air.

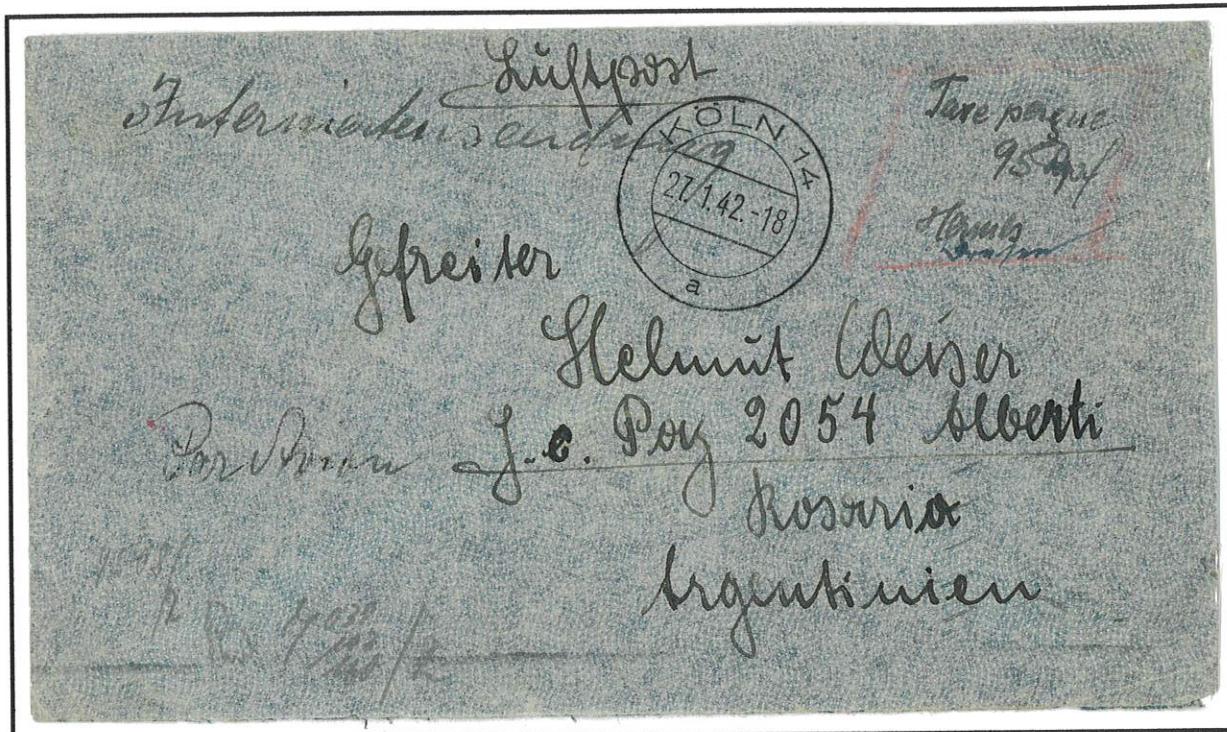
Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. No other censorship, indicating Pan American "LATI substitute" route and uncensored mail transfer at Natal.

Features: Surface rate free for prisoners of war and internees. Routed via "LATI substitute" service just prior to the changeover point from "U" service to "O" service. Karl Tylson shown in 8th Division of the "Graf Spee" crew lists.



Prisoner of War Airmail

PanAm LATI substitute service Germany to Argentina 1942 "Graf Spee"



Route: Köln to Rosario via Lisbon-Bolama-Fisherman's Lake-Bathurst(?) -Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 27 January 1942; transit Lisbon 17 February 1942; Arrive Rosario 20 May 1942. The transit delay could possibly be due to interception at Bathurst and forwarding letter to London for examination.

Rate: Surface rate free for Internees and POWs. Air fee paid as shown by "Taxe Percue" 95Rp endorsement.

Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. No other censorship indicating Pan American "LATI substitute" route and uncensored mail transfer at Natal.

Features: Surface rate free for prisoners of war and internees. 95Rp Kgf/Internierten rate established in Luftpostliste of 10 January 1942 after closure of LATI service to South America. Previous Luftpostlisten did not have a separate section for Kgf/Internierten and used the 150Rp civilian rate to Argentina. Helmut Weiser shown in "Graf Spee" crew lists.



Trans-Atlantic Air mail

Pan American LATI substitute service Germany to Argentina 1942 "Graf Spee"



Route: Mullheim to Buenos Aires via Lisbon-Bolama-Fisherman's Lake-Natal-Belem-San Juan then San Juan-Belem-Natal to Buenos Aires after censor examination. Despatch 13 November 1942. Lisbon transit 22 November. Cover carried by flight 9014 departing Lisbon 29 November.

Rate: Original LATI rate: 25 Rpf. surface; 150 Rpf. air fee = 165 Rpf. In fact air fee had been reduced in January 1942 to 90 Rpf in April 1942 (Amtsblatt Nr. 1143).

Censor: Transit censor Berlin Ab. Opened and re-sealed San Juan censor 14016. San Juan bag No. 8034, batch No. 960. 3034

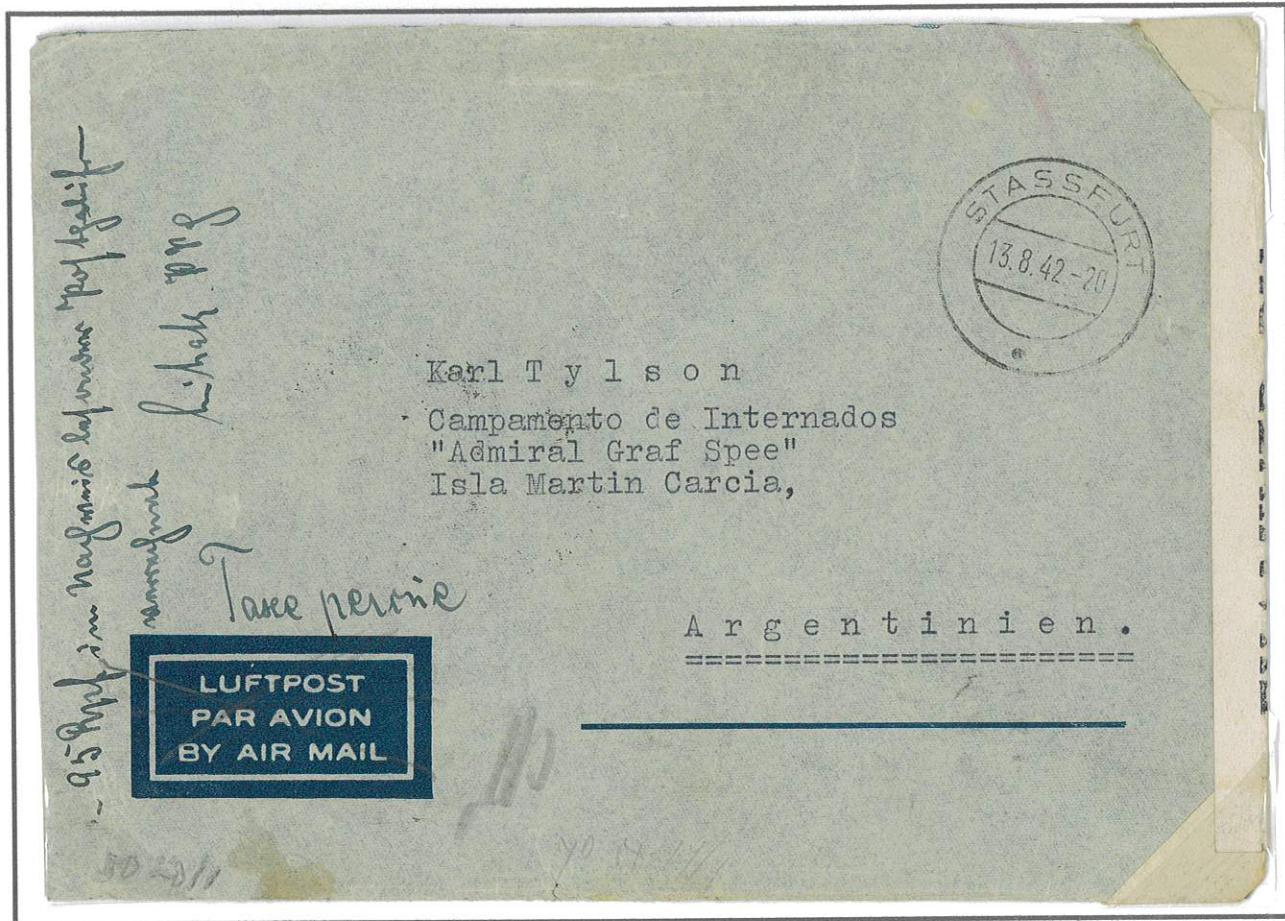
Features: Addressed to Julius Kraemer at a civilian address. Julius Kraemer is shown in the crew lists of "Graf Spee" as a Matrosen OberGefreiter. By the end of 1942, most of the men originally interned on Martin Garcia Island had been allowed to live as civilians in Buenos Aires.



San Juan
tracking
3034 960

Prisoner of War Airmail

Germany to Argentina 1942 "Graf Spee". LATI substitute.

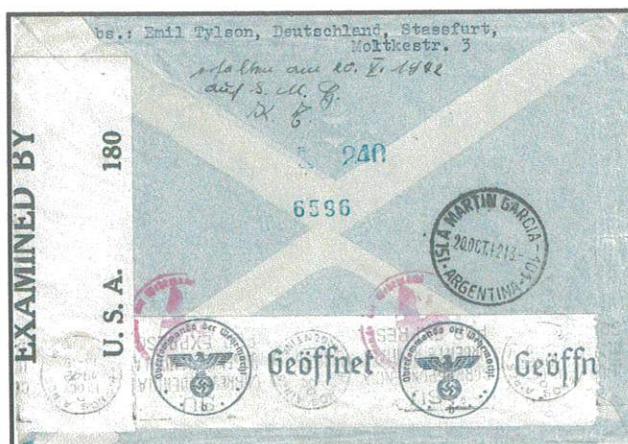


Route: Stassfurt to Martin Garcia Island via Lisbon-San Juan-New York-Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 13 August 1942. Arrive 20 October 1942.

Rate: Surface rate free for Internees and POWs. 95Rpf air fee paid although rate had been reduced in April to 90Rpf. (Amstblatt Nr. 1143).

Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. San Juan tracking numbers 6596 and 240. Forwarded to New York for examination by New York POW censor 180.

Features: Handwritten "Taxe Percue" to indicate Kgf/Internierten air fee paid. Surface rate free for POW and Internees. Routed via New York for specialist examination. Karl Tyson shown in 8th Division of 'Graf Spee' crew list.



Prisoner of War Airmail
Argentina to Germany 1943 "Graf Spee"



Route: Sierra de Cordoba to Salzwedel via Natal-San Juan-New York-Lisbon. Despatch 18 October 1943. Arrival 09 February 1944.

Rate: Civilian rate 20c surface + 20c registration + 125c air fee. Total 1.65 Pesos.

Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. Examined in New York by special POW censor 210.

Features: Endorsed "Via Natal-Bolama-Lisboa" the cover would have been routed by the "LATI substitute" service to San Juan for examination under the terms of the "San Juan Agreement". Civilian mail would then have been flown on to destination, but in this case the San Juan Censor was presumably using a "Watch List" and spotted that the sender, Martin Voigtlander, was actually a crew member of the "Graf Spee" officially interned but actually living in a hotel. The Argentinian "Internment" was a joke. Correctly, the cover was forwarded to New York for the attention of the special POW Censor.



San Juan
Krahlens
4146

Prisoner of War Airmail

Germany to Argentina 1943 "Graf Spee" by LATI Substitute.

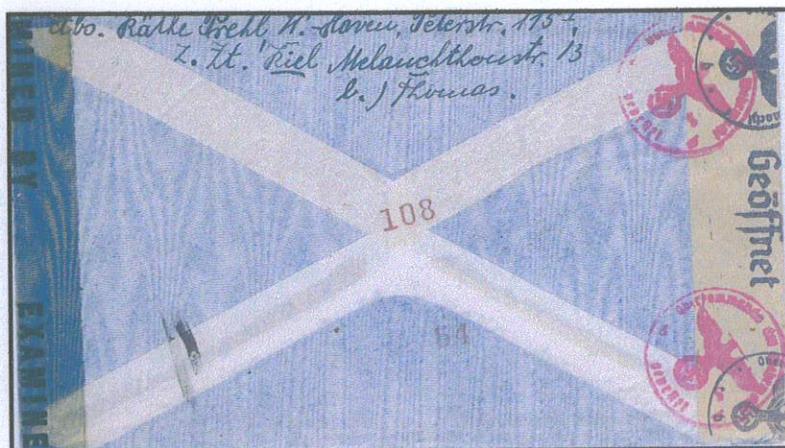


Route: Kiel to Martin Garcia Island via Lisbon-San Juan-New York-Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 13 January 1943. Arrival date unknown.

Rate: Surface rate free "Gebührenfrei" for Internees and POWs. "Taxe Percue" stamp and written endorsement by German postal clerks indicating prepayment of air fee.

Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. San Juan bag 108, batch 54. New York special POW censor 319.

Features: Surface rate free for prisoners of war and internees. Endorsed by sender to go via the "LATI substitute" route, the cover was examined at San Juan and apparently forwarded to New York for further examination before being (presumably) return to Buenos Aires and Isla Martin Garcia.



Letter enclosed

Prisoner of War Airmail

PanAm LATI substitute service Germany to Argentina 1943 "Graf Spee"



Route: Kiel to Martin Garcia via Lisbon-San Juan-New York-Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 24 June 1943; arrive Martin Garcia 26 September.

Rate: Surface rate free for Internees and POWs. Air fee paid as shown by "Taxe Percue" 90Rpf endorsement. Rate established April 1942.

Censor: Berlin code letter Ab. San Juan tracking number 1381. Special POW censor 434 in New York.

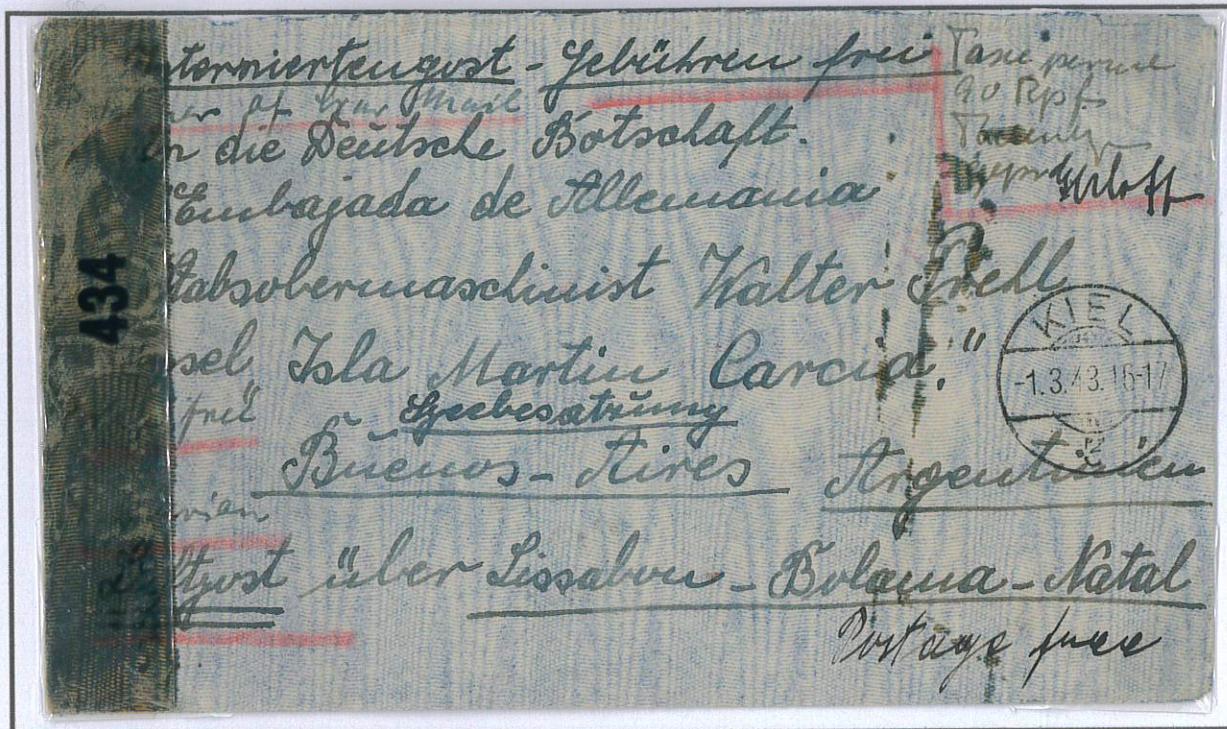
Features: Surface rate free for prisoners of war and internees. Carried by "LATI substitute" route, the cover was examined at San Juan and apparently forwarded to New York for further examination before being (presumably) return to Buenos Aires and Isla Martin Garcia. Walter Prehl shown in 'Graf Spee' crew list.



Letter enclosed

Prisoner of War Airmail

Germany to Argentina 1943 "Graf Spee" by LATI Substitute.



Route: Kiel to Martin Garcia Island via Lisbon-San Juan-New York-Natal-Buenos Aires. Despatch 1 March 1943. Arrival date unknown.

Rate: Surface rate free "Gebührenfrei" for Internees and POWs. "Taxe Percue" stamp and written endorsement by German postal clerks indicating prepayment of 90pf air fee.

Censor: OKW Berlin code letter b. San Juan bag 1202. New York special POW censor 434.

Features: Surface rate free for prisoners of war and internees. Endorsed by sender to go via the "LATI substitute" route, the cover was examined at San Juan and apparently forwarded to New York for further examination before being (presumably) returned to Buenos Aires and Isla Martin Garcia.



Letter enclosed

Prisoner of War Airmail
Germany to Argentina 1944 "Graf Spee"

Cover from a German civilian to a German internee from the "Graf Spee" apparently released and living in the German enclave of Villa Ballester in Buenos Aires. Despatched Frankenstein 4.9.44, opened and re-sealed by the Wehrmacht censor in Berlin and again by an unidentified American censor, the cover did not arrive in Villa Ballester until 27/2/45, a six month delay. The addressee is shown in the 3rd Division of the Graf Spee crew lists. POW/internee surface mail was carried free but could be conveyed by air on payment of a surcharge, in this case corresponding to the rate for carriage by Pan American from Lisbon.

Prior to late 1944 the air mail fee was recorded by the use of the Taxe Percue handstamp, allegedly because the German authorities were cautious about "secret" messages being written underneath postage stamps or airmail labels on incoming or outgoing mail.

Rate paid: Rm 0.90. Normal airmail rate was 25pf surface (free) plus Rm 0.90 air surcharge.

Routed via LATI substitute Lisbon-San Juan then probably to New York for POW Censor examination before return to Natal and Buenos Aires.

