

# Guatemala Airmail 1924-1945

Guatemala is the northernmost country of Central America; the country is mountainous with small desert and sand dune patches, except for the southern coastal area and the vast northern lowlands of Petén department.

The country's mountainous terrain, poor roads and lack of a good railway network prevented rapid transportation on land and the only solution was by air. Hence the development of air services was on top of the government agenda.

The first experimental flight was carried out in June 1911 and the glider-plane crashed. Single-engine aeroplanes, a Bleriot and a Nieuport bought from France carried further flights; both were lost in accident and pilots injured. No mail was carried on these flights.

The first outgoing demonstration flight was flown from Guatemala City to Balboa, Canal Zone in February 1924 by U.S. Army planes and the first incoming flight to Guatemala was flown from Barranquilla, Colombia by SCADTA in August 1925.

The first domestic demonstration flight took place in 1926 and in 1930, the first postal contract was awarded to Compañía Nacional de Aviación (CNA) and succeeded by Transportes Aéreos Centroamericanos (TACA) in 1936.

External airmail services were introduced to Guatemala when Pan American Airways extended its Foreign Airmail (FAM) routes to Central, South America and the Caribbean Islands in the 1930s. The U.S. connection also provided airmail services to Europe and beyond via the transatlantic route.

This exhibit shows the development of airmail from the inception until 1945. Pioneers flights, First flights and commercial mail illustrating airmail rates and routes are shown. Important items are highlighted by statement in bold font and scarcity figures quoted from personal study and standard references ref.1,2,3

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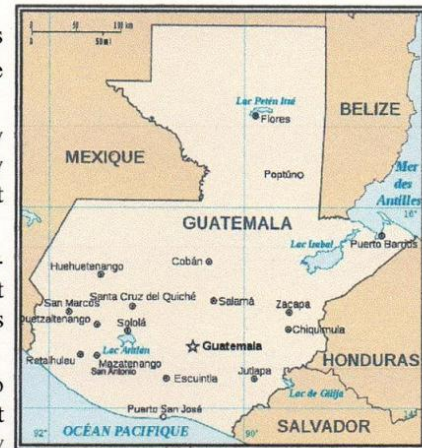
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## References:-

1. Ronald A. Goodman Guatemala Handbook by ISGC. Volume 1 (1969), Volume 2 (1974)
2. Frank Muller Catalogue des Aerogrammes du Monde Entier, Paris 1950
3. El Quetzal Journal of the International Society of Guatemala Collectors (ISGC) by G. Ramirez #314, #315, #316 (May-Nov. 03), #328 (Nov. 06) and by the exhibitor "Guatemalan Airmail across the oceans" in 2013 and 2014
4. Richard Gurevitch SCADTA 1925 Central American Survey Flight, Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal 16 (2012)
5. Edward Proud Intercontinental Airmails volume 1 – Transatlantic and Pacific
6. www.aerodacious.com FAM (Foreign Airmail) First Flights information
7. Junius B. Wood Flying the world's longest air-mail route, National Geographic Magazine vol. LVII/3, March 1930
8. Ian McQueen Airmail Directional Handstamps volume 1, 2003
9. Captain Julius Grigore Jr. The Triple Crash Covers of U.S. Army's First Pan American Good Will Flight, October 1997
10. Andrew Cheung 'Development of Domestic Airmail Services in Guatemala' and 'Guatemala Foreign Airmail rates to 1945' in NAPE magazine, August 2013 and Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal 17 (2013) and 19 (2015)





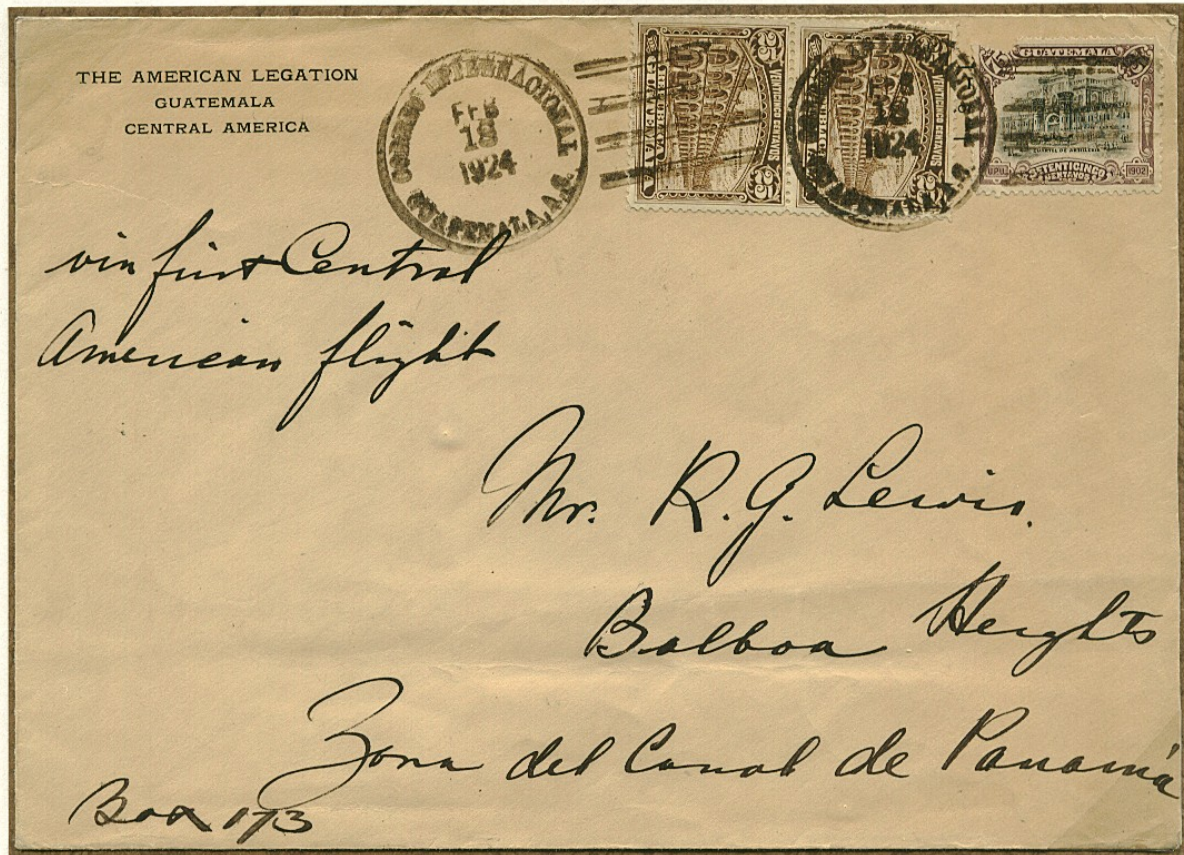
## Ch. 1: Demonstration Flights

Guatemala City – Balboa, Canal Zone

### FIRST OUTWARD AIRMAIL

Flown on 18 February 1924

Two U.S. Army De Havillands and one Martin bomber flew from France Field, Canal Zone on 4 February 1924 on a demonstration trip to Central American capital cities. U.S. Minister sent some letters back from Guatemala City to Panama in a sealed pouch.



1924 cover from the American Legation, Guatemala to Canal Zone sent on the return flight  
Pan American Postal Union rate of 1.25 pesos for first 20 grams per 1 March 1924 schedule

Dispatch: "CORREO INTERNACIONAL / GUATEMALA A.C."

Arrival: Balboa Heights, Canal Zone FEB 29, 2.30PM

**28 covers carried on this flight**



## Demonstration Flights

Barranquilla, Colombia – Guatemala City

### FIRST INWARD AIRMAIL

Flown on 10 August 1925

Dr. Peter Paul von Bauer of SCADTA wished to expand air service into Central America and to provide an air link to the U.S. Thus on 10 August 1925, two Dornier-Wal hydroplanes *Pacifico* and *Atlantico* flew from Barranquilla:-  
*Colombia (10 Aug.) – Canal Zone – Costa Rica – Nicaragua – Honduras – El Salvador – Guatemala (22 Aug.) – British Honduras – Cuba (26 Aug.)*

At the end, U.S. Government did not grant permission to Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transporte Aéreo for operating flights into U.S.A. because US Army Air Corps opposition.



SCADTA cachet PRIMER CORREO AEREO / COLOMBIA – AMERICA CENTRAL

33 centavos for first 20 grams made up of 3ctvs PAPU rate + 30ctvs airmail surcharge

Dispatch: SCADTA, Barranquilla, Colombia 10 VIII 1925

Arrival: Escuintla, Guatemala 22 August 1925

**Less than 40 covers carried on this flight\***

\* According to Richard Gurevitch's article 'SCADTA 1925 Central American Survey Flight', Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal 16 (2012), cover shown here illustrated by the author.





### “MISSED AIRMAIL” TO U.S.A.

Goodman<sup>ref.1</sup> does not mention any SCADTA covers sent further than Belize in British Honduras. However, Richard Gurevitch mentioned at least one cover flew from Guatemala to Havana, Cuba and then by surface mail to U.S.A.<sup>ref.4</sup> According to El Quetzal Volume 40 #262 published in January 1990, it was thought that three covers were carried by the pilot von Bauer.

2 September 1925 cover from Cohen marked via Havana and Florida intended for the flight from Guatemala to Cuba, the flight had taken off on 24 August 1925. However, it was mentioned in El Quetzal Volume 29 #261 published in October 1989 that the pilot refused to take the covers and the covers went by surface mail to the U.S.

Pan American Postal Union rate of 1.25 pesos for first 20 grams per 1 March 1924 schedule.

Registration fee 3 pesos, no extra charge for return receipt during this period.

Dispatch: CORREOS INT. / GUATEMALA C.A.  
Arrival: no arrival c.d.s. on reverse.

### 10 ordinary and registered covers recorded from this mail\*

\* According to El Quetzal Volume 39, No. 261 Oct. 1989



## Demonstration Flights

U.S.A ...Guatemala City...U.S.A.

### 1926-1927 U.S. Army's Pan American Good Will Flight

21 December - 2 May 1927 Kelly Field, San Antonio, TX to Bolling Field, Washington DC

Five U.S. Army single-engine Loening AO-1A amphibian aeroplanes, namely *New York*, *San Antonio*, *San Francisco*, *Detroit* and *St. Louis* flown by ten U.S. Army pilots made a five-month good-will tour of Central, South American and Caribbean. The route flew by these pilots eventually developed into FAM routes operated by PAA to these countries.

About 40 covers addressed to Lieutenant Bernard S. Thompson carried on the *St. Louis*<sup>9</sup>



I certify that this letter was carried by the airplane "St. Louis" on the U. S. Army Pan-American Flight, December 21, 1926 to May 2, 1927, through Mexico, every nation of Central and South America and back to Washington, D.C., via the West Indies.

H. A. Dargue  
Maj. A.C.

Bernard S. Thompson  
1st Lieut., Air Corps,  
Pilot, "St. Louis"

W. M. Daniel  
Capt. A.C.

Frederick C. Coates  
Capt. A.C.

Wm. S. Lindell  
1st Lt. A.C.

E. C. Whitehead  
1st Lt. A.C.

R. W. Wallingford  
1st Lt. A.C.

C. M. Johnson  
1st Lt. A.C.



**FIRST PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT**  
To all nations of Central and South America and the West Indies.  
23,065 miles visiting lands of 24 countries.  
Major H. A. Dargue, Air Corps, Commander.





**U.S.A ...Guatemala City...U.S.A.**

### 1926-1927 U.S. Army's Pan American Good Will Flight

**21 December – 2 May 1927 Kelly Field, San Antonio, TX to Bolling Field, Washington DC**

Letter of Major Herbert A. Dargue, commander of the mission sent from New York to San Antonio. Carried on the flagship *New York* piloted by himself and Lt. E.C. Whitehead. Crashed upon take-off at Guatemala City; crashed again at France Field, Canal Zone and destroyed in mid-air collision with *Detroit* 12km from Buenos Aires on 26 Feb. 1927.

Signed by the eight pilots on reverse who completed the flight. About 40 covers addressed to this pilot<sup>9</sup>

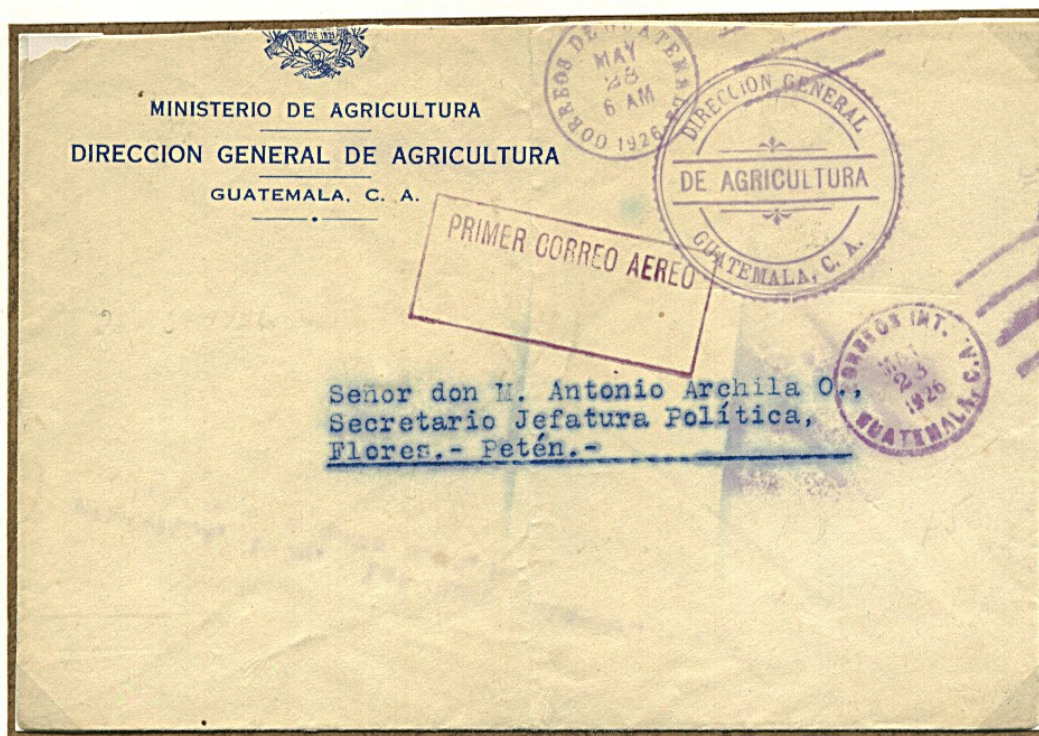




### First Pioneer Flight

Flown on 28 May 1926

Before this date, Petén the northern department where Chicle was grown for chewing gum could be reached by land via British Honduras, the journey took 15-20 days, depending on the season. Direct flight took four hours and mail carried was official stampless letters. The return flight was on 4 June.



1926 cover from the Ministry of Agriculture

Official flight cachet applied and mailed from a letterbox with Buzon No. 1 handstamp  
Guatemala G.P.O. dispatch 6 AM May 28 1926, Correos Int. (Interior) arrival on the same day

**24 covers carried on this flight**



## Pioneer Flights

## Guatemala City – Esquipulas, Chiquimula

Flown on 3 August 1926

Esquipulas is about 130 km east of Guatemala City near the Honduran border. Covers mailed on 30 July at Guatemala City. Postage 1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams, no airmail surcharge. Returned on the same day. Guatemala Recibida c.d.s. 3 August 3 P.M. on reverse. Official flight cachet boxed "PRIMER CORREO AEREO". Private cachet known in red and violet.



Private cachet in violet



Private cachet in red

140 covers carried on this flight



## Pioneer Flights

## Esquipulas, Chiquimula – Guatemala City

Return flight on 3 August 1926 to Guatemala City. Backstamp shows that this mail was stamped at 7 P.M., 4 hours later than the returned outward batch. 1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams, no airmail surcharge.

Covers mailed and flown on 3 August at Esquipulas to Guatemala. Guatemala Recibida c.d.s. 3 August 7 P.M. on reverse. No Official First Flight cachet. Private cachet struck in blue and violet.



Private cachet in blue



Private cachet in violet



## Pioneer Flights

## Guatemala City – Santa Rosa

Flown on 29 August 1926

Santa Rosa of Santa Rosa department is about 50km southwest of Guatemala City. Covers mailed on 29 August at Guatemala City. Flown on the same day to Santa Rosa. 1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams, no airmail surcharge. Official cachet without date "CORREO AEREO ★ GUATEMALA ★" Private cachet in red and violet.



Private cachet in red



Private cachet  
in violet

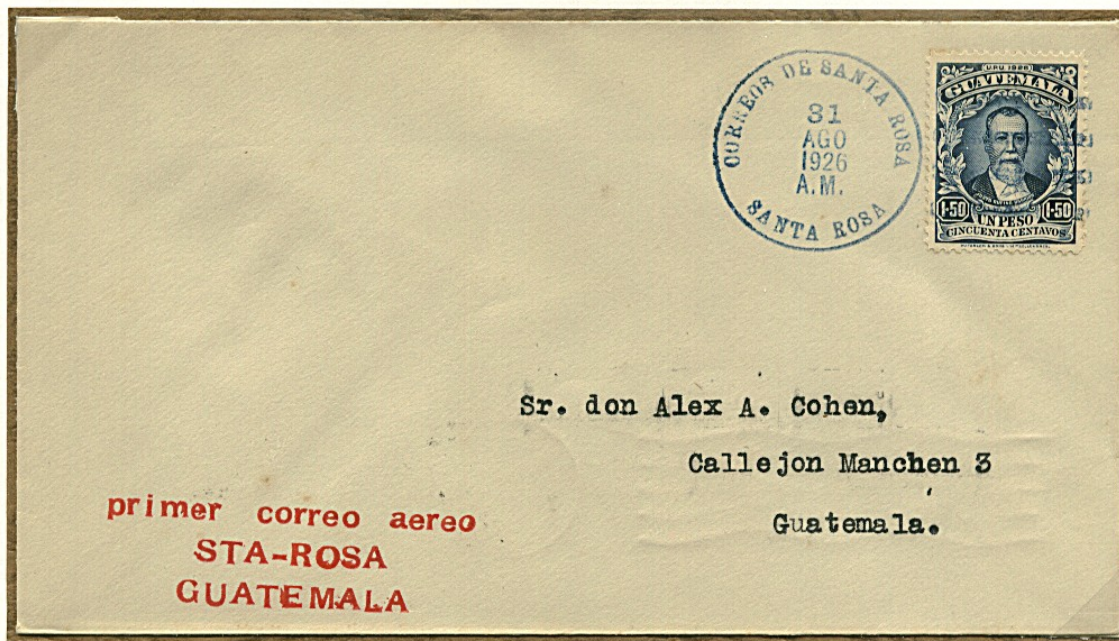
160 covers  
carried  
on this flight



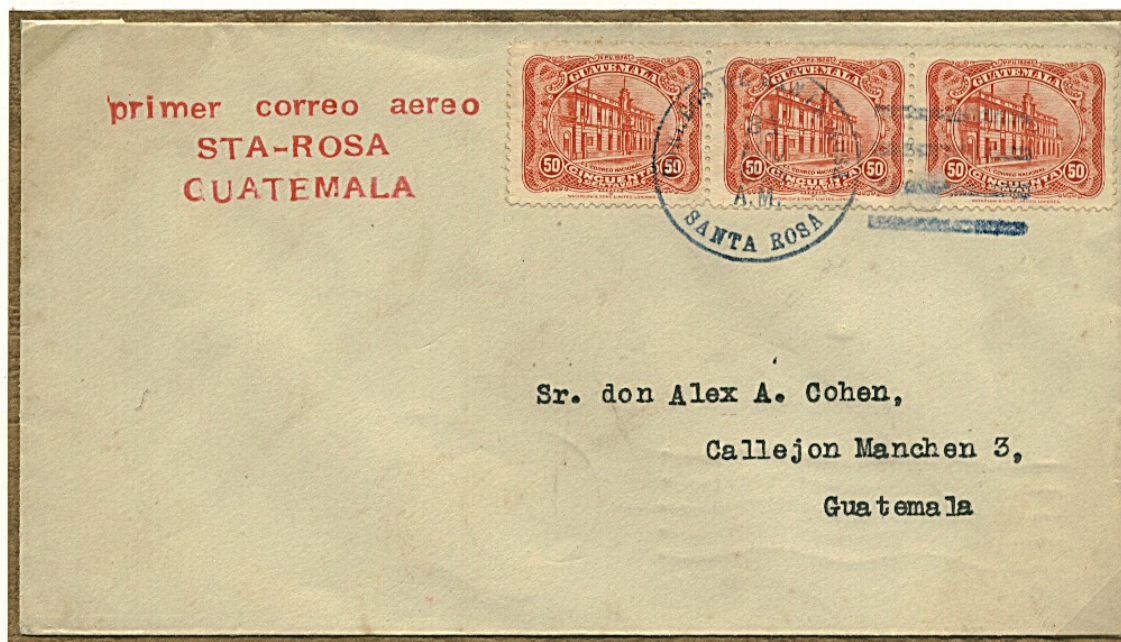
## Pioneer Flights

## Santa Rosa – Guatemala City

Return flight 31 August 1926. 1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams without airmail surcharge  
No official cachet on the return flight. Two private cachets (note spacing of the lettering) struck in red and rose-pink.



Private cachet in red (type 1)



Private cachet in rose-pink (type 2)

180 covers carried on this flight



## Pioneer Flights

Guatemala City – Quiché

Flown on 20 November 1926, crashed on landing

1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams. Official cachet "PRIMER CORREO AEREO / GUATEMALA – QUICHE"

The airplane *Benito Juárez* crashed on landing due to poor condition of the airfield, miraculously the pilot Colonel García Granados survived and mail saved.



Cover mailed day before the flight in Guatemala City, Quiché arrival 20 November



Cover privately carried by the pilot without dispatch c.d.s.

147 covers carried on this flight



## Pioneer Flights

## Guatemala City – Chiquimula

### Flown on 12 June 1927, crashed on landing

1.50 Pesos Interior rate per 20 grams. Same official cachet “CORREO AEREO ★ GUATEMALA ★” now with date inserted in the centre and used as a cancelling datestamp. Same day arrival in Chiquimula.

Local newspaper *Nuestro Diario* of June 13, 1927 mentioned that: -

*At 7.40 a.m. on Sunday June 12, 1927, two planes left, one a Morane and the other named San Marcos, piloted by Rodriguez Diaz and Garcia Granados respectively. The distance was covered in 55 minutes, with an arrival at 8.35 a.m. The field appeared to be in good condition, but a lot of rain had fallen the night before so both planes were seriously damaged (on landing) and were dismantled for their return to the capital. We are informed that the pilots were not injured and returned by train!*



36 covers carried on this flight



## First airmail rates

## Official Postal Memorandum of 1930

Front of the pamphlet features six different colour airmail stamps of the same design but with different denominations; only the 6 centavos rose-red was ever produced. Foreign airmail letter rates per 10 grams to U.S.A., Central/South American countries, domestic letter rate and the timetable of the domestic flights listed inside.



Upper: normal printing. Lower: lighter shade of 6 and 27 ctvs and showing **double printing** of 19ctvs.

**Total 1,000 pieces printed**



## First airmail rates

## Official Postal Memorandum of 1930

Mailed on 29 June 1930, first flight Guatemala City to Quezaltenango showing double printing of 19ctvs.

Official standard type flight cachet in blue handstamped GUATEMALA and *Quezaltenango* by hand

Two Quezaltenango receivers on reverse 29 JUN 1930

Small quantities carried on this First Flight presented as souvenir to dignitaries





# First airmail rates

## Official Postal Memorandum of 1930

Double printing of 6, 19 and 36ctvs.

Official standard type flight cachet in violet with fixed "GUATEMALA" and blank space below

"Imitation" Guatemala machine cancel and Quezaltenango arrival, probably not flown





## Ch. 2.2: Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Guatemala City – Retalhuleu – Guatemala City

Flown on 6 June 1930, first public domestic airmail acceptance

The CNA secured the domestic airmail contract. A Hodkinson trimotor NC-82-M, a Fleet bi-plane NC-9435 and a Travel Air bi-plane left Guatemala City at 08:00hr. The flight to Retalhuleu, 130km south-west of Guatemala City took 57 minutes. Return flight left Retalhuleu at 10:51hr and arrived at La Aurora Airfield, Guatemala City at 11:55hr.



Registered letter mailed on day of the flight from Guatemala City  
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 5ctvs registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Official standard type cachet "INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A" in blue



Letter sent on the return flight to Guatemala City. Guatemala machine receiver 6 PM, 6 June 1930 on reverse  
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Official standard type cachet "INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A" in black



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

### Guatemala City – Zacapa

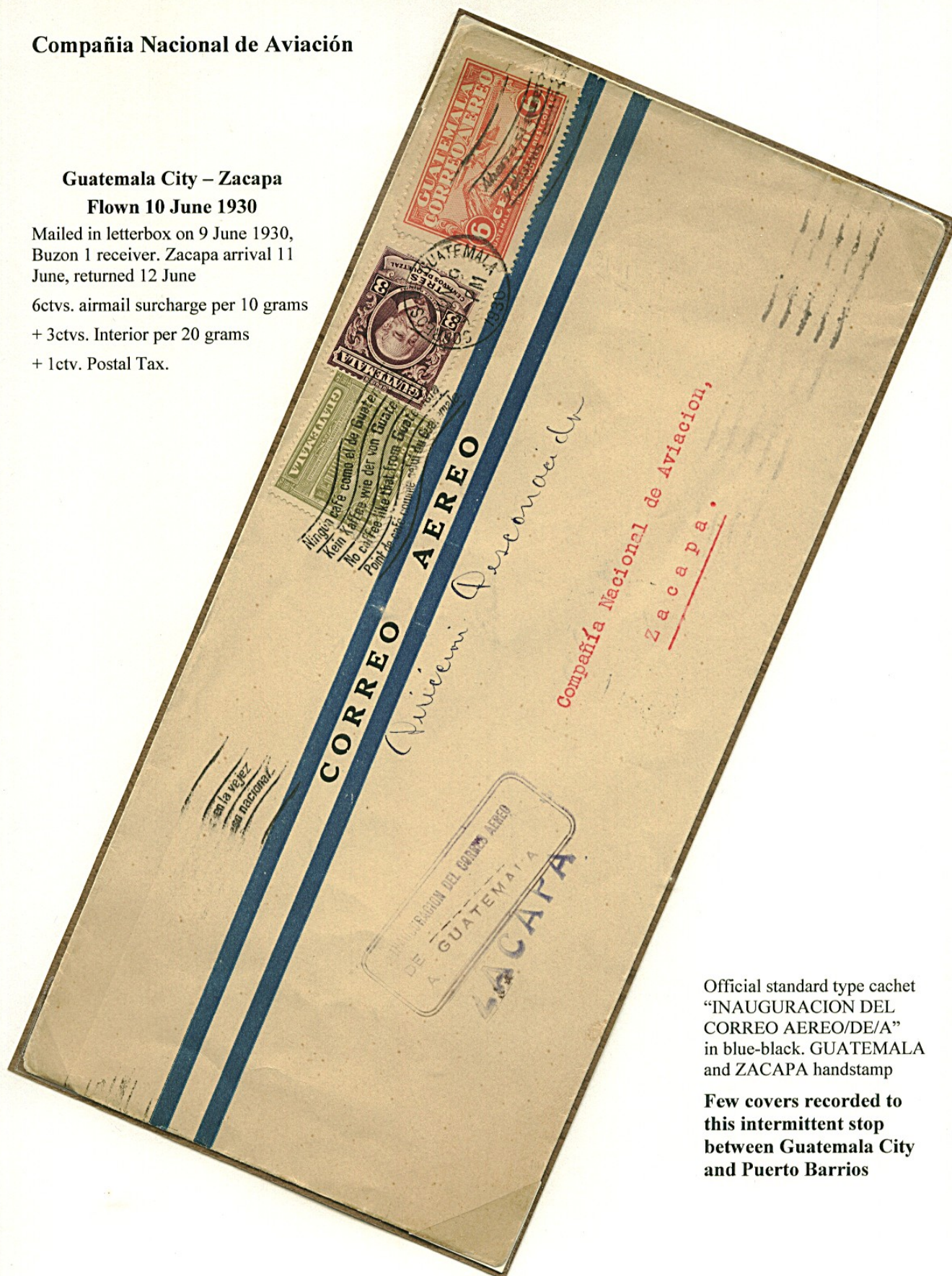
Flown 10 June 1930

Mailed in letterbox on 9 June 1930,  
Buzon 1 receiver. Zacapa arrival 11  
June, returned 12 June

6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams

+ 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams

+ 1ctv. Postal Tax.



Official standard type cachet  
“INAUGURACION DEL  
CORREO AEREO/DE/A”  
in blue-black. GUATEMALA  
and ZACAPA handstamp

Few covers recorded to  
this intermittent stop  
between Guatemala City  
and Puerto Barrios



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Petén and Puerto Barrios

Flores, Petén is about 300km north and Puerto Barrios about 260km north-east from Guatemala City



### Guatemala City – Flores, Petén, Flown 7 June 1930

Mailed in letterbox on 6 June 1930, Buzon 1 receiver and Flores arrival 7 June.  
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Official standard type cachet “INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A” in violet



### Guatemala City – Puerto Barrios, Flown 10 June 1930

Mailed in letterbox on 9 June 1930, Buzon 1 receiver. Puerto Barrios arrival 10 June, returned 11 June  
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Official standard type cachet “INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A” in violet.



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Guatemala City – Jalapa – Guatemala City

Jalapa is 65km east of Guatemala City, with regard to the “First flight”, local newspaper *El Tiempo* reported on Thursday, 12 June 1930 that the flight was inaugurated on this day. At 07:30hr, the Hodkinson trimotor NC-82-M piloted by Capt. Harold White, left for Puerto Barrios via Zacapa. When the flight returned from Puerto Barrios it landed at Jalapa. The known official flight covers from Guatemala City to Jalapa are dated 25 June and the return covers dated 26 June. Possible that the flight mentioned in the newspaper was non-mail carrying.



### Outward flight dated 25 June 1930, 162 covers carried on this flight

6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.

Official standard type cachet “INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A” in blue-black



### Return flight dated 26 June 1930

6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.

Official standard type cachet “INAUGURACION DEL CORREO AEREO/DE/A” in black

Guatemala recibida c.d.s. “July 10 1930” on reverse, possible date error.



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

Guatemala City - Cobán

Cobán in Alta Verapaz department is about 100km north of Guatemala City. *El Tiempo*, on 16 June 1930, reported that the CNA Fleet NC-9435, manned by Capt. Harold White flew to Cobán. This was probably a non-mail carrying survey flight and the first mail carrying flight took place on 28 June 1930.



Flown on 28 June 1930

Mailed in letterbox 2 P.M. on 27 June 1930, Buzon 1 receiver and Cobán 1 July on reverse  
The flight arrived on the same day, delay in datestamping at Cobán probably due to huge volume of mail  
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



Flown on 28 June 1930 and returned on the same day

Mailed in letterbox 8 P.M. on 27 June 1930, Buzon 1 receiver and Cobán 28 June on reverse  
Annotated "Desconocido" (unknown) and sent back on the afternoon return flight to Guatemala  
Note the use of a different cachet in blue colour instead of purple and 'GUATEMALA' in fixed position



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Guatemala City – Quezaltenango – Guatemala City

Quezaltenango, the second largest city in the country is about 120km west of Guatemala City. First flown on 29 June 1930 by the Hodkinson trimotor NC-82-M and Fleet NC-9435. The flight took 45 minutes.



### Outward flight 29 June 1930

6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Mailed in the G.P.O. posting box No. 1 on 28 June 8 p.m., Quezaltenango 29 June arrival



### Return flight 29 June 1930

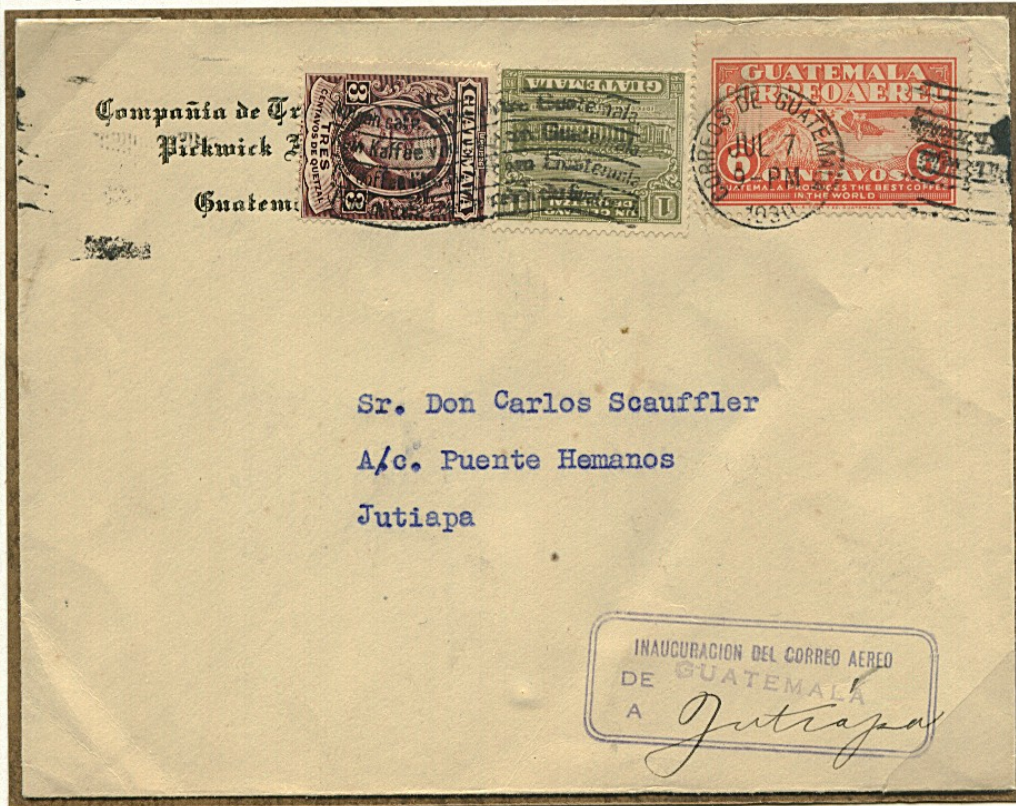
6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Stamps cancelled on arrival back in Guatemala City with the second "Aereo Interior" rubber datestamp



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Guatemala City - Jutiapa

Jutiapa is about 75km south-east of Guatemala City near the El Salvador border. *El Tiempo* of Tuesday 1 July 1930 reported that the company's Fleet NC-9435 piloted by Capt. Daniel Ellis left for Jalapa probably non-mail carrying.



Covers to Jutiapa are dated 8 July 1930

6ctvs. airmail surcharge per 10 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax. Official flight standard type cachet in violet.

Mailed in letterbox on 7 July 1930. Jutiapa 7 July arrival (date error) on back.



Mailed in letterbox on 7 July 1930 at night. Buzon1, 7 July 11 P.M. 8 July 11 A.M. cancel. Returned from Jutiapa on same day, c.d.s date corrected by hand.



## Compañía Nacional de Aviación

## Guatemala City – La Tinta – Guatemala City

La Tinta in Alta Verapaz is about 100km north-east of Guatemala City. This is CNA last domestic inaugural flight.

### Outward flight 17 June 1935

### Return flight 18 June 1935

Two special cachets were introduced for these inaugural flights

4ctvs. airmail surcharge per 15 grams + 3ctvs. Interior per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.

In January 1933, the domestic airmail rate was reduced to 4ctvs. with first weight step increased to 15 grams.





## Ch. 2-3: Transportes Aéreos Centroamericanos

## Guatemala City – Cobán

In 1932, TACA was founded by a New Zealander Lowell Yerex in Honduras. When the mail contract ended with the CNA, the Post Office signed a five-year contract with TACA for mail and cargo transport to and from the interior on 6 March 1936 ref. 3. After the contract expired in January 1941, it was not renewed; instead the new contract went to another company *Aerovías de Guatemala* under the control of Pan American Airways.



In January 1933 domestic airmail rate was reduced to 4ctvs. per 15 grams except to the Péten.

14 May 1936  
San Antonio, Such.  
to Cobán, A.V.  
Since no direct flight available, nearest airport is Retalhuleu. Extra 3ctvs. Interior rate required.

On reverse:  
Guatemala 14 May  
Cobán arrival 16 May

30 November 1936  
registered airmail  
Cobán to Guatemala  
4ctvs. per 15 grams  
5ctvs. registration fee  
1ctv. Postal Tax ↓





## Ch. 2-4: Domestic airmail rates

## Letter rate

The cheap airmail rates, particularly for newspapers and under-utilized airmail service meant that CNA was losing money. Therefore, CNA suggested to the government that if the company reduced the carriage fees charged to the Postal Service, the Government could further reduce airmail rates to attract more airmail.

On December 3, 1930, the domestic airmail letter rate was lowered to 4 centavos per 10 grams and the new tariff no longer required payment of internal postage.



1 April 1931 Guatemala City to Mazatenango, Suchitepequez

4ctvs. airmail letter rate per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

The 1ctv/\$3 provisional stamp was issued on 9 Dec. 1930 as a make-up value for the new rate



19 May 1931 Quezaltenango to Guatemala City

4ctvs. airmail letter rate per 10 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: 2x ½ctv. stamp applied across the envelope flap



## Domestic airmail rates

## Express Delivery Service

In March 1931, to speed up delivery of both domestic and international airmail, a group of mailmen equipped with bicycles was organized for this express delivery service in Guatemala. It appears that 4 centavos letter rate included the delivery fee. A three-lined datestamp was introduced and probably struck only on the top letter of the bundle.



30 March 1931 Patulul, Solola by land route to Mazatenango, Suchitepequez

Redirected by airmail to Guatemala City, delivery by the express delivery service

3ctvs. inland letter rate per 20 grams from Patulul to Mazatenango

4ctvs. airmail rate per 10 grams (3 Dec. 1930 - 3 Dec. 1931) + 1ctv. Postal Tax to Guatemala City

31 March Mazatenango receiver c.d.s., 4ctvs. + 1ctv. tax stamps applied for re-direction by airmail

On reverse: Guatemala City arrival 1 April, 11.30 AM

The 4ctv/\$3 provisional stamp was issued on 9 December 1930 for the new letter rate

**Less than 10 covers recorded with SERVICIO EXPRESO handstamp\***

\*From unpublished record. The exhibitor also recorded two 1931 (28 March, 12 April) letters from Mazatenango to Guatemala City, an incoming letter from Germany to Mazatenango re-directed to Guatemala City and a October 1932 cover from Quezaltenango to Guatemala City.



## Domestic airmail rates

## Letter rate

In 1931, despite the government cutting monthly subsidy of the CNA twice in the same year, the postal deficit was still substantial. Thus on 4 December 1931, the letter rate had to be increased to 6 centavos to other places except to the northern Petén Department. The weight step now raised to 15 grams.

27 October 1932 Quezaltenango to Guatemala City delivered by the "express service" on arrival.  
6ctvs. airmail rate per 15 grams,  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax. No extra charge for delivery at this date.  
On reverse: Guatemala City arrival 28 October.  
Buzon No. 3 of Quezaltenango  
The service was introduced to speed up delivery sent by airmail.



18 February 1933  
San Antonio, Suchitepequez  
via Retalhueu –  
Guatemala City – Cobán  
2x airmail letter 12ctvs.  
3ctvs. inland transit.  
On reverse:  
Guatemala, 19 February  
Cobán arrival 20 February



## Domestic airmail rates

## Letter rate

On 4 December 1931, the letter rate was increased to 6 centavos per 15 grams to other places, but to Petén, the northernmost department, the airmail rate remained at 12 centavos per 15 grams. Since the government had made airmail conveyance to Petén compulsory in September 1930, additional inland surface rate was no longer needed.



5 February 1935 Guatemala City to Flores, Petén  
12ctvs. airmail rate per 15 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Letterbox Buzon 1, Flores arrival 9 February



21 May 1935 Flores, Petén to Guatemala City  
12ctvs. airmail rate per 15grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: 4 x 2ctvs. airmail stamps, Guatemala c.d.s. 21 May arrival



## Domestic airmail rates

In December 1932, because CNA settled for a 50% reduction of carriage fee from 4 Quetzales to 2 Quetzales per kilo of mail carried, the letter rate was reduced back to 4 centavos per 15 grams in January/February 1933 to other places except to Petén. To save cost, previous daily service from Guatemala City – Cobán, Alta Verapaz was reduced to every Monday, Thursday and Sunday from 4 August 1932. Domestic airmail rates remained the same until after WWII.

## Letter rate

Monday flight, 27 March 1933  
Guatemala City to Cobán, AV  
4ctvs. airmail rate per 15 grams  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Cobán arrival 28 March  
Franked 1932 2ctvs. overprint  
since no 4ctvs. stamps available



7 March 1934 for the Thursday,  
8 March flight Guatemala City  
to Cobán, Alta Verapaz

Paid 7x rate up to 105 grams  
Actual weight being 67 grams

Cobán 10 March c.d.s.

1933 overprint on the 4ctvs. for  
the new interior airmail rate





## Domestic airmail

## Foreign connection

Cobán in Alta Verapaz department is about 100km north of Guatemala City. Airmail conveyance from Cobán to Guatemala City was made compulsory in order to speed up the mail connecting with PAA service.



19 May 1934 airmail letter from Cobán, adhesive stamps cancelled by "Ayudante" c.d.s. used by an assistant postman assigned to handle airmail. By CNA service to Guatemala City, PAA to New York, by sea to Europe.

**Domestic airmail** 4ctvs. per 15 grams + **Foreign airmail** 30ctvs. for up to 20 grams + 5ctvs. PAPU rate (1ctv. underpaid) + 1ctv. Postal Tax. On reverse: 'Correo Aereo' Guatemala City transit c.d.s. 20 May



15 March 1937 inward airmail letter from New York by PAA to Guatemala City, TACA service to Cobán US15c airmail rate + 4ctvs. **domestic airmail fee as postage due**, cachet applied by Guatemala City GPO

On reverse: 'Correo Aereo' Cobán arrival 20 March. **Previously unrecorded postage due cachet**



## Domestic airmail

## Foreign connection

Since the government had made airmail conveyance compulsory from some parts of the country such as the Department of Petén and Alta Verapaz in 1930. Domestic airmail fee paid by "Interior" airmail stamps in addition to the Foreign airmail fee paid by "Exterior" airmail stamps was required for outward mail to foreign destinations.



27 April 1937 airmail letter Flores, Petén by TACA service to Guatemala City, PAA to New York  
**Domestic airmail** 12ctvs. per 15 grams + **Foreign airmail** 15ctvs. per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAAU rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Flores 'Servicio aereo' c.d.s. 28 April, Guatemala City transit 28 April, New York arrival 1 May

30 March 1939 airmail letter  
 La Tinta to Guatemala City  
 by TACA service  
 PAA to New York  
 By sea to Europe  
**Domestic airmail**  
 4ctvs. per 15 grams  
**Foreign airmail**  
 15ctvs. per 10 grams  
 + 5ctvs. UPU rate  
 + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse:  
 Guatemala transit  
 31 March, "18 - PM"





## Special "Nocturno" Service

Quezaltenango to Foreign destinations

This special service for the benefit of the business community was provided by Quezaltenango, the second largest city in the country about 120km west of Guatemala City. From early 1930 to 1936, the "Late Fee" was addition of Domestic airmail fee of 4ctvs. per 15 grams on top of the regular airmail postage.



1 February 1933 letter deposited in Quezaltenango "Night box" to Germany  
 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, **Domestic airmail fee not paid**  
 Sent by road to Retalhuleu 38km south-west of Quezaltenango and then by rail to Guatemala City  
 On reverse: Ordinary Buzon No. 3 handstamp, Guatemala City arrival 4 February, 5:15 PM



11 April 1934 letter deposited in Quezaltenango "Night box" to U.S.A.  
 15ctvs. airmail fee + 4ctvs. + 1ctv. Postal Tax. On reverse: Guatemala City arrival 15 April  
 Sent by road to Retalhuleu 38km south-west of Quezaltenango and then by rail to Guatemala City  
 4ctvs. supposedly paid the Domestic airmail fee but the letter is still **underpaid 3ctvs. PAPU rate**



## Special "Nocturno" Service

Quezaltenango to Foreign destination

From early 1930 to 1936, the "Late Fee" was adding the domestic airmail fee of 4ctvs. per 15 grams to the regular postage and Postal Tax on a letter.



3 June 1935 letter deposited in Quezaltenango "Night box" to Manchester, U.K.

15ctvs. Foreign airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU rate paid by adhesive stamps on reverse.

4ctvs. Domestic airmail fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax. Sent by air to Guatemala City and by PAA to New York

On reverse: Buzon No. 3 / Servicio Nocturno handstamp, Guatemala City arrival 4 June, 11:30 AM



10 October 1935 letter deposited in Quezaltenango "Night box" to New York, wrongly delivered in New York  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 4ctvs. + 1ctv. Postal Tax. **Letter underpaid 3ctvs. PAPU rate but overlooked**

On reverse: Buzon No. 3 / Servicio Nocturno handstamp, Guatemala City arrival 4 June, 11:30 AM



## Domestic airmail rates

## Late Fee Service

In order to facilitate mailing for the business community after the close of normal business hours at the post office, letters could be mailed with addition of a Late Fee at a special counter or mailbox.

From 1936, the fee was double postage for mail deposited between 7 – 11.30 p.m. Datestamps inscribed "Nocturno" were used for such purpose.



28 February 1936 Quezaltenango to Guatemala City sent by CNA

4ctvs. airmail rate per 15 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax + 4ctvs. LATE FEE

On reverse: Boxed Buzon No. 3 letterbox SERVICIO NOCTURNO marking

Guatemala City arrival 29 February 12 AM



## Special "Nocturno" Service

## Guatemala City to Foreign destination

Guatemala City, being the largest city also offered this special service. Same as Quezaltenango, from 1936, the sender needed to pay double postage rate after normal mail closed. "Nocturno" datestamps were used on such mail.

7 March 1931 double-rate  
registered airmail letter  
30ctvs. airmail fee /20g.  
+ 5ctvs. UPU rate /20g.  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax  
+ 10ctvs. registration fee  
(1 x 5ctvs. on reverse)  
PAA air to New York  
By sea to Europe  
On reverse:  
New York 12 March  
Zurich 21 March arrival



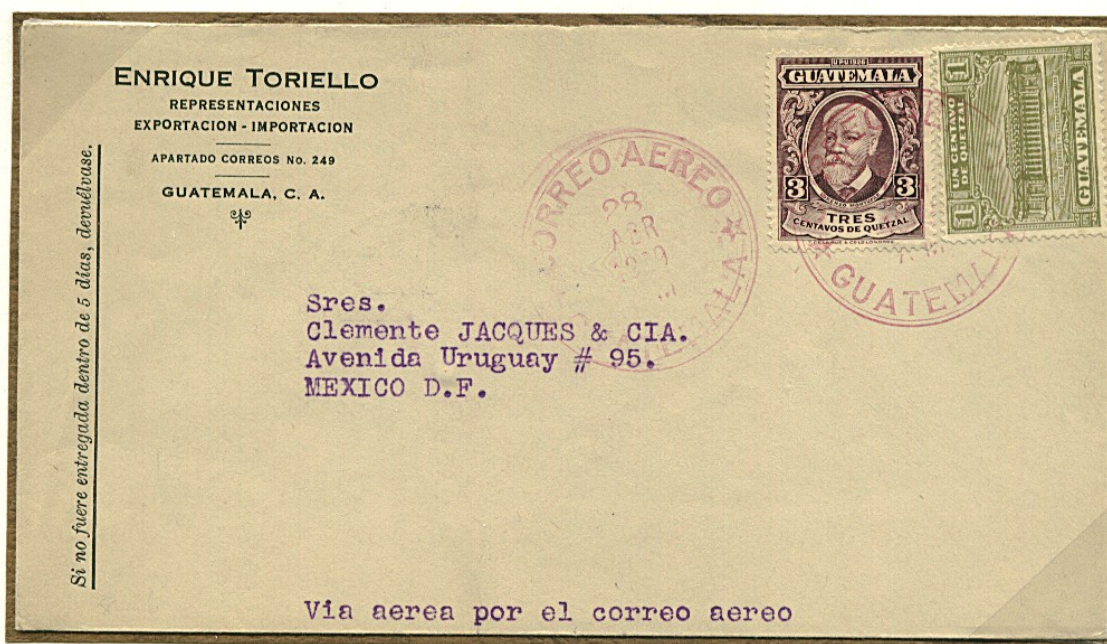
7 October 1936 quadruple-rate registered airmail letter to Hamburg mailed "late"  
60ctvs. airmail fee for 40 grams + 8ctvs. UPU rate per 40 grams + 1 ctv. Postal Tax = 69ctvs. x 2 = 138ctvs.  
+ '10ctvs.' registration fee (Only 1 x 5ctvs. adhesive stamp on reverse, 5ctvs. underpaid but overlooked)  
By PAA to New York and by sea to Europe. On reverse: New York 12 March, Zurich 21 March arrival



## Experimental flight by Pickwick Airways

Flown on Sunday, 28 April 1929

Pickwick Airways launched a Mexican government service from Guatemala City to Mexico City via San Geronimo and Oaxaca, Mexico. This can be seen as a fore-runner to connect with the U.S. mail system. Regular airmail service connecting Pan American Airways to the U.S.A. did not begin until 7 August 1929.



3ctvs. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

The 3 centavos franked representing the PAPU rate to Mexico, no airmail fee applicable yet

On reverse: Servicio Aereo, Mexico c.d.s. 28 April arrival

According to local newspaper, *El Imparcial* dated 29 April: Ciudad de Merida, a trimotor airplane left La Aurora airport around 7 a.m.

8 official letters, 290 private letters, 6 postcards, 13 registered items, 35 pieces of printed matter and 2 bags of mail from El Salvador carried on the airplane



Pickwick Airways / PAA

Guatemala City – Mexico City – U.S.A.

**First flight by Pickwick Airways to U.S.A.**

**Flown on Wednesday, 7 August 1929**

Twice-weekly service on Tuesday and Thursday until September 1929 when the service became thrice-weekly on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday connecting the Pan American service northward from Mexico City to Brownsville, Texas. The foreign airmail rate of 15ctvs. per 20 grams to towns along Mexico to Los Angeles route and 30ctvs per 20 grams to the rest of the U.S.A.



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: Servicio Aereo, Mexico c.d.s. 7 August arrival

**194 ordinary and 21 registered letters to Eastern U.S. states\***

**12 ordinary letters to Central U.S. states\***

\*Statistics according to article published in ISGC El Quetzal Volume 50, #304, December 2000



# Northbound mail – Pickwick Airways / PAA

Guatemala City – Mexico City – U.S.A.

With the introduction of airmail service, in November 1928, a decree was issued stating that letters sent by airmail should be franked with stamps indicated for such purpose. A set of stamps overprinted on the 1924 (5c/15p) Perkins Bacon issue and 1926 Waterlow issue (3c, 5c, 15c and 20c/15p) was issued on 20 May 1929.



4 October 1929 letter Guatemala to St. Paul, U.S.A.

3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 30ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams to U.S.A. from Sept. 1929 + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Servicio Aereo, Mexico c.d.s. 5 October transit, St. Paul 7 October arrival



19 October 1929 letter Guatemala to East Orange, U.S.A.

3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 30ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams to U.S.A. + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Servicio Aereo, Mexico c.d.s. 10 October.



# Northbound mail – Pickwick Airways / PAA

Guatemala City – Mexico City – U.S.A.

The first provisional 3c/15p airmail stamp intended for commercial samples and therefore only 50,000 printed was quickly sold out and an emergency overprint of 25,000 1924 2.5p Perkins Bacon regular issue was made and issued on 9 October 1929 to bridge the gap. The stamps were also quickly sold out.



11 October 1929 letter Guatemala to Raymondville, U.S.A. Use of the 3ctvs. 1929 overprint stamp  
 3ctvs. PAPA rate per 20 grams + 30ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 1 ctv. postal tax  
 On reverse: Servicio Aereo, Mexico c.d.s. 12 October, Raymondville 14 October arrival

15 October 1929 registered letter to Washington DC

Use of ordinary adhesive stamps tolerated by the Post

3ctvs. PAPA rate / 20 grams  
 30ctvs. airmail / 20 grams  
 5ctvs. registration fee  
 5ctvs for Avis de Reception applied on the attached AR docket with the letter  
 1ctv. postal tax omitted

On reverse:  
 Mexico transit 17 October  
 Washington DC 21 October





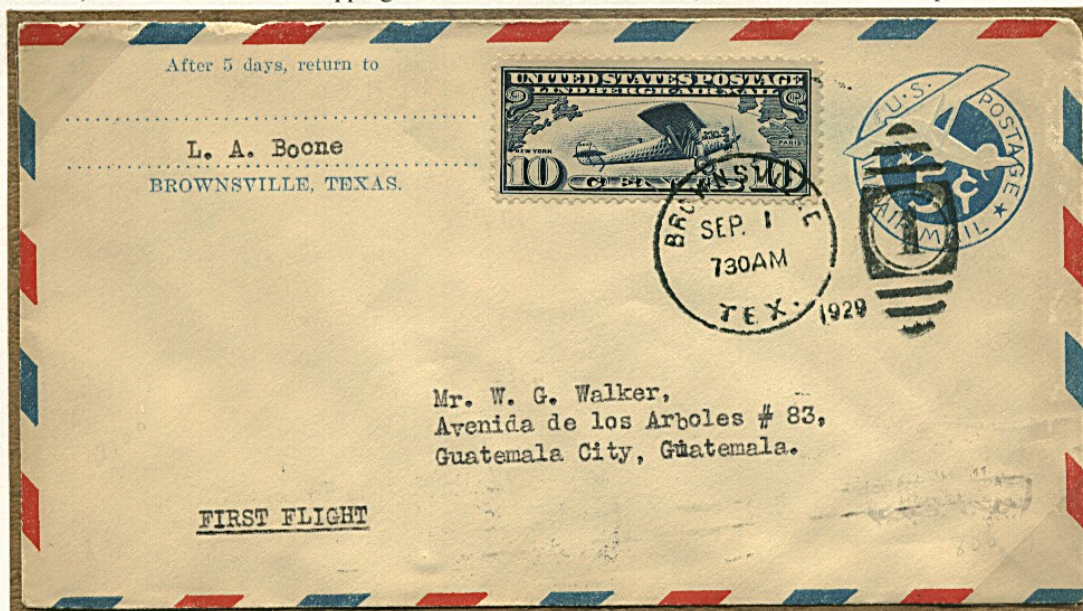
**Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service**

**Brownsville, Texas – Guatemala**

**First regular flight by Pan American Airways**

**Flown on 1 September 1929**

Regular Pan American Airways (PAA) service flown under its subsidiary Compania Mexicana de Aviacion (CMA) was provided by Ford Trimotor airplane. The CMA/PAA service was launched on 1 September 1929 from Brownsville, Texas to Guatemala stopping at Mexican towns Vera Cruz, San Geronimo and Tapachula on the way.



Brownsville, Texas to Guatemala City

10c airmail rate per oz.

On reverse: Guatemala 5 September arrival



30 August New York airmail to Brownsville, Texas to Guatemala City

20c airmail double-rate. Unclaimed return to sender

On reverse: Brownsville transit 1 September, Guatemala 5 September arrival



## Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala - Brownsville, Texas

The international airmail service provided by Pickwick Airways ended in February 1930 when its contract expired, a new contract with PAA was signed in January 1930. A new 15ctvs. airmail letter fee per 10 grams was introduced on 11 March 1930. Prior to that Guatemala had been receiving mail via FAM 8 service but did not send outgoing mail directly until 17 March 1930.

Flown on 17 March 1930



Mailed from Guatemala City on 16 March, held back until 17 March return flight  
Sent by northbound PAA flight via Brownsville, Texas and then by local airmail to Miami.

3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

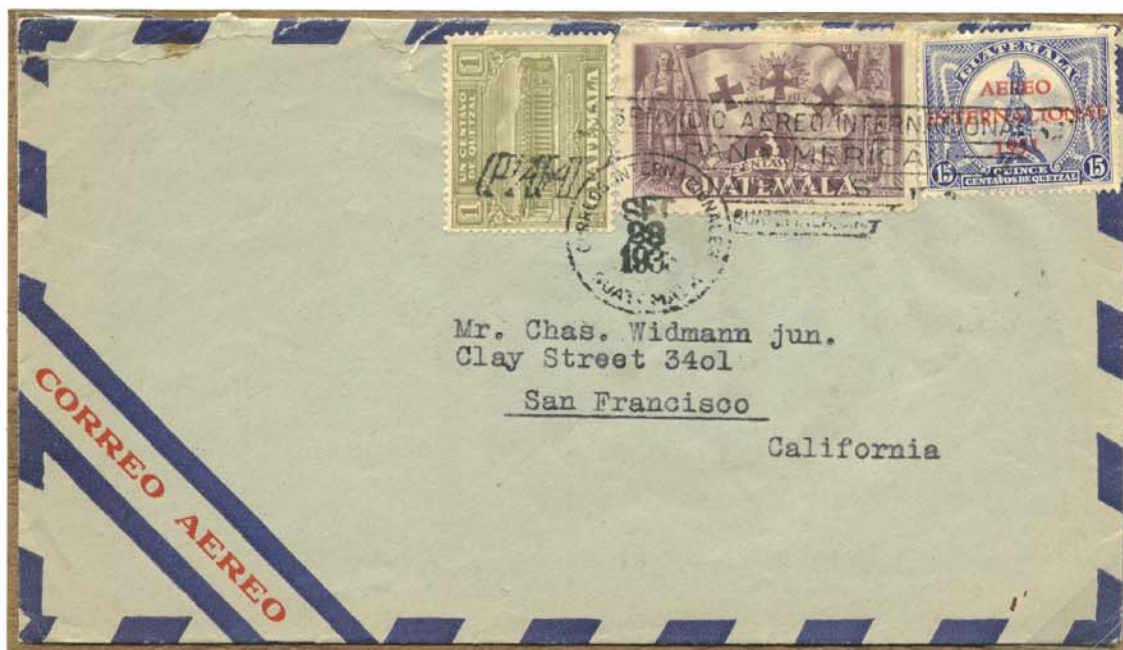
Official cachet in black. On reverse: Miami c.d.s. 21 March arrival



## Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – West Coast of U.S.A.

The FAM 8 route via Brownsville was used by mail destined for the West Coast of U.S.A. Postage rates published in July 1935 showed twice weekly service departing on Wednesdays and Sundays. Mail would be put in a bag labeled "Correspondencia para San Francisco, Cal."



28 September 1933 airmail letter via Brownsville to San Francisco, California  
3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



16 December 1935 airmail letter via Brownsville to Glendale, California via San Francisco  
3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



### Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – East Coast of U.S.A.

By late 30s, the more direct FAM 5 route via Miami was favoured for mail to the eastern parts of U.S.A. and for Trans-Atlantic mail to Europe, the FAM 8 route was still used on occasions especially during wartime to carry such mail for censorship at San Antonio, Texas.



14 January 1942 AR registered airmail letter via Brownsville, to Washington DC  
3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
5ctvs. registration fee + 5ctvs for Avis de Reception applied on the accompanied AR docket  
Brownsville transit 15 January and Washington DC arrival 16 January



24 June 1943 double-rate AR registered airmail letter via Brownsville, to New York  
3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 30ctvs. airmail fee for 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
5ctvs. registration fee + 5ctvs for Avis de Reception applied on the accompanied AR document.  
Examined by U.S. censor (#12392) at San Antonio 24 June. New York arrival 27 June



# Southbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Miami – Guatemala

Flown on 4 December 1931

Puerto Barrios was added to the Pan American Airways FAM 5 route in December 1931. Miami (USA) – Havana (Cuba) – Merida (Mexico) – Puerto Barrios (Guatemala) ---- Cristobal (Canal Zone).

The USPS provided a diamond shaped cachet in purple featuring a twin-engine Sikorsky S-38A to be used on flight covers. Guatemala used a 24mm x 66mm rectangular cachet at Puerto Barrios in black, blue-black and purple.



15c airmail rate per oz. Puerto Barrios arrival cachet in black on front of cover

On reverse: Cachet struck in blue-black. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 5 Dec. arrival



15c airmail rate per oz. Puerto Barrios arrival cachet in black on front of cover

On reverse: Cachet struck in purple. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 5 Dec. arrival



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Cuba – Guatemala

Flown on 4 December 1931



15ctvs. airmail rate. Puerto Barrios cachet in black

Cuba considered Puerto Barrios as a transit stop therefore the Cuba cachet shows only Cuba - Mexico

On reverse: Addition cachet struck in purple. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 5 Dec. arrival



15ctvs. airmail rate + 10ctvs. registration fee. To Guatemala on 9 December and forwarded to Puerto Barrios

On reverse: Cachet struck in purple. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 10 Dec. arrival



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Official mail

Flown on 5 December 1931



5 December registered postcard from the DG of Post of Guatemala to DG of Post of U.S.A.

Postcard sent as a souvenir / official notification of the flight to U.S.A. and use of the special stamps

Free postage for official mail, 15ctvs. airmail surcharge + 5ctv. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Overprinted 2, 3 and 15ctvs. stamps were meant for the first flight from Puerto Barrios to Miami only

Signed by DG of Post of Guatemala and U.S.A.

**Less than five postcards recorded**



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

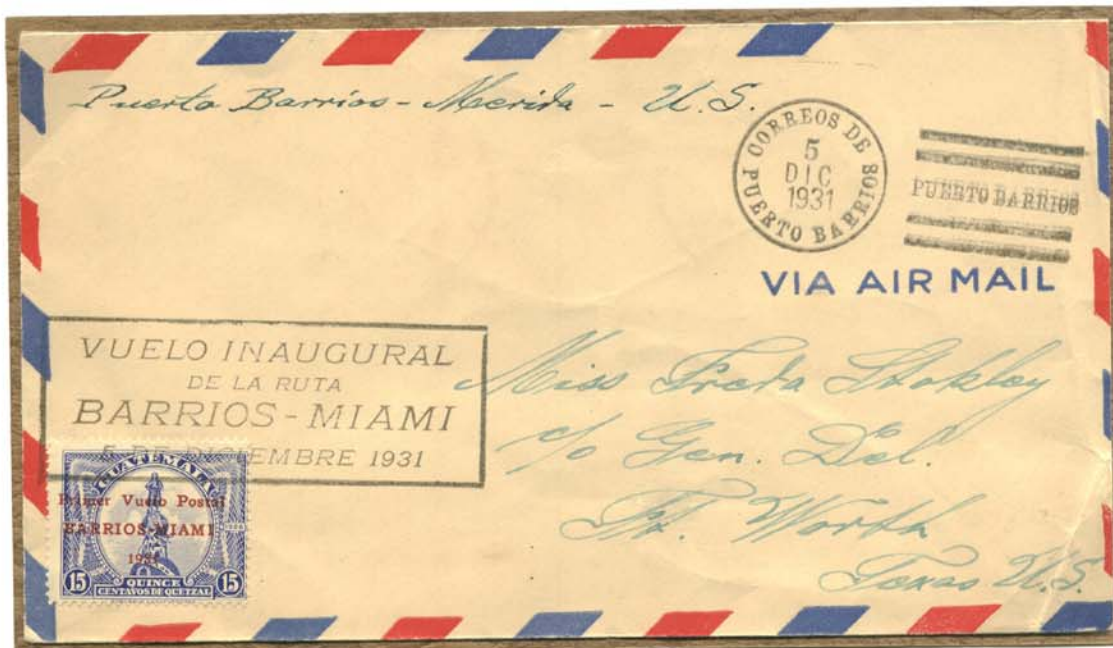
Guatemala – U.S.A.

Flown on 5 December 1931

The correct airmail rate to the U.S.A. was 15ctvs. airmail surcharge + 3ctvs. PAPA rate for a letter up to 20 grams.  
Two examples shown here on the first flight sent from Puerto Barrios were overlooked by the local post office.



Puerto Barrios 5 December to Hartford, Connecticut. Cachet in black used as cancel  
2ctvs. + 1ctv. Postal Tax underpaid. On reverse: Hartford c.d.s. 8 Dec. arrival



Puerto Barrios 5 December to Fort Worth, Texas. Cachet in black used as cancel  
3ctvs. + 1ctv. Postal Tax underpaid. On reverse: Fort Worth c.d.s. 12 Dec. arrival



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Guatemala – U.S.A. and beyond

Flown on 5 December 1931



Guatemala 27 November registered letter to Wooster, Ohio. Held for the first return flight of 5 December 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: Miami c.d.s. 7 Dec. transit, Wooster 11 Dec. arrival.



Guatemala City 5 December registered letter to Germany sent by sea from New York.

15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 10ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: Miami c.d.s. 7 Dec., New York 10 Dec., Lorch 19 Dec. arrival.



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Panama and British Honduras – Guatemala

Flown on 5 December 1931



Colon 4 December to Puerto Barrios, Panama – Guatemala First Flight cachet

On reverse: Cachet in purple, Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 6 Dec. arrival



Belize 5 December to Puerto Barrios, cachet in black struck on arrival

This was a feeder service to Belize along the main FAM 5 route

On reverse: Cachet in purple. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 5 Dec. arrival



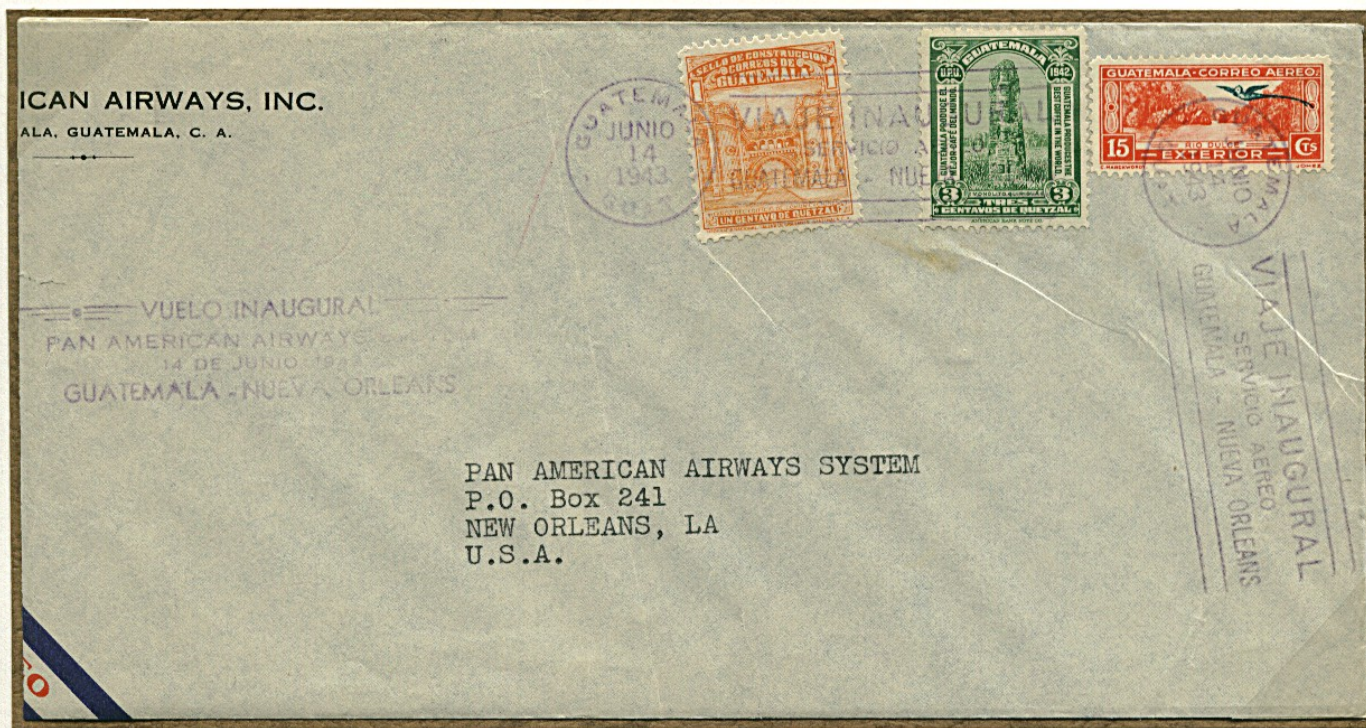
# The Third U.S. Connection

# New Orleans – Guatemala – New Orleans

Flown on 13 - 14 June 1943



New Orleans 13 June letter to Guatemala City and returned.  
12ctvs. airmail rate per oz. Examined by U.S. censor.  
On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 13 June arrival returned to New Orleans 14 June.



Guatemala City 14 June letter to New Orleans. Opened by U.S. censor on arrival.  
15ctvs. airmail surcharge + 3ctvs. PAPU rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: New Orleans c.d.s. 14 June arrival.



## Canada

## Foreign airmail rates 1932

The 1930 "Memorandum Postal" did not specify an airmail fee to Canada.

The 20ctvs./10 grams airmail fee was first stated in 1932 revised rates table, no change until 1945\*

Sent by PAA via Brownsville to USA and then from New York by Canadian Colonial Airways on FAM 1 to Montreal.

\* According to El Quetzal Volume 64, No. 359 September 2014 'Guatemala Foreign Airmail rates to 1945' by the exhibitor



Guatemala City 3 August 1935 to  
Toronto, Canada

This letter was from the British Legation but because Britain was not a member of Pan-American Union, postage needed to be paid.

20ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams, 4 x 5ctvs added on reverse (not cancelled). Double-rate letter.

5ctvs. UPU per 20 grams

1ctv. Postal Tax

1929 Provisional Airmail issue on 1926 Waterlow issue showing misplaced overprint.



# Canada

# Foreign airmail rates 1932

Canada	20ctvs. per 10 grams	1932 - 1945
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18 July 1936 letter from Puerto de San José to Montreal, **underpaid and PAPU rate wrongly applied**  
 5ctvs. airmail + 2 ctvs. UPU rate total 7 ctvs. underpaid, hence the two-line instruction mark  
 Guatemala GPO 18 July c.d.s. on reverse, no arrival mark. Probably sent by surface mail to destination



1 May 1941 letter from Guatemala City to Vancouver examined by censor  
 20ctvs. airmail fee per 10grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 Underpaid 2ctvs. because Canada was not a member of PAPU. Censored by Canada (C. 259)



## Airmail Postcard

## Guatemala – U.S.A. and beyond

By government decree of 27 November 1928, which became effective on 1 January 1929, domestic and PAPU surface postcard rate was 2 centavos and 3 centavos for UPU countries. Only picture postcards complied with strict regulations i.e. size, thickness, and limited number of words on the picture side were eligible for the cheaper postcard rate.

The two postcards shown here contained too many words on the picture side therefore liable to letter rate



1 January 1931 airmail postcard from Quezaltenango via Guatemala City to Germany  
Airmail to New York and transatlantic seamaile to Europe, airmail indication annulled by two bars at New York  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU letter rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax



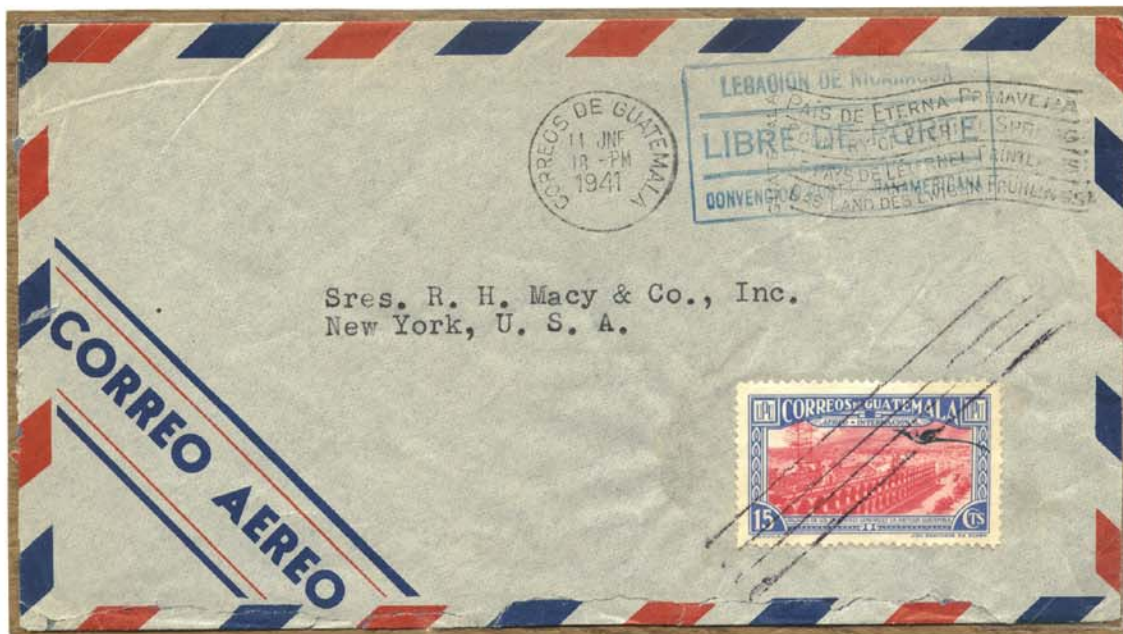
20 February 1945 airmail postcard from Guatemala City to Kansas City, U.S.A.  
Sent by airmail to New York and internal airmail to destination  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax



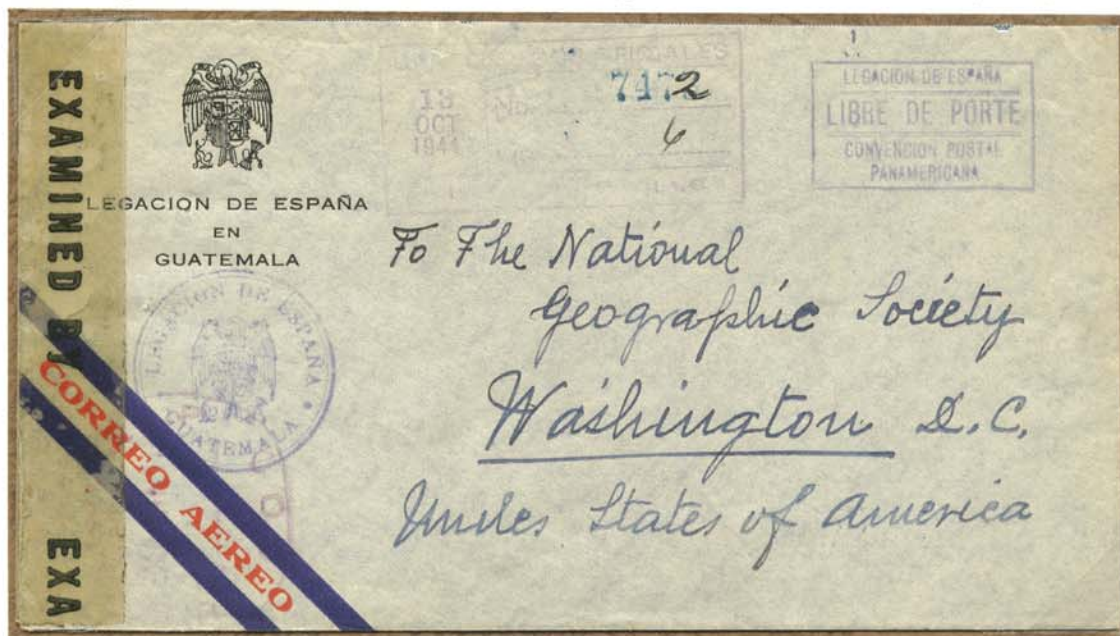
## Official Mail

## Guatemala – New York, Washington

Pan-American Postal Convention applied to Guatemala on 1 July 1927, thereafter; diplomatic missions of member countries enjoyed free franking privilege. A boxed handstamp bearing the wording (i) name of the legation, (ii) Franco Free / Libre de Porte, (iii) Pan-American Postal Convention / Convencion Postal Panamericana and/or (iv) name of the country in English (U.S. mission) or Spanish (Spanish speaking members) would be necessary on free frank letters. Special services such as airmail fee and express delivery were excluded.



11 June 1941 airmail letter from Nicaragua Legation in Guatemala to New York  
 Either by FAM 5 or 8 since there are no transit datestamps on reverse. 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams



13 October 1944 registered airmail letter from Spanish Legation in Guatemala to Washington DC  
 Sent via Brownsville 15 Oct., examined by U.S. censor (#36331) at San Antonio 16 Oct.  
 Washington arrival 18 October. On reverse: 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams paid by airmail stamp



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

## Civil Mail Censorship Pre-1941

Mail censorship was largely abandoned after World War I, but when war broke out in Europe and U.S. involvement became imminent in late 1930s, U.S. Army was given the task to commence a mail censorship program in late 1940. Executive order No. 8389, issued long before the entry of the U.S. into the War, prohibited a wide variety of financial and property transactions with certain countries and their citizens and Guatemala being a country with German influence was a target for censorship. The surveillance function required to enforce this order was carried out by Postal Censorship authorities after the establishment of the Office of Censorship.



23 November 1940  
Guatemala City  
to New York

15ctvs. airmail per 10 g.  
+ 3ctvs. PAPA per 20 g.  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax  
By air to New York

↑  
Examined by U.S. censor  
(resealing tape on left missing)



15 December 1941 letter  
Guatemala City to St. Paul  
15ctvs. airmail fee /10 g.  
+ 3ctvs. PAPA letter rate /20g.  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
Sent by air to New York  
Apparently not opened by censor

RELEASED BY P.O. INSPECTOR  
ENGAGED ON CENSORSHIP.



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

Civil Mail Censorship 1941 - 1945

On December 19, 1941 President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8985, which established the Office of Censorship and conferred on its director the power to censor international communications in "his absolute discretion." From December 1941 to August 1945 letters transiting U.S.A. were censored. Major censorship stations were established at New York, Miami, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, San Juan, Balboa and Honolulu. Numbered paper sealing strips were used early in the war but were replaced by cellophane type sealing strips that were easier to use.

New Orleans

No. 50004 - 50430





## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

Civil Mail Censorship 1941 - 1945

Most Guatemalan airmail was censored at San Antonio because FAM 8 route entered U.S.A. via Brownsville, Texas.

San Antonio

No. 2021 - 2300



26 March 1942 airmail letter from Guatemala City to New York  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York. Examined by U.S. censor (#2245 paper tape)



2 October 1942 airmail letter from Guatalon, Such. to New York  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York. Examined by U.S. censor (#2124 paper tape inscribed U.S.A.)



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

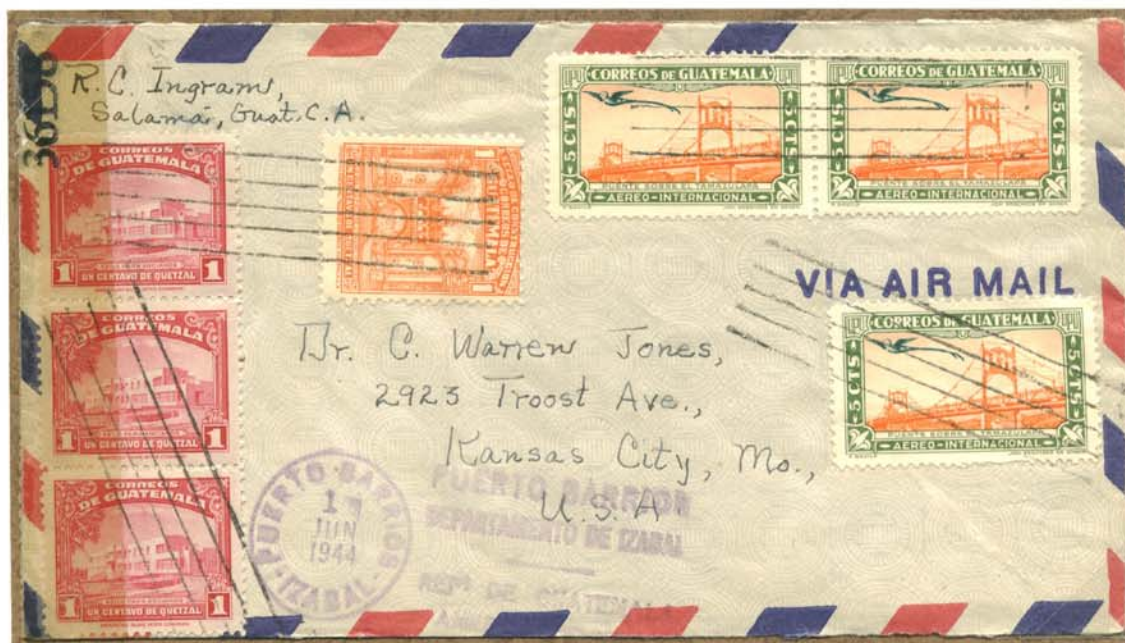
## Civil Mail Censorship 1941 - 1945

Two more series were used by San Antonio censors on Guatemalan mail from 1943 to 1945.

San Antonio	No. 12001 - 13000
	No. 36001 - 36527



16 January 1943 airmail letter from Guatemala City to New York  
30ctvs. airmail fee for 20 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York via FAM 8 route. Examined by U.S. censor (#12140 paper tape)



1 June 1944 airmail letter from Puerto Barrios to Kansas City  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York via FAM 8 route. Examined by U.S. censor (#36158 cello tape)



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

Civil Mail Censorship 1941 - 1945

Most transatlantic airmails were censored in New York because FAM 5 route entered U.S.A. via Miami and the transatlantic mail portion would be in sealed mailbags until they reached New York.

New York	No. 5001 - 10000
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13 May 1943 airmail letter from Guatemala City to New York  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York in closed bag. Examined by U.S. censor (#9838 cello tape)



20 May 1943 airmail letter from Guatalon, Such. to England  
60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Sent by air to New York in closed bag. Examined by New York censor (#5917 cello tape)  
By PAA Clipper *California* via Bermuda and censored again by British censor

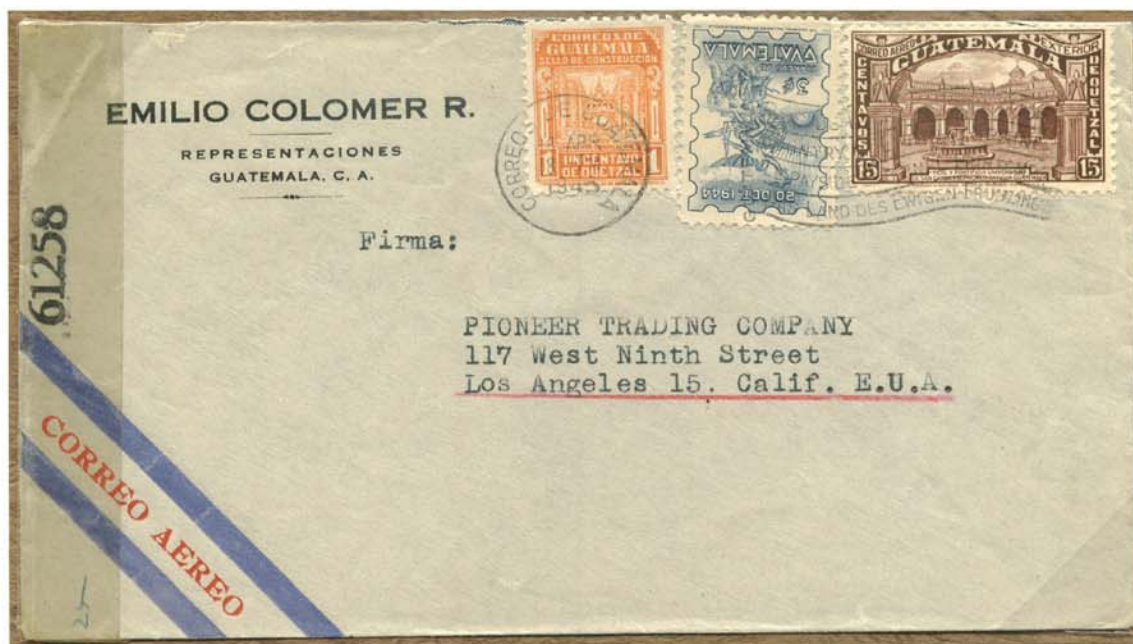


## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

## Civil Mail Censorship 1941 - 1945

Airmails to West Coast of U.S.A. were censored at station based in San Francisco and also in New Orleans.

San Francisco	No. 61014 - 61531
New Orleans	No. 50004 - 50430



18 April 1945 airmail letter from Guatemala to Los Angeles  
15cvt. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3cvt. UPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1cvt. Postal Tax  
Sent by FAM 8 route to San Francisco in closed bag. Examined by U.S. censor (#61258 cello tape)



15 February 1945 airmail letter from Guatemala to San Francisco  
15cvt. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3cvt. UPU letter rate per 20 grams + 1cvt. Postal Tax  
Sent by FAM 5 route to New Orleans. Examined by U.S. censor (#50417 cello tape)



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

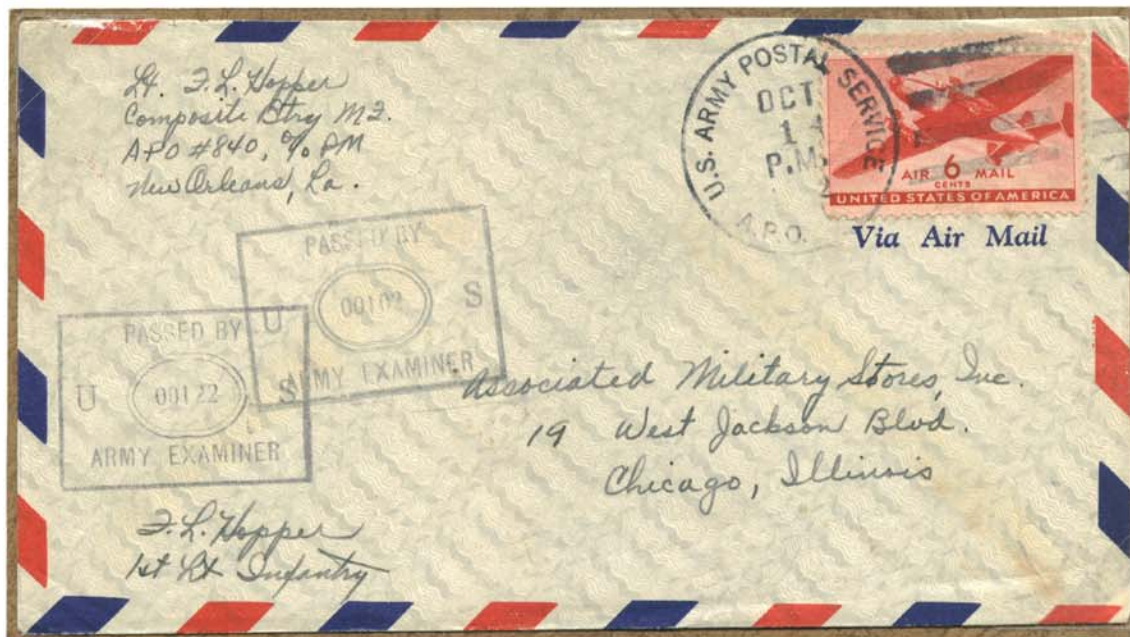
## U.S. Military Mail

There were two U.S. Army Post Offices – A.P.O. 839 and 840 in Guatemala with the Embarkation Army Post Office located at New Orleans. Airmails were sent by U.S. Army transporter planes; official mail, mail by Army unit personnel were carried. Letters from A.P.O. 840 are uncommon.

A.P.O. 839	Guatemala City	Opened: 1 July 1942; Closed: February 1947
A.P.O. 840	Puerto Barrios	Opened: 25 July 1942; Suspended: 15 August 1943 Closed: February 1947



7 August 1942 airmail letter by member of the 74<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron  
Sent from A.P.O. 839 by air to New Orleans in closed bag. Examined by U.S. Army censor (#95)  
6c concession airmail rate. Datestamp with A.P.O. number removed for security



1 October 1942 airmail letter by member of the Composite Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Infantry  
Sent from A.P.O. 840 by air to New Orleans in closed bag. Examined twice by U.S. Army censor (#102/122)  
6c concession airmail rate. Datestamp with A.P.O. number removed for security

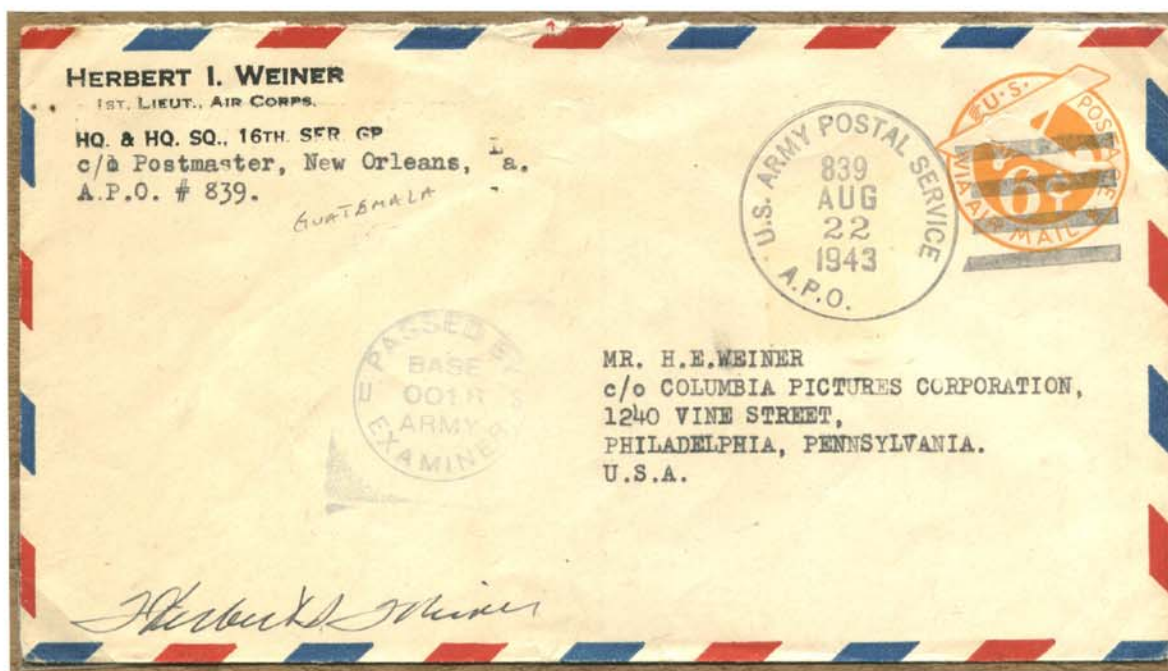


Airmail to U.S. during WWII

U.S. Military Mail



30 October 1942 airmail letter by member of the 44<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron  
Sent from A.P.O. 839 by air to New Orleans in closed bag. Examined by U.S. Army censor (#88)  
6c concession airmail rate. New datestamp without A.P.O. number



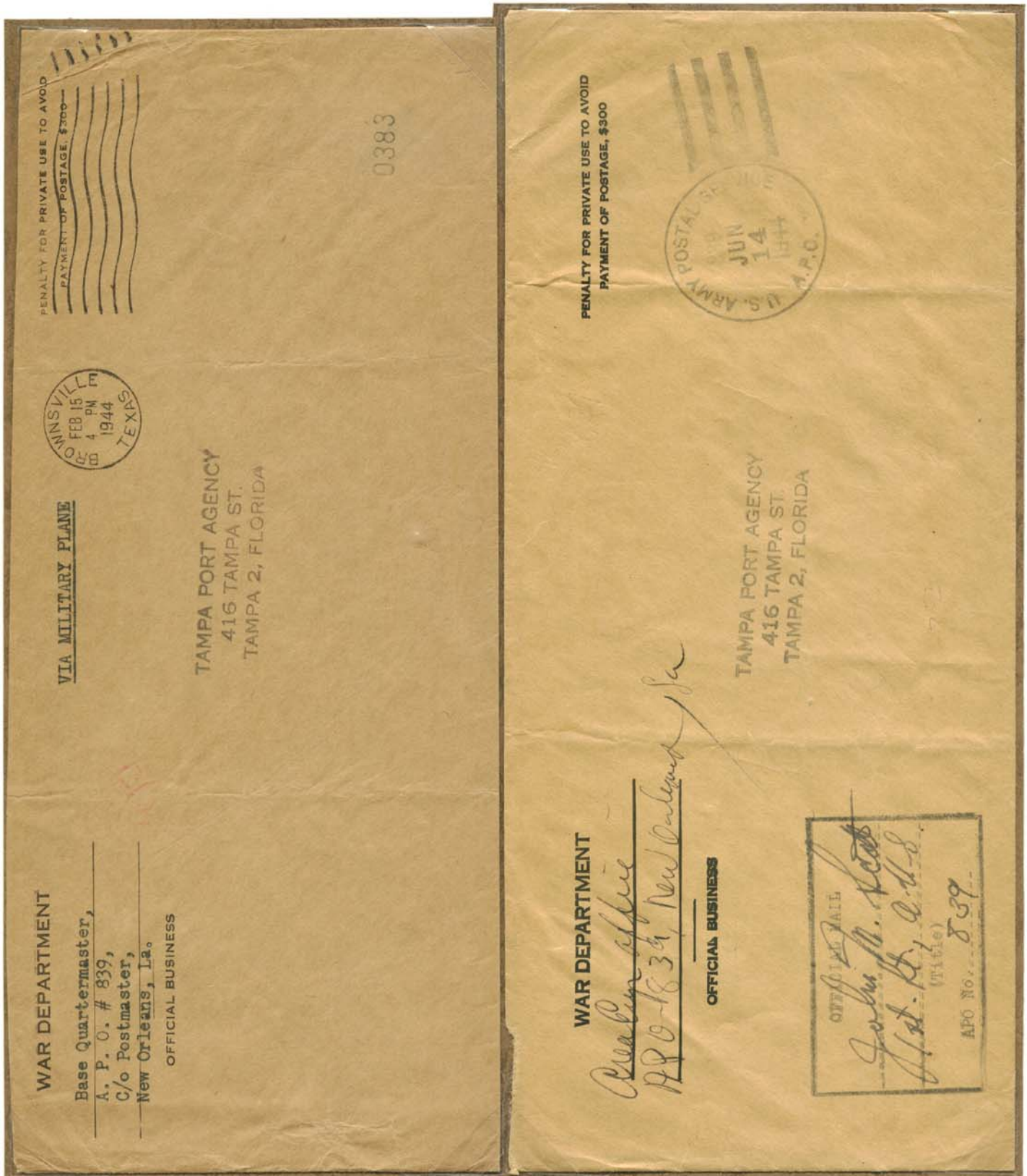
22 August 1943 airmail letter by member of the Air Corps HQ  
Sent from A.P.O. 839 by air to New Orleans in closed bag. Examined by U.S. Army censor (#18)  
6c concession airmail rate. Datestamp with A.P.O. number added



## Airmail to U.S. during WWII

## U.S. Military Mail

Official mail was sent postage free in special envelope marked for such purpose. Improper use liable to a heavy fine.  
Two examples shown here, one cancelled on arrival at Brownsville and the other with A.P.O. 839 dispatch datestamp.





### Ch. 3-2: The Central American connection

### Nicaragua – Guatemala

Although Pan American Airways FAM 8 service provided direct airmail connections to Central American countries but until 16 March 1930, Guatemala only received mail by PAA but did not send outgoing mail on these flights.

Flown on 15 December 1929

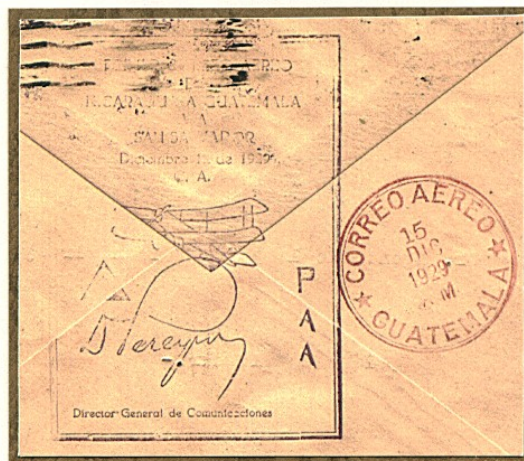


Official cover from the Director General de Comunicaciones

Dispatch: Managua, Nicaragua 15 December 1929

On reverse: Blue cachet "Primer Correo Aereo / Nicaragua a Guatemala / via San Salvador / Decembre 15 de 1929 / C.A. / PAA signed by Postmaster General

30 covers carried on this flight





Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Honduras – Guatemala

Flown on 15 December 1929



Mailed on 14 December 1929 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and sent on flight on 15 December

Dispatch: Tegucigalpa, Honduras 14 December.

On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 15 December arrival, returned to Tegucigalpa 20 December





Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

El Salvador and Cuba – Guatemala



Registered cover 1 January 1930 from San Salvador to Guatemala  
On reverse: Blue cachet "Primer Correo Aereo / Internacional / Enero 1 1930"  
Flag of El Salvador signed by Postmaster General  
Guatemala 4 January arrival

160 covers carried on this flight



2 March 1930 from Havana, Cuba to Guatemala City  
On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 5 March arrival



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Canal Zone and Panama – Guatemala

Flown on 21 January 1930



Panama to Guatemala mailed on 20 January. 20c airmail rate per 10 grams

On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 23 January arrival.



Canal Zone to Guatemala mailed on 21 January. 20c airmail rate per 10 grams

On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 23 January arrival.





11 March 1930 letter from San Jose, Costa Rica to Guatemala City

On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 13 March arrival

166 covers carried on this flight



1 June 1930 registered letter from Mexico City to Guatemala

On reverse: Guatemala c.d.s. 2 June arrival.

Returned to Mexico on 14 June.



# Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – El Salvador

Flown on 16 March 1930

On 16 March 1930, Guatemala sent outbound mail to other countries in Central America. The Post Office provided a 38mm x 62mm special cachet featuring a Ford Trimotor airplane NC9870 to be used on these flight covers. Cachet is known in purple, black and rose-red, struck on the front or back.



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: Cachet in black, San Salvador c.d.s. 16 March arrival



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Cachet in purple. On reverse: San Salvador c.d.s. 16 March arrival.

387 covers carried on this flight



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – Nicaragua

Flown on 16 March 1930



3ctvs. PAPU per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Cachet in black, Managua c.d.s. 16 March arrival.



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Cachet in rose-red, signed by pilot. On reverse: Managua c.d.s. 16 March arrival

**275 covers carried on this flight**



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – Honduras and Costa Rica

Flown on 16 March 1930



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Cachet in black, Tegucigalpa c.d.s. 17 March arrival.

240 covers carried on this flight



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Cachet in black. On reverse: Costa Rica c.d.s. 17 March arrival.

231 covers carried on this flight



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – Canal Zone

Flown on 16 March 1930



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Cachet in black. On reverse: Cristobal c.d.s. 17 March arrival.



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Cachet in rose-red. On reverse: Cristobal c.d.s. 17 March arrival.

220 covers carried on this flight



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 8 Service

Guatemala – Panama

Flown on 16 March 1930



3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Panama First Flight cachet on arrival.

On reverse: Cachet in black, Panama c.d.s. 17 March arrival.

**65 covers carried on this flight**



Northbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Guatemala – Mexico and Cuba

Flown on 5 December 1931



Puerto Barrios 5 December to Merida returned to El Salvador. Cachet in black.

On reverse: Veracruz c.d.s. 19 Dec. and San Salvador 26 Dec. arrival

Guatemala City 5 Dec.  
to Matanza, Cuba.  
Cachet in purple  
3ctvs. PAPU rate 20gms  
15ctvs. airmail fee 10gms  
5ctvs. registration fee

On reverse:  
Havana 7 Dec. transit  
Matanza 8 Dec. arrival.

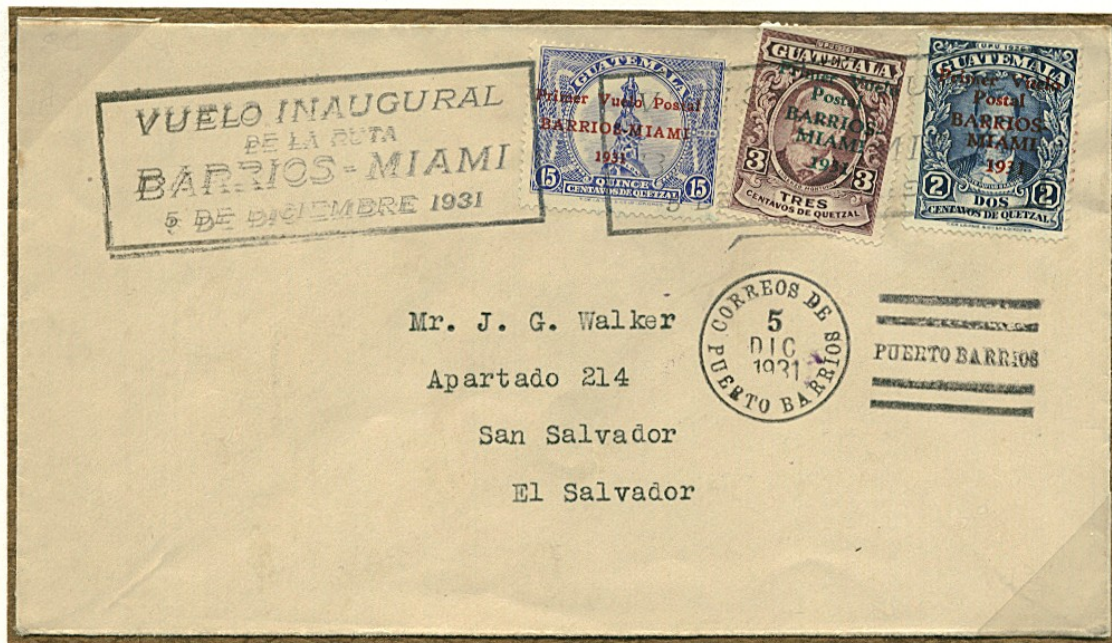




Southbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Guatemala – El Salvador

Flown on 5 December 1931



Puerto Barrios to San Salvador. Cachet in black used as cancel

On reverse: San Salvador c.d.s. 6 Dec. arrival



Return service to Guatemala  
Signed by Postmaster General  
On reverse: Cachet in purple.  
Puerto Barrios 6 Dec. arrival



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

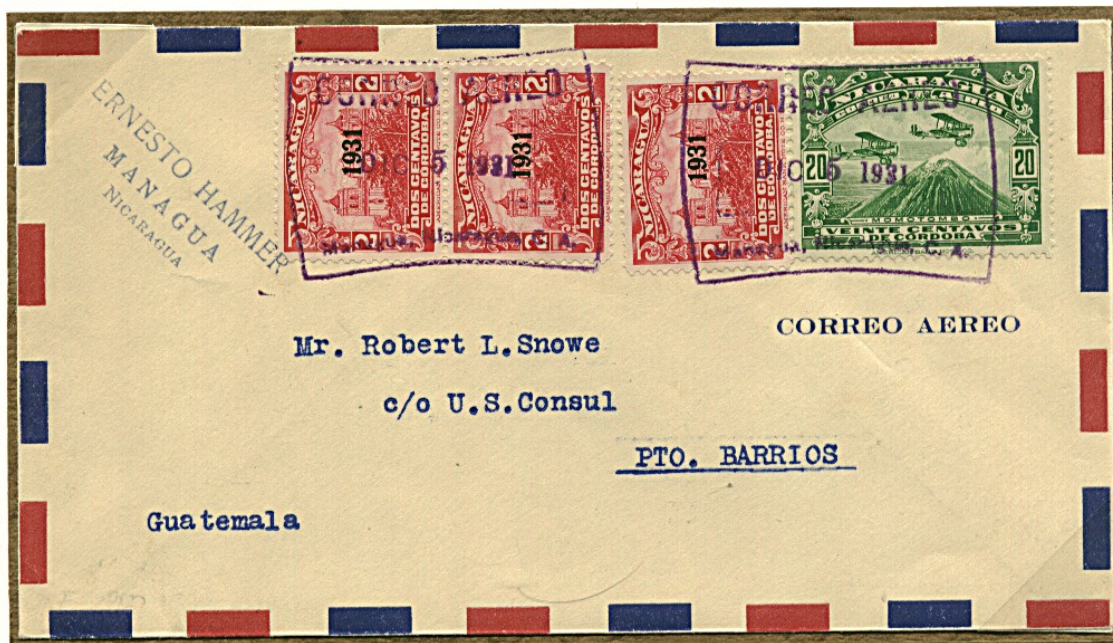
Guatemala – Nicaragua

Flown on 5 December 1931



Guatemala City 5 December to Nicaragua. Cachet in purple used as cancel

On reverse: Managua c.d.s. 6 Dec. arrival



Return service from Managua 5 December to Puerto Barrios

On reverse: Cachet in purple. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 6 Dec. arrival



Southbound mail – PAA FAM 5 Service

Guatemala – Canal Zone

Flown on 5 December 1931



Puerto Barrios 5 December to Cristobal. Cachet in black used as cancel

On reverse: Cristobal c.d.s. 7 Dec. arrival



Return service from Cristobal 5 December to Puerto Barrios

On reverse: Cachet in blue-black. Puerto Barrios c.d.s. 6 Dec. arrival



# Cuba, Nicaragua

Foreign airmail rates 1930

Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize and Nicaragua	15ctvs. per 10 grams	1930 - 1935
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Guatemala City 9 February 1932 single-rate letter to Corinto, Managua  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Managua arrival 10 February and Corinto arrival 11 February.



Mazatenango 20 December 1933 double-rate letter to Havana, Cuba,  
30ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Guatemala City transit 23 December and Havana arrival 25 December



# Costa Rica, Canal Zone

Foreign airmail rates 1930

Costa Rica, Panama and Canal Zone	19ctvs. per 10 grams	1930 - 1945
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Guatemala – Puerto Barrios Ambulante 29 June 1931 single-rate letter to Costa Rica  
19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Guatemala City transit 2 July and Turrialba arrival 7 July.

Uncommon use from a Travelling Post Office



Guatemala City 2 July 1932 double-rate letter to Cristobal, Canal Zone  
38ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Cristobal arrival 3 July



# Mexico

# Foreign airmail rates 1935

Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras	10ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
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Guatemala City 27 December 1935 double-rate letter to Monterrey, Mexico  
 10ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Mexico DF c.d.s. 29 December transit, Monterrey c.d.s. 31 December arrival



Jalapa 29 April 1936 double-rate registered letter to Mexico City  
 20ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: 3x 2ctvs. airmail stamps, Mexico DF c.d.s. 16 January arrival



# El Salvador, Honduras

Foreign airmail rates 1935

Mexico, El Salvador and Honduras	10ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
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Guatemala City 7 August 1942 letter to San Salvador, El Salvador  
 10ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: San Salvador 9 August arrival. Opened by censor (seal removed left edge)



Guatemala City 25 October 1943 letter to Choluteca, Honduras  
 10ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Tegucigalpa 26 October, Choluteca 30 October arrival. Examined by censor on arrival



# Honduras

Foreign airmail rates 1935

Guatemala City 30 November 1941  
to German Legation in Honduras  
10ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams  
3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams  
2ctvs. each addition 20 grams  
**9x rate airmail packet**  
90ctvs. airmail fee  
11ctvs. PAPU rate  
Q1.1  
Tegucigalpa 2 December arrival  
"Amtlich verwertet"  
Released by the German 29/9/41





# British Honduras, Nicaragua

Foreign airmail rates 1935

Cuba, Nicaragua and British Honduras	15ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
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Guatemala City 20/22 November 1937 to Belize, single-rate letter “Returned for postage due”  
Originally franked 10 and 3 ctvs. cancelled “20 NOV”, the sender mistakenly paid the Honduras rate  
Correct rate being 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Returned for 7 ctvs. postage on Monday, 22 November. On reverse: Belize c.d.s. 26 November arrival.



Guatemala City 12 April 1940 letter to Managua, Nicaragua  
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Managua 13 April arrival



## Costa Rica

Foreign airmail rates 1935

Costa Rica, Panama and Canal Zone	19ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
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Guatemala City 15 April 1937  
to San Jose, Costa Rica  
19ctvs. airmail fee / 10 grams  
3ctvs. PAPA rate / 20 grams  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
San Jose c.d.s. 16 April arrival



Guatemala City 10 August 1939 double-rate registered letter to San Jose, Costa Rica  
38ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams + 3ctvs. PAPA rate per 20 grams + 5ctvs. Registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: 10ctvs. x2 + 4ctvs. x2 adhesives and San Jose c.d.s. 10 August arrival



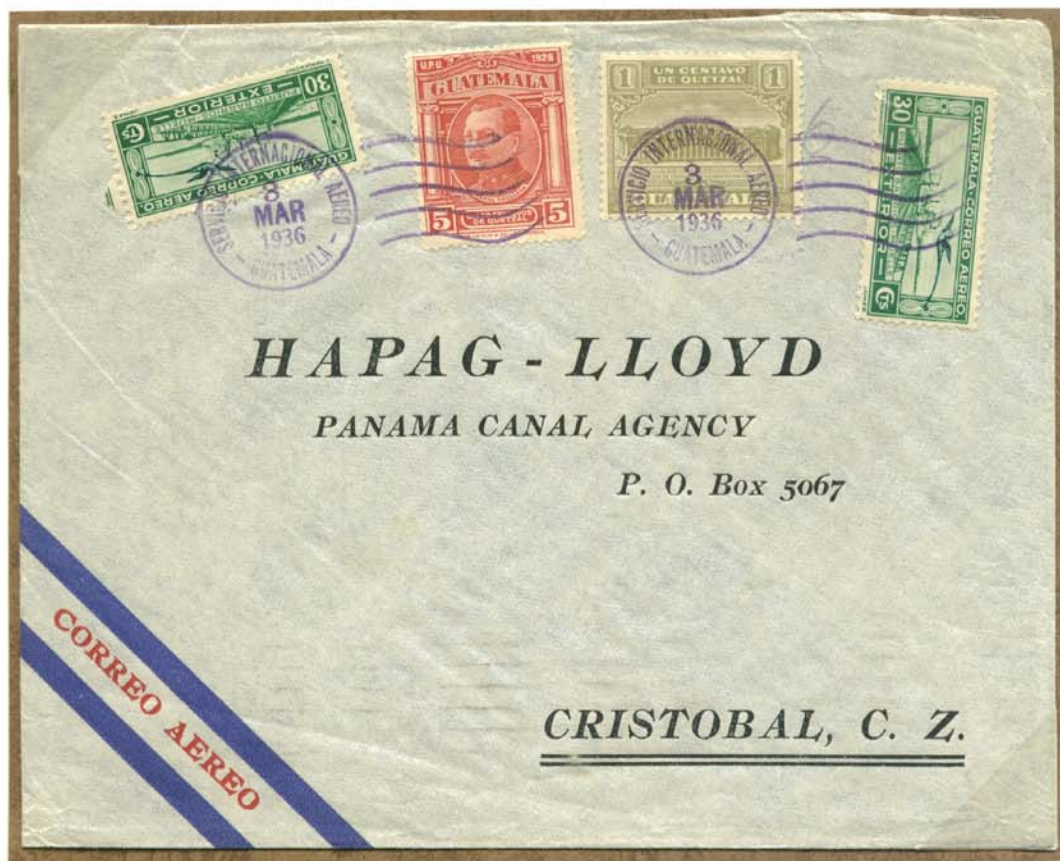
## Canal Zone

Foreign airmail rates 1935

Costa Rica, Panama and Canal Zone

19ctvs. per 10 grams

July 1935 - 1945



Guatemala 3 March 1936

to Cristobal, Canal Zone

Triple-rate letter

57ctvs. airmail fee (30grms)

+ 3ctvs. PAPU rate (20grms)

+ 2ctvs. next 20grms

+ 1ctv. Postal Tax

Total 63ctvs. 3ctvs. excess

Cristobal 4 March arrival



Chichicastenango 22 April 1941 single-rate letter to Canal Zone, 1ctv. overpaid.  
19ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Balboa, CZ 23 April arrival



### Ch. 3-3: The South American connection



#### To countries East Coast of South America

Pan American Airways extended its FAM 6 service from the Caribbean to northern South America and down the eastern coast of South America to Brazil and Argentina. Cuba was the connecting point of FAM5 and FAM 6.

#### To countries West Coast of South America

Airmail from Guatemala was sent by FAM 5 service to Cristobal, Canal Zone connecting with the FAM 9 service.

The Pan American - Grace Airways (Panagra) flew Fairchild 71, Ford Trimotor and Sikorsky S38 from Cristobal, Canal Zone to the western coast of South America to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

#### Venezuela

By PAA FAM 5

The PAA service was extended to Venezuela in 1930. Airmail from Venezuela was sent via Cristobal, Canal Zone connecting with the FAM 5 service to Guatemala.

Flown on 7 May 1930



Maracaibo to New York flight cover addressed to the Chairman of the PAA Juan Terry Trippe in Guatemala City  
 Guatemala arrival 10 May on reverse. **Early incoming airmail from South America**



# Venezuela and Colombia

By PAA FAM 5

Colombia\*, Ecuador and Venezuela

27ctvs. per 10 grams

1930 - 1945 (\*1930 - 1931)



10 June 1933 letter from Guatemala via Panama to Caracas, Venezuela  
27ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams (overpaid 2ctvs.) + 1ctv. Postal Tax

5 January 1931  
Triple-rate letter  
Guatemala to  
Bogota, Colombia

PAA to Cristobal, Panama  
SCADTA to Buenaventura  
Arrived in Bogota on 12 Jan.

81ctvs. fee up to 30 grams  
5ctvs. PAPU rate/30 grams  
+ 1ctv. Postal Tax

Short-lived 27ctvs. rate  
(1930 - 1931)

PAA bought 84.4% shares of  
SCADTA in February 1930

Early airmail to  
South America by  
SCADTA/PAA service





Colombia	31ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
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24 December 1935 letter from Guatemala City to Barranca redirected to Medellin, Colombia  
 31ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, per schedule of 1935  
 On reverse: Barranca c.d.s. 29 December, Medellin c.d.s. 1 January 1936 arrival



9 November 1936 letter from Guatemala City to Buenaventura, Colombia  
 31ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, per schedule of 1935  
 On reverse: Buenaventura c.d.s. 11 November arrival



## Ecuador

## Panagra Airways / FAM 5

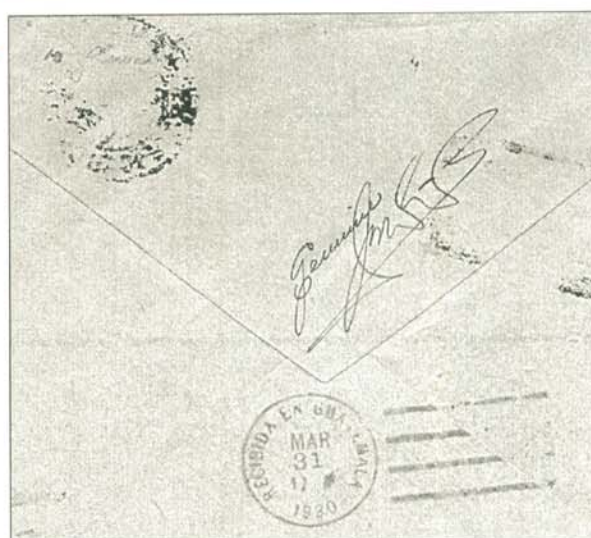
Airmail from Guatemala was sent by FAM 5 service to Cristobal, Canal Zone connecting with the FAM 9 service. Pan American-Grace Airways (Panagra) flew Fairchild 71, Ford Trimotor and Sikorsky S38 from Cristobal, Canal Zone to the western coast of South America to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

Flown on 26 March 1930



26 March 1930 registered letter from Guayaquil  
to Cristobal by Panagra FAM 9  
Cristobal to Guatemala by PAA FAM 5  
Care of an agent in Guatemala and  
Returned to Guayaquil privately carried  
2 sucre 20 centavos (5ctvs. underpaid)  
On reverse: Guatemala receiver March 31

Stated 10 covers flown, signed by sender  
Few First Flight covers on PAA FAM 6 or 9  
recorded to Guatemala from South America



Reverse of the cover



# Peru

## Panagra Airways

Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, <b>Peru</b> , Guayanas and Uruguay	54ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1937 - 1945
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10 May 1940 letter  
Guatemala City to Lima, Peru  
54ctvs. / 10gr. airmail fee  
3ctvs. / 20 gr. PAPU rate  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
Lima 13 May arrival



12 February 1943 letter from Guatemala City to Lima, Peru  
Same rate as above. Censored by U.S. (#13110) in Canal Zone



# Chile

# Panagra Airways

Chile	45ctvs. per 10 grams	1930 - 1936
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10 August 1933 letter from Guatemala City to Santiago, Chile  
 45ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, per 1930 Memorandum  
 On reverse: Santiago c.d.s. 25 August arrival



3 September 1935 official letter from Chile Consulate in Guatemala City to Santiago, Chile  
 Postage free per PAPU convention of 1922. 45ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams  
 On reverse: Santiago 10 September arrival



# Chile

# Panagra Airways

Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Guayanas and Uruguay	54ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1937 - 1945
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18 May 1938 letter from Guatemala City to Valparaíso, Chile  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, per rates table of 1935  
 On reverse: Valparaíso c.d.s. 22 May arrival



5 February 1941 letter from Guatemala City to Concepción, Chile  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams (overpaid 1ctvs.) + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Concepción 11 February arrival



## Bolivia and Paraguay

By PAA / Panagra Airways

Panagra Airways operated a feeder service from Arica (Chile) to Bolivian cities of La Paz, Oruro and Uyuni  
PAA operated a feeder service from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Asunción, Paraguay commencing 15 July 1937



10 August 1935 registered letter from Guatemala City to La Paz, Bolivia  
45ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: Arica c.d.s. 15 August transit, La Paz c.d.s. 21 August arrival.



15 April 1943 registered official letter from Paraguay Consulate in Guatemala to Asunción, Paraguay  
Postage free per PAPU convention of 1922. 49ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee  
On reverse: Asunción c.d.s. 28 April arrival.



# Argentina

By PAA FAM 6

Argentina	54ctvs. per 10 grams	Circa. 1936 - 1945
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26 February 1936 registered letter from Guatemala to Buenos Aires  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Buenos Aires c.d.s. 4 March arrival



5 December 1938 registered letter from Guatemala to San Andres  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: San Andres c.d.s. 11 December arrival.



# Uruguay and Brazil

By PAA FAM 6

Brazil	54ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1935 - 1945
Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Guayanas and Uruguay	54ctvs. per 10 grams	July 1937 - 1945



19 October 1940 letter from Guatemala to Montevideo  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 On reverse: Montevideo c.d.s. 28 October arrival.



21 May 1945 letter from Guatemala to Brazil examined by censor  
 54ctvs. airmail fee per 10grams + 3ctvs. PAPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 Censored by U.S. (#58045) in Balboa, Panama. On reverse: Rio de Janeiro c.d.s. 1 June arrival.







## Caribbean Islands

By PAA FAM 6

The "Postal Memorandum" of 1930 published a 23 centavos rate to Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Haiti. Revision of postal rates in July 1935 added Virgin Islands and Jamaica to the list. The postage rate remained the same until 1945. Note the horizontal fold made by the dispatcher in order to fit these envelopes into the dispatch pouch.



23 August 1940 letter  
Guatemala City to Jamaica  
23ctvs. / 10gr. airmail fee  
5ctvs. / 20gr. UPU rate  
1ctv. Postal Tax



24 June 1942 letter  
Guatemala City to  
Trujillo, Dominican Rep.  
23ctvs. / 10gr. airmail fee  
3ctvs. / 20gr. PAFU rate  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
Examined by U.S. censor  
Trujillo 7 July arrival →



## Caribbean Islands

By PAA FAM 6

The "Postal Memorandum" of 1930 published a 23 centavos airmail rate to Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Haiti in the Caribbean only. 23 centavos rate to Jamaica was first published in the postal rate table of July 1935.



14 May 1935 letter from Guatemala City to Kingston, Jamaica  
21ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams (underpaid 2ctvs.?) + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Sent prior to the first publication of the airmail rate to Jamaica



16 October 1942 letter from Puerto Barrios via Guatemala City to Montego Bay, Jamaica  
21ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax, 1ctv. overpaid  
Examined by British Censor in Jamaica (m/s ID 4561), 5ctvs. stamp covered by the label  
On reverse: Guatemala City 19 October transit and Montego Bay c.d.s. 28 October arrival



## Caribbean Islands

By PAA FAM 6

The 27ctvs. per 10 grams airmail fee to Curaçao first appeared on the 1932 rate schedule whereas the 27ctvs. per 10 grams airmail fee to St. Lucia was only added to the May 1938 rate schedule. See article by the exhibitor in *El Quetzal* Volume 64, No. 358 published in June 2014. Only a few letters recorded to these destinations

22 April 1940 reg. letter  
Puerto Barrios to  
Vieux Fort, St. Lucia  
via Trinidad, Castries  
54ctvs./ 20gr. airmail fee  
5ctvs./ 20gr. UPU rate  
10ctvs. registration fee  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
(15ctvs. x2, 3ctvs. x2  
adhesives on reverse)



11 July 1938 letter  
Guatemala City to  
Curaçao, Dutch West  
Indies  
27ctvs. / 10gr. airmail fee  
5ctvs. / 20gr. UPU rate  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
Willemstad 14.7.38 arrival



# Ch. 3-5: The European connection

By air to U.S.A. surface mail to Europe



Pan American Airways FAM 8 service (via Mexico - Brownsville, Texas - New York) began to carry northbound mail to U.S.A. from 17 March 1930.

No direct airmail carried across the Atlantic Ocean at this time.

26 Nov. 1930 registered airmail letter to Bern, Switzerland

PAA FAM 8 service to New York arrival 1 December. By sea to Europe, Bern arrival 12 December.

Franked at 9x rate:-

135ctvs. airmail 15ctvs. per 10 grams  
17ctvs. UPU letter 5ctv. first 20 grams,  
additional 20 grams 3ctvs.

10ctvs. Registration fee

Q1.62\* +1ctv. Postal Tax

\*2ctvs. franked on reverse



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By air to U.S.A. surface mail to Europe

Since PAA sent no mail by air across the Atlantic at this time, the "via airmail" indication on letters was annulled at New York by a double-bar handstamp to avoid confusion.



25 August 1931 airmail letter Mazatenango under 10 grams to Germany  
CNA service to Guatemala City, PAA FAM 8 service to New York via Mexico and Brownsville, Texas.  
4ctvs. interior airmail rate + 15ctvs. airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



17 April 1931 airmail letter Tumbador, San Marcos under 10 grams to Spanish Guinea  
PAA FAM 8 service Guatemala City to New York via Mexico and Brownsville, Texas  
New York to Europe by surface mail, Santa Isabel Fernando-Poo arrival 28 May  
15ctvs. airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

"Airmail Paid to New York Only"

Sometimes, the "via airmail" indication on letters was not crossed out at New York. Hence a "Jusqu'a" handstamp was introduced in Guatemala in 1934 for such purpose. Probably struck on the top letter of a bundle only.



13 May 1933 airmail letter under 10 grams to Liechtenstein  
15ctvs. airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax. Schaan arrival 26 May  
No handstamp was used during this period



24 November 1934 airmail letter under 20 grams to Sweden  
30ctvs. Airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax. Stockholm arrival 9 Dec.  
Handstamp McQueen type 8 – upper line 50.5mm long, 2.5mm tall letters



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

"Airmail Paid to New York Only"

By May 1936, Germany had launched regular North Atlantic mail service by Zeppelin Airship, more "Jusqu'a" handstamps were required in 1936 to indicate "By air to New York only" mail.

Handstamp McQueen type 6 – upper line 52mm long, 2mm tall letters



4 January 1936 registered airmail letter under 10 grams to Germany  
15ctvs. airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 10ctvs. Registration fee + 1ctvs. Postal Tax  
New York transit 7 Jan., Berlin arrival 17 January

25 April 1936 registered airmail letter under 20grams to Switzerland

30ctvs. airmail (12grams)  
5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams  
10ctvs. Registration fee  
1ctvs. Postal Tax  
New York transit 27 April  
Bern arrival 8 May





## Trans-Atlantic Mail

"Airmail Paid to New York Only"

Handstamp McQueen type 7 – upper line 45.5mm long, 2mm tall letters (recorded 1936 – 1940)



21 November 1936 airmail letter under 10 grams to Germany  
15ctvs. airmail fee + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax. Stuttgart 3 Dec. arrival, censored by Germany



20 January 1938  
airmail letter under  
10 grams St. Antonio,  
Suchitepequez to Berlin  
15ctvs. airmail / 10gram  
5ctvs. U.P.U. / 20grams  
1ctv. Postal Tax  
Guatemala City 21 Jan.



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

"Airmail Paid to New York Only"

Handstamp McQueen type 5 – upper line 52.5mm long, 2.5mm tall letters (recorded in 1938 only)



5 February 1938 double-rate registered airmail letter to Bern, Switzerland  
30ctvs. airmail (18grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 10ctvs. Registration + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
New York 8 February, Bern arrival 15 February



27 June 1938  
registered airmail letter  
originated from Antigua  
to Paris, France

15ctvs. airmail / 10gram  
5ctvs. U.P.U. / 20grams  
10ctvs. registration fee  
1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse:  
Guatemala City 27 June  
Cristobal 28 June  
New York 30 June  
Paris 8 July



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

## By sea to Europe

Although Pan American Airways was awarded the FAM18 (north-Atlantic) service across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe in May/June 1939, much mail was still carried by sea from New York to avoid the higher 60ctvs. Airmail fee.



14 June 1939 letter to Denmark via New York

15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20grams + 1ctvs. Postal Tax



29 June 1939 letter to England via New York

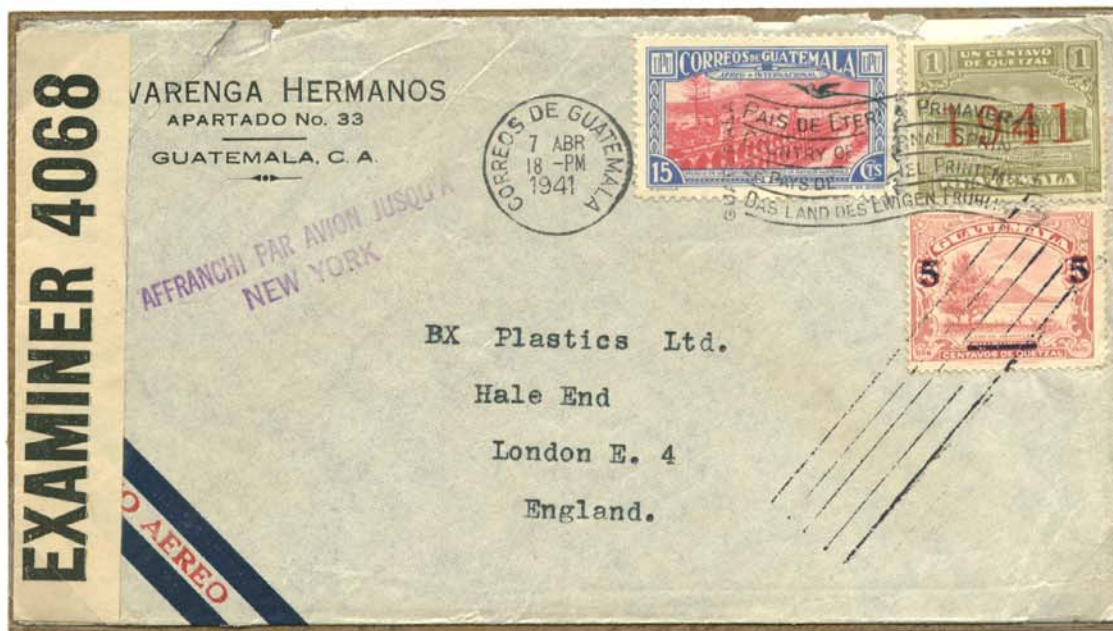
15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By sea to Europe

In 1941, two more sans-serif type jusqu'a handstamps were brought into use for transatlantic mail conveyed by sea.



7 April 1941 letter to England via New York opened by British censor  
 15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 Handstamp McQueen type 1 – upper line 49mm long, 3.5 mm tall letters (recorded 1941- 1953)



30 May 1945 underpaid letter to Czechoslovakia via New York  
 The letter was 10ctvs. underpaid by airmail to New York not noticed by the Guatemala Post Office,  
 USPS applied the magenta "Insufficiently Prepaid for Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Service" handstamp.  
 Handstamp McQueen type 2 – upper line 49mm long, 3mm tall letters (recorded 1941- 1953)



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By Zeppelin

On 14 October 1928 the "Graf Zeppelin" made its first 9,926 km (6,168 mi) trans-atlantic crossing from Friedrichshafen, Germany to Lakehurst, New Jersey with Dr. Eckener in command of the airship.

On this first trans-atlantic trip, the airship suffered potentially serious damage to its port tail fin on the third day of the flight when a large section of the linen covering was ripped loose while passing through a mid-ocean squall line at night about 1,500 miles (2,400 km) east of Bermuda (35°N, 42°W). Eventually, the LZ127 crossed the U.S. coast at Cape Charles, Virginia, around 10 a.m. on 15 October, over Washington, D.C., at 12:20 p.m., Baltimore at 1 p.m., Philadelphia at 2:40 p.m., New York City at 4 p.m., and landed at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station at 5:38 p.m.

After an almost two-week stay in the United States, during which time its damaged tail was repaired, the airship took off Lakehurst for Germany at 1:24 a.m. on 29 October and arrived in Friedrichshafen just before dawn on 1 November.

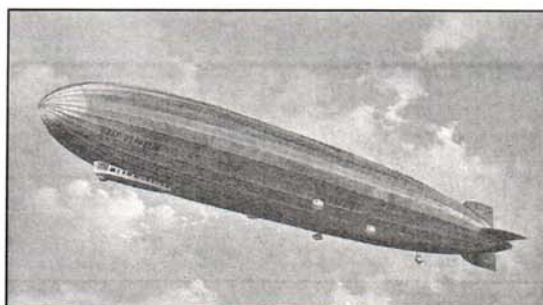
### Flown by D-LZ127 "Graf Zeppelin"



Datestamped Friedrichshafen, 10 October 1928 sent on first Atlantic crossing on 14 October 1928 to New York arriving on 15 October and then by seamail to Guatemala and by land to Quezaltenango Backstamped New York 16 October (day after arrival) and arrived in Quezaltenango on 27 October

### Earliest Trans-Atlantic Airmail to Guatemala

Only few covers recorded





## Trans-Atlantic Mail

Intended for the D-LZ127 Graf Zeppelin

Handstamp McQueen type 7 – upper line 45.5mm long, 2mm tall letters (recorded 1936 – 1940)

Earliest recorded use of this handstamp\*



23 June 1936 airmail letter San Antonio, Suchitepequez via Guatemala to Hamburg  
Intended for Flight G535, D-LZ127 Graf Zeppelin from Recife on 3 July to Bathurst and Frankfurt

Mail intended for the Zeppelin transatlantic service must be received at Guatemala GPO at least one week before scheduled departure and prepaid 60 centavos airmail fee per 10grams + UPU rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
This letter franked 15ctvs. Airmail fee for letter up to 10 grams + 5ctvs. UPU letter rate was underpaid for the Zeppelin service and therefore sent by PAA regular airmail service to New York and then by sea to Europe\*\*

\*According to ISGC *El Quetzal* Volume 63, No. 353 March 2013 article by the exhibitor

\*\*PAA held the contract for carrying Guatemala airmail and all transatlantic mail went north to U.S.A. via FAM 5 or 8



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

## By Zeppelin

In 1936, Germany launched regular North Atlantic airmail service by Zeppelin Airship. The first regular flight of the LZ-129 Hindenburg was launched on 6 May from Friedrichshafen to Lakehurst, New Jersey arriving on 9 May. 1,059 kg of mail cargo carried, including commemorative covers to U.S.A., Central, South America and elsewhere.



5 May 1936 registered letter  
Frankfurt to Guatemala City  
Mailed at Frankfurt shown  
by index c on flight cachet  
By PAA from New York,  
Guatemala arrival 16 May

50Pfg Zeppelin fee / 5 gram  
25Pfg UPU letter / 20 gram  
30Pfg Registration fee  
30Pfg airmail to Guatemala  
135 Pfg

20 Pfg overpaid by sender

5 May 1936 postcard from  
Koblenz to Guatemala City  
Mailed elsewhere shown  
by index d on flight cachet  
Surface mail to Guatemala  
19 May arrival

50Pfg zeppelin fee / 5 gram  
15Pfg UPU postcard rate  
65Pfg

Few letters/postcards  
recorded to Guatemala





## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By Zeppelin

Flight No. H13, the return Zeppelin flight to Germany left Lakehurst, New Jersey on 12 May 1936 to Germany, 824kg of mail carried on board from at least 17 countries including USA.



2 May 1936 airmail letter to Germany by 1<sup>st</sup> return flight of the HINDENBURG  
PMG of Guatemala announced that mail intended for Zeppelin transmission must arrive at the  
Central P.O. in Guatemala City at least one week before the scheduled departure at Lakehurst, N.J.  
U.S. FAM 5 service to New York, Lakehurst N.J. 12 May departure, Frankfurt c.d.s. 14 May arrival.

15ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams to U.S.A. only + 5ctvs. UPU letter rate per 20 grams  
40c U.S. stamps for transatlantic postage less than ½ oz. + 1ctv. Postal Tax (on reverse)

**Estimated "50" covers carried on this well-advertised return flight\***

\*This number was quoted for several Central American countries by stamp dealer F.W. Kummer and subsequently quoted by most standard catalogues. However, article by G. Ramirez in *El Quetzal* Volume 55, No. 324 published in November 2005 mentioned that he recorded **Only 9 covers of the First Return Flight of the Hindenburg from Guatemala and only 2 covers with mixed franking**





The 2<sup>nd</sup> return Zeppelin flight to Germany. Flight No. H15 left Lakehurst, New Jersey on 21 May 1936 to Germany, 185 kg of mail carried on board. Mail from USA, Canada, Mexico and Guatemala.

18 May 1936 registered airmail letter to Germany

U.S. FAM 5 service to New York

Carried by 2<sup>nd</sup> return flight of the HINDENBURG

Lakehurst N.J. 21 May departure

Friedrichshafen 23 May arrival

60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams to Europe franked on front of cover.

This rate was published in the *Gaceta Postal de Guatemala* in May 1936

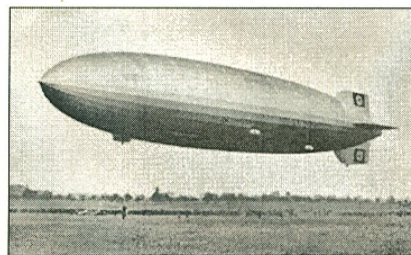
Franked total 16ctvs. on reverse:-

5ctvs. UPU letter rate per 20 grams

10ctvs. Registration + 1ctv. postal tax

**Few covers recorded from Guatemala on this flight\***

\*G. Ramirez in *El Quetzal* Volume 55, No. 324 published in November 2005



The D-LZ129 in flight



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By Zeppelin

The 3<sup>rd</sup> return Zeppelin flight to Germany. Flight No. H23 left Lakehurst, New Jersey on 24 June 1936 to Germany, 207 kg of mail carried on board. Mail from USA, Panama and Guatemala.

17 June 1936 registered airmail letter to Germany

U.S. FAM 5 service to New York

Carried by 3<sup>rd</sup> return flight of the HINDENBURG

Lakehurst N.J. 24 June departure

Friedrichshafen 26 June arrival

Loch arrival 27 June

60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams to Europe.

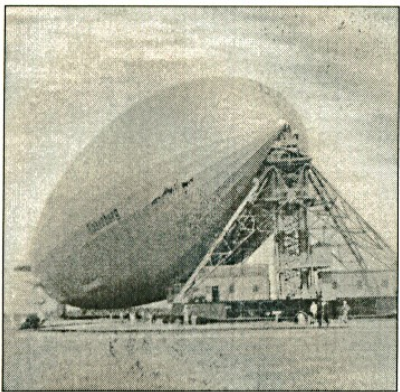
Franked total 16ctvs. on reverse:-

5ctvs. UPU letter rate per 20 grams

10ctvs. Registration + 1ctv. postal tax

**Few covers recorded from Guatemala on this flight\***

\*G. Ramirez in *El Quetzal* Volume 55, No. 324 published in November 2005



The D-LZ129 at the mooring mast in U.S. Naval Air Station, Lakehurst N.J.





## Trans-Atlantic Mail

## South Atlantic route

In September 1937, German South Atlantic airmail service operated by Deutsche Lufthansa (DLH) began to accept mail from Central America. Mail from such places was transported by PAA FAM 6 to Natal, Brazil, and then across the South Atlantic to Bathurst, British Gambia. The German airmail service ceased few days before the outbreak of war on 3 September 1939.



6 May 1939 "On post office business" registered airmail letter Oberlungwitz to Guatemala City

	Frankfurt	Las Palmas	Bathurst, Gambia	Natal, Brazil	Guatemala
DLH Breslau	11 May	11 May			
DLH Fritz von Roeth		11 May	12 May	13 May	
PAA				17 May	18 May

The red zeppelin/air mail cachet was used from 1934 on all airmail that went by German air service to or via South America, regardless whether by zeppelin (up to May 1937) or by DLH. The Star-symbol in the cachet indicates that the cover was handled by Frankfurt post office.

U.P.U. letter rate and registration fee waived for "Service des Postes" mail matter, but airmail fee still required: 3 RM for 8.5 grams airmail letter rate via South America (1.5 RM per 5 grams).

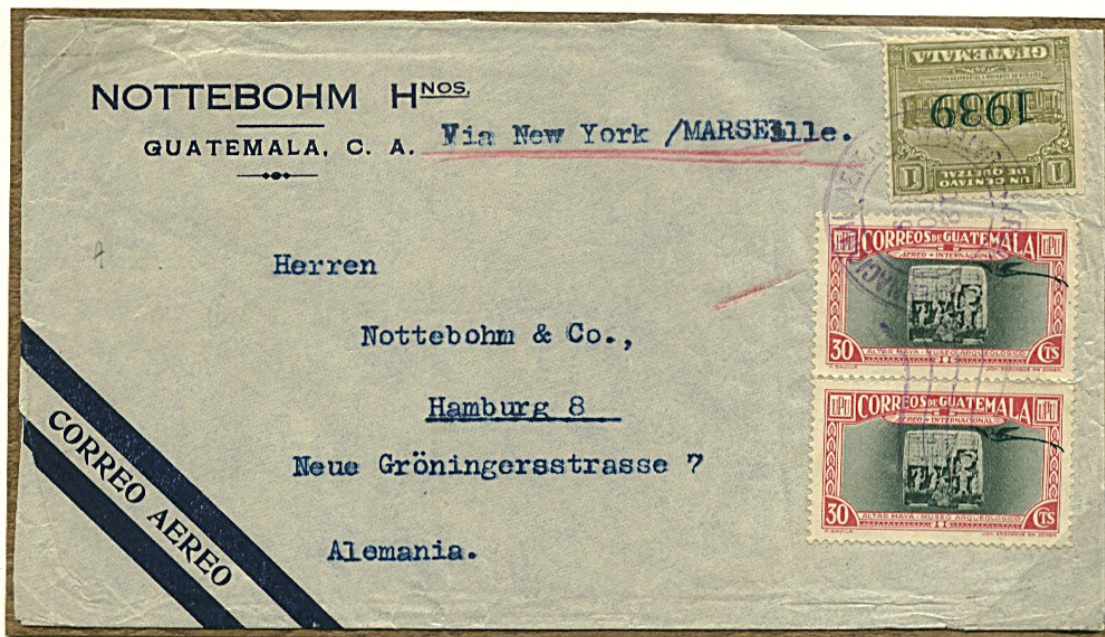
## One of few letters recorded to Guatemala



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout

Although by 1939, both Pan American Airways and Imperial Airways operated flights across North Atlantic Ocean from New York to Marseilles (PAA) and Foynes, Ireland (PAA and IA). The mail contract was awarded to PAA.



12 August 1939 letter to Germany via New York, Horta (Azores), Lisbon and Marseilles  
120ctvs. airmail fee (20 grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams (on reverse) + 1ctvs. Postal Tax  
PAA American Clipper NY 16 Aug. and Marseilles arrival 18 Aug.



27 September 1939 letter to Dublin via New York, Botwood and Foynes  
60ctvs. airmail fee (10 grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctvs. Postal Tax  
PAA Yankee Clipper NY 3 Oct. (delayed by fog) and Foynes arrival 5 Oct. Censored on arrival.



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout

After the war in Europe broke out on 3 September 1939, PAA service terminated at Foynes in Ireland or Lisbon instead of Marseilles under the provisions of the U.S. Neutrality Acts. The Act of 1937 did not allow American ships and airplanes into belligerent nations.



15 May 1940 registered letter to Switzerland via New York, Horta (Azores) and Lisbon  
60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 10ctvs. Registration + 1ctvs. Postal Tax

Guatemala City to New York by PAA arriving on 17 May per backstamp

PAA *American Clipper* NY 19 May, Lisbon 20 May and Pratteln arrival 24 May

Handstamp McQueen type 15 – upper line 72mm long, 4mm tall letters (recorded 1939\* - 1946)

## TRANSATLANTIC AIR MAIL SERVICE

\*According to ISGC *El Quetzal* Volume 63, No. 354 June 2013 article, the author shows an example on a 27 September 1939 airmail letter to Dublin, the date is earlier than McQueen's recorded use in 1940.



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout

Bermuda was introduced as a stop between New York and Horta after September 1940 when mail censorship began. British censors were placed in Bermuda and mail by air was offloaded for censorship; upon completion of the procedure, such mails were sent on later flights.



21 October 1940 letter to Germany via New York, Bermuda, Horta and Lisbon  
 60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctvs. Postal Tax  
 Sent from Tumbador, San Marcos to Guatemala City 22 Oct. and by PAA to New York  
 PAA *Yankee Clipper* NY 24 Oct., Bermuda 24-25 Oct. and Lisbon arrival 26 Oct.  
 Not censored at Bermuda by British but censored in Germany upon arrival





## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout

Two more jusqu'a handstamps, McQueen type11 (Trans-Atlantic Route) and type19 (TRANSATLANTIC AIR SERVICE) were introduced in Guatemala for transatlantic airmail at the closing stage of the war in Europe.



Dated 4 May 1943 postcard from the British Legation in Guatemala to England  
60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 3ctvs. U.P.U. postcard rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Handstamp McQueen type 19 – upper line 45mm long, 3mm tall letters (recorded 1943 - 1952)

Earliest recorded use of this handstamp\*



22 February 1945 letter from Guatemala City to Switzerland, censored at New Orleans (#50253)  
60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. letter rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Handstamp McQueen type 11 – upper line 38.5mm long, 3mm tall letters (recorded 1944 - 1945)

Latest recorded use of this handstamp\*

\*According to ISGC *El Quetzal* Volume 63, No. 354 June 2013 article about these handstamps by the exhibitor





14 May 1941 registered letter to Switzerland via New York, Bermuda and Lisbon  
 60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 10ctvs. Registration + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 PAA *Yankee Clipper* NY 17 May to Bermuda 17 May held back by British Censor  
 PAA *Atlantic Clipper* Bermuda 24 May to Lisbon 25 May, Pratteln arrival 27 May



22 May 1941 letter to Switzerland via New York, Bermuda and Lisbon  
 60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 10ctvs. Registration + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
 PAA *Yankee Clipper* NY 27 May to Bermuda 17 May held back by British Censor  
 Forwarded by a later mail from Bermuda to Lisbon



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout "Winter route"

From October 1942 to May 1943, PAA flew the clockwise "Winter route" – New York-Bermuda-Horta-Lisbon-Shannon and return via Bolama-Natal-Belem-Port of Spain-San Juan-Bermuda-New York by Boeing 314 flying boat.



17 October 1942 letter from Guatemala to England

90ctvs. airmail fee (20 grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

PAA *American Clipper* NY 23 Oct. to Bermuda held back and examined by British Censor

Forwarded by a later mail to Ireland and BOAC shuttle service to Whitchurch or Poole



28 November 1942 letter from Guatemala to South Africa

60ctvs. airmail fee per 10 grams + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

Held back and examined by American Censor in New York (Censor tape no. 7317)

Forwarded by a later mail to Ireland and BOAC shuttle service to U.K. then by sea to Durban



## Trans-Atlantic Mail

By PAA throughout

Bermuda was not listed on the airmail schedule until 1958, prior to this date mail was probably sent by PAA FAM 5 service from Guatemala City to New York and then by PAA to Bermuda. **Few letters recorded to Bermuda**



16 September 1941 letter from Dr. Dr. Neil Percy Macphail in Quirigua sent via Guatemala City to his sister Jesse in Hamilton, Bermuda.  
 30ctvs. airmail fee per 20 grams to USA + 5ctvs. UPU rate per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax.  
 On reverse: Guatemala City transit 19 September, no Bermuda arrival datestamp



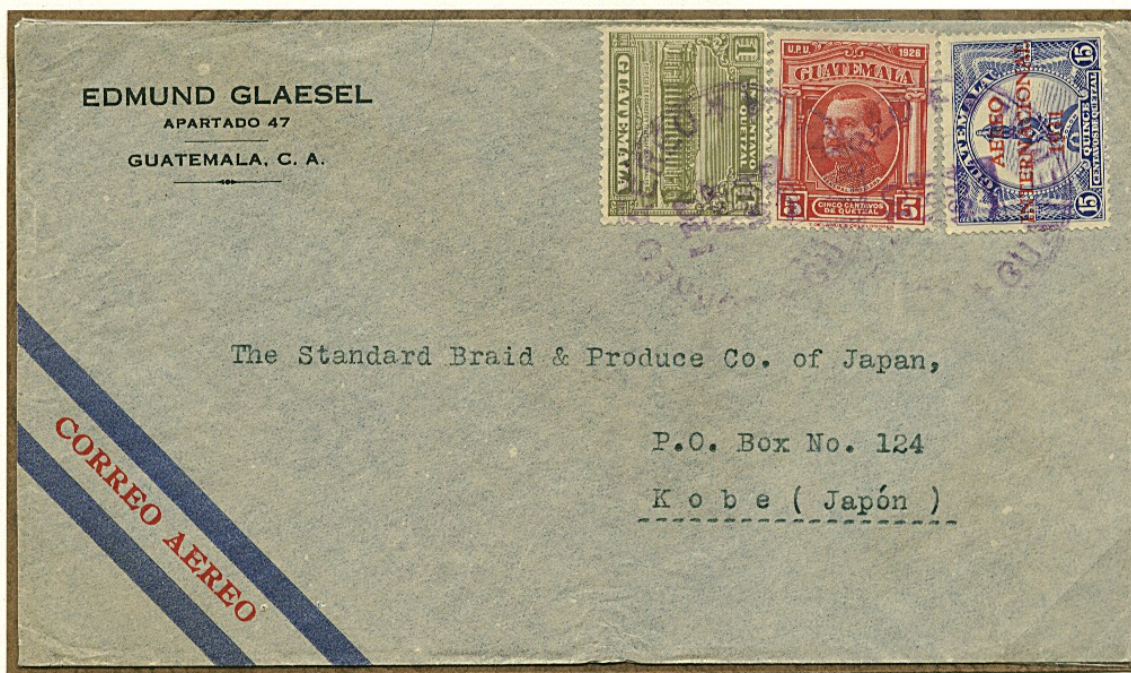
27 March 1944 registered letter from Jesse Macphail in Hamilton via New York to Quirigua.  
 1s 6d + 3d registration fee. PAA Clipper *Anzac* on 30 March flight to New York and then by air via Miami to Guatemala City. On reverse: New York registry, 1 April, Guatemala City, 4 April and Quirigua, Izabal, 5 April arrival. Examined by British Censor at Bermuda (C/8133)



### Ch. 3-6: The Asia & Australasia connection

By air to U.S.A. and Trans-Pacific seamail

Before the launch of the Pan American FAM 14 Trans-Pacific airmail on 22 November 1935, mail to Asia and Australasia was sent by airmail via Brownsville to San Francisco. At San Francisco, mail was put on board contract packet to Japan. Covers to countries in this region are uncommon.



10 April 1934 letter from Guatemala to Kobe, Japan

15ctvs. airmail fee (10grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



8 November 1935 letter from Puerto Barrios to NSW, Australia

15ctvs. airmail fee (10grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax



## The Asia & Australasia connection

By air to U.S.A. and Trans-Pacific seamail

There was little commerce between Guatemala and China except to parts where Germans settled such as in Shanghai, Tsingtao and Kiautschou Bay. Even so, commercial mail to China is very uncommon.



21 January 1939 letter by an agent of Hapag Lloyd from Guatemala City to Tsingtao, East China  
15ctvs. airmail fee (10grams) paid to U.S.A. + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
Airmail via Brownsville to San Francisco and by Trans-Pacific ship to China. Tsingtao arrival 28 February

### Few covers recorded to China

Less than five covers recorded with this jusqu'a handstamp

Earliest recorded use of this handstamp<sup>ref. 3\*</sup>

AFFRANCHI PAR AVION JUSQU'À  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

McQueen type 9 (50mm x 7mm, 2mm tall letters)  
Recorded from 1939 to 1943

\* Illustrated in the article "Early Guatemalan Airmail across the Oceans – Part I" written by the exhibitor, El Quetzal #353, March 213



## The Asia & Australasia connection

By air throughout

Pan American FAM 14 Trans-Pacific airmail was launched on 22 November 1935, direct airmail to Asia and Australasia was sent by airmail via Brownsville and San Francisco. At San Francisco, mail was put on board PAA to Honolulu – Midway – Wake Island – Guam – Manila and to Hong Kong in 1937.



24 August 1940 letter from San Antonio, Suchitepequez via Guatemala City to NSW, Australia  
120ctvs. airmail fee (10grams) + 5ctvs. U.P.U. per 20 grams + 1ctv. Postal Tax

By PAA *California Clipper*, San Francisco (27 August) to Hong Kong (4 September)

Following released by HK censor, Hong Kong Post Office datestamped 12 September before dispatched on the 15 September Hong Kong-Bangkok shuttle service HB272 by Imperial Airways *Dorado*

From Bangkok, went by NE15 Imperial Airways service to Singapore and Sydney arriving on 21 September  
69mm x 4mm **TRANSPACIFIC AIRMAIL SERVICE** handstamp (see article by exhibitor in *El Quetzal* Dec. 2013)

Few covers recorded sent by air throughout to Australia ex. *Rod Perry*

Less than five covers recorded with this jusqu'a mark not recorded by Gruson or McQueen



# Ch. 4: Commemorative flights

Guatemala – San Salvador – Guatemala

Flown on 28 December 1929

To commemorate the completion of the “Eastern railway” connecting Zacapa and San Salvador, a round-trip special flight in connection with the inauguration of the railway was launched. Two 3 pesos stamps of the 1926 issue overprinted 3 and 5 centavos were put on sale the same day as the flight. A boxed cachet was used on such covers.



Registered covers postmarked in blue and black on 28 December 1929 showing the two commemorative stamps and the special cachet.  
15ctvs. per 20 grams airmail rate (27 Nov. 1928 - 14 Aug. 1930)  
+ 5ctvs. registration fee + 1ctv. Postal Tax  
On reverse: 1ctv. Postal Tax stamp



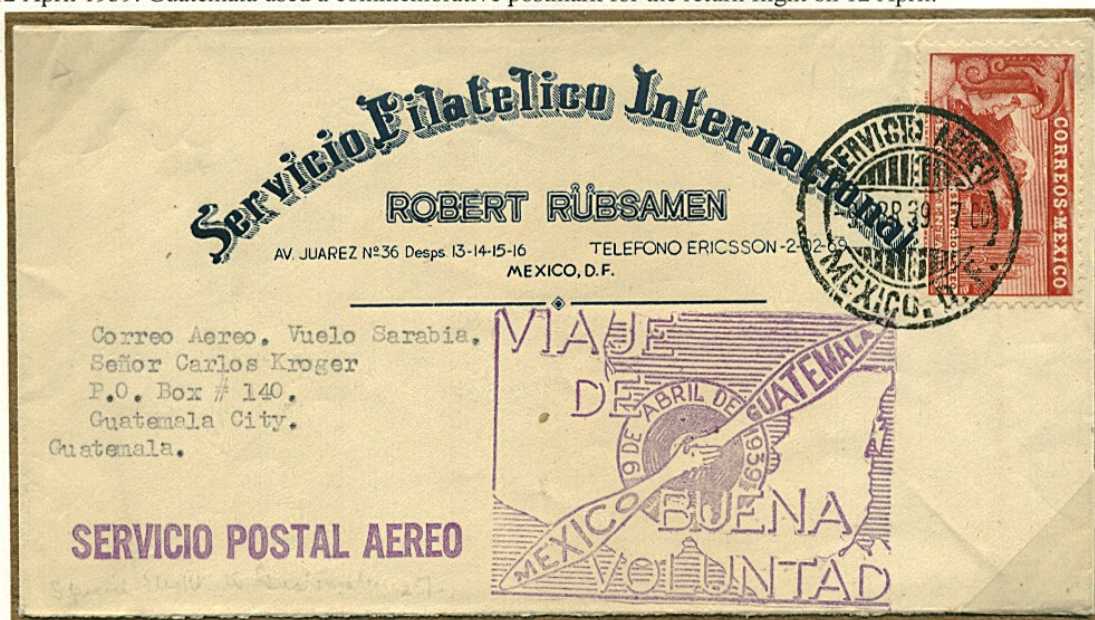


## Commemorative flights

Mexico – Guatemala – Mexico

### Sarabia Good-will Flight 9 / 12 April 1939

Francisco Sarabia, a famous Mexican pilot flew a round-trip good-will flight from Mexico 9 April 1939 and returned on 12 April 1939. Guatemala used a commemorative postmark for the return flight on 12 April.



Mexico City 9 April to Guatemala City

On reverse: Guatemala City c.d.s. 9 April arrival



Guatemala City 12 April to Mexico City

10ctvs airmail surcharge per 1935 schedule + 3ctvs PAPU rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax

On reverse: Mexico Servicio Aereo c.d.s. 13 April arrival.

**Only a few covers were flown**



## Commemorative flights

## 1941 Civic Air Mission to Latin America

It was announced in the U.S. that: -

*A group of private citizens interested in the development of aviation in the Western Hemisphere will leave Washington March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1941 for three month air tour of all the American Republics.*

*Nelson A. Rockefeller*

*Co-ordinator of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics*

The organisation form by these people is called "Inter-American Escadrille"

The purpose of the organisation is to foster friendship and trade between the peoples of the American Republic by promoting travel by aeroplane.

The mission flew on a Grumman twin-engine amphibian aeroplane that covered approximately 28,000 miles on the tour.

The itinerary:-

Cuba-Haiti-Dominican Republic-  
Venezuela-Brazil-Paraguay-Uruguay-  
Argentina-Chile-Bolivia-Peru-Ecuador-  
Columbia-Panama-Costa Rica-Nicaragua-  
Honduras-El Salvador-Guatemala-Mexico

Commemorative covers were sent from every stop to Washington D.C.

5 June 1941 letter Guatemala to U. S. A.  
Washington D.C. sent by FAM 5 service  
30ctvs. airmail fee for up to 20 grams  
3ctvs PAPU rate + 1ctv. Postal Tax →

**Less than ten covers recorded  
from Guatemala**

