

1936 Hindenburg to South America

The new zeppelin Hindenburg began regular transatlantic service in March 1936, flying commercial airmail on both South Atlantic and North Atlantic routes.

The Hindenburg - The new zeppelin was designed for luxury transatlantic passenger service - Her 50 passengers enjoyed a level of comfort not experienced on the Graf Zeppelin.

1936 Hindenburg South Atlantic Schedule - Seven flights from March through November - The last four flights carried letter mail and were coordinated with the schedules of the Graf Zeppelin and Deutsche Lufthansa catapult planes to provide regular airmail service.

Airmail Route - The larger Hindenburg flew directly from Frankfurt am Main to Rio de Janeiro without stopping at Recife, but the airship did not carry commercial mail within Brazil - Mail was exchanged with Condor at Natal, near Recife, without landing.

Mail Handling Procedures - The procedures for the processing of mail at Frankfurt am Main, the exchange of mail with Condor and DLH, and the handling of mail posted on board were the same as for the Graf Zeppelin.

Cachet Code Letters - Cachet code letter locations were the same as for the Graf Zeppelin.

- ☆ Frankfurt am Main - b Frankfurt am Main d Frankfurt am Main (October)
- a Berlin c Frankfurt am Main e Frankfurt am Main

Quantities of Mail - About 50,000 letters per crossing.



FIRST TO THIRD 1936 FLIGHTS

Temporary Loss of Letter Mail Franchise - The Hindenburg flew only passenger mail and heavy items from March to August - Letter mail was flown by DLH during the weeks of these flights.



Cachet used only on board the first flight

Passenger Mail for the First South America Flight - Written by a passenger on the first outbound flight and postmarked on the return flight which delivered it to Germany - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .15 surface card.

Frankfurt	Natal	Rio
27 Aug	29 Aug	
	29 Aug	30 Aug



First Letter Mail Delivery to South America by Hindenburg - Dropped at Natal to Condor airplanes for delivery to Rio de Janeiro - Postage 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

Censored during unrest in south Brazil



Commercial Printed Matter - Unsealed letter weighing 24 grams - Postage RM 1.25 per 25 grams airmail, .05 per 50 grams surface.



Passenger Card Flown on Both Zeppelins



	Rio	Friedr.
Hindenburg	4 Sep	8 Sep

Posted on the fourth return flight of the Hindenburg to Europe, but addressed to Argentina.

	Frankfurt	Natal
Graf Zeppelin	10 Sep	12 Sep

In Europe, it was handled as normal airmail to South America and flown on the ninth Graf Zeppelin flight to Brazil.

"c" cachet for flight by Graf Zeppelin.

Arrival in Buenos Aires one day after the Graf Zeppelin reached South America.

FIFTH 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Frankfurt	Bathurst	Natal
DLH	22 Oct	23 Oct	
Zeppelin		23 Oct	24 Oct

Great Britain - DLH Flight to Exchange Point at Bathurst

Postmarked in London eleven hours after the zeppelin departure.

By night flights to Frankfurt and then by DLH to meet the Hindenburg in West Africa.

Postage 4s airmail beyond Brazil.

Arrival marking 25 October confirms transport on this flight.



Recife	Las Palmas	Frankfurt
30 Oct	1 Nov	
	1 Nov	1 Nov

Photocopy of reverse



Mass Franking with Paraguay Zeppelin Stamps - Bank Letter to Berlin - Total Postage 278.00 pesos = 270.00 multiple weight zeppelin airmail, 3.50 surface, 4.50 registration.

Dropped at Las Palmas Exchange Point - Flown to Berlin by DLH, arriving nine hours before the Hindenburg landed at Frankfurt.

	Frankfurt	Natal	Montevideo
Zeppelin	5 Nov	8 Nov	
Condor		8 Nov	9 Nov

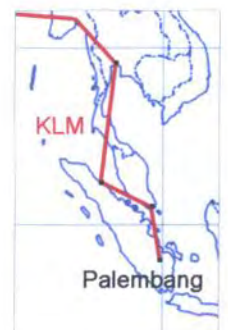


Zeppelin Delay - No Deutsche Lufthansa Flight to Exchange Point. - Zeppelin departed 24 hours late, so all mail was loaded at Frankfurt - **Netherlands** posting with Berlin cachet "a" - Normally would have been flown to an exchange point - Postage .80 gulden airmail, .12½ surface.

	Recife	Las Palmas	Marseille
Zeppelin	13 Nov	15 Nov	
DLH		15 Nov	15 Nov



Backstamp on day of KLM arrival at Palembang



Brazil to Palembang, Sumatra, Dutch East Indies - By zeppelin to Europe, by Dutch airline KLM to the Far East - Extra postage paid for delivery by air to Asia - Postage 4\$200 airmail to Europe, 2\$000 airmail from Europe to Sumatra.

	Frankfurt	Natal	Rio
Zeppelin	25 Nov	28 Nov	
Condor		28 Nov	28 Nov

Zeppelin Mail from Eastern Europe



Hungary - Stamps on back, the normal practice in Eastern Europe - Postage 3.00 Pengő airmail beyond Brazil, .40 surface.



Photocopy of reverse

DLH	25 Nov	27 Nov	
Zeppelin		27 Nov	28 Nov



DLH Flight to Exchange Point at Bathurst - Post-marked five hours after the zeppelin departure and flown to meet the zeppelin in West Africa.

Commercial Papers - RM 1.50 per 25 grams airmail, .25 minimum surface.



Scan of part of postage on back

Underpaid - RM .75 extra postage added at Frankfurt - sender billed for the amount due.

SEVENTH 1936 RETURN FLIGHT

	Recife	Frankfurt
Zeppelin	4 Dec	7 Dec

Mail Exchanges Noted by a Passenger on the Outbound Flight.

"Took on post at Bathurst, where we had to wait because the airplane arrived late."

"At Natal the mail was dropped by parachute."

Letter above was in these mail exchanges.

Written and posted on the outbound flight - processed on the return flight since it was addressed to Europe.



Handwritten German text on the back of the envelope, including a note about the flight and the return address.

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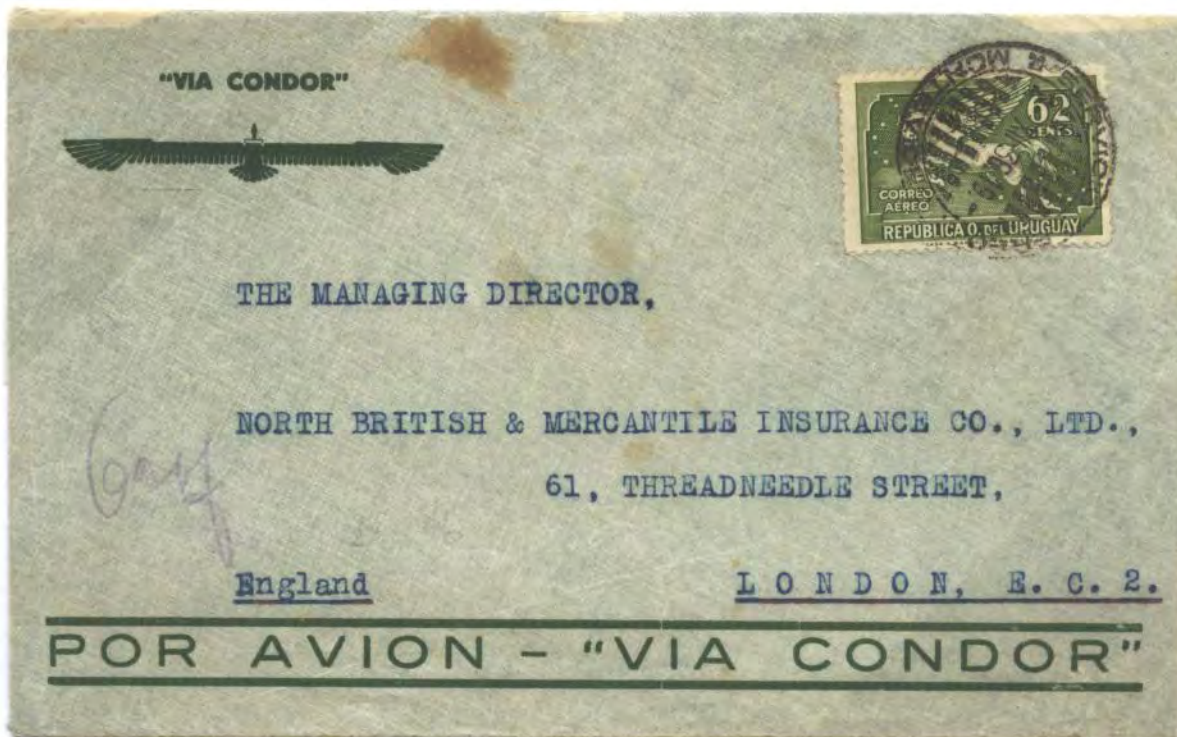
	Frankfurt	Natal	B. Aires
Zeppelin	25 Nov	28 Nov	
Condor		28 Nov	30 Nov



Romania - Personal Letter to a Relative in Argentina - By rail via Lwow, Krakow, and Breslau to the zeppelin at Frankfurt.

SEVENTH 1936 RETURN FLIGHT

	Recife	Las Palmas	Frankfurt
Zeppelin	4 Dec	6 Dec	
DLH		6 Dec	6 Dec



Uruguay - Last Hindenburg Flight to Carry Letter Mail on the South America Route - Postage .50 peso airmail, .12 surface.