



ARMY AIR CORPS MAIL OPERATIONS

AACMO

FEBRUARY 19, 1934

MAY 23, 1934

Lee Downer –March
2019



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THE STORY LINE

- PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS –FDR 1934
- OVER ZEALOUS POST MASTER GENERAL—HOOVER REPUBLICAN
- GREEDY AIRCRAFT COMPANIES
- FARLEY FINDS A SMOKING GUN
- SENATOR HUGO BLACK GETS EVEN
- ALL DOMESTIC AIRMAIL CONTRACTS CANCELLED
- AN UNPREPARED ARMY AIR CORPS GETS DUPED INTO THE JOB

THE CAST

FRANKLIN DELANO
ROOSEVELT

JAMES FARLEY-POSTMASTER
GENERAL

BROWN- EX-POSTMASTER
GENERAL

HUGO BLACK-DEMOCRAT,
ALABAMA SENATOR

BENNIE FOULOIS- AIR CORPS
CHIEF



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THE PLOT

- SENATE HEARINGS ON POSSIBLE FRAUD AND CORRUPTION
- POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION
- RAIDS ON AIRLINE OFFICES
- PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO CANCEL CONTRACTS
- EXEMPTIONS FOR PAN AM
- EMERGENCY AIRMAIL SERVICE—FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS
- ARMY AIR CORPS LACK OF READINESS
- THE ARMY OPERATIONS PLAN

AEROPHILATELY INTEREST

- SHORT NOTICE FOR COLLECTORS AND COVER MAKERS
- LOCAL POSTAL AGENTS NOT PREPARED
- SCRAMBLE TO GET COVERS TO ALL THE STOPS ON EACH ROUTE
- OVER 100 LOCATIONS TO COVER ON 13 ROUTES
- RESULT--FOCUS ON MAJOR HUBS



ARMY PLAN OF OPERATION

- DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR CORPS, OSCAR WESTOVER, APPOINTED
- 3 ZONES OF RESPONSIBILITY CREATED, EAST, CENTRAL AND WEST
- EXISTING CAM ROUTES MODIFIED FOR COVERAGE AND EFFICIENCY
- ALL ARMY AIR CORPS RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE
- ARMY WOULD FLY DAY, NIGHT SCHEDULE
- SEVERAL WEEKS TRAINING AND PREPARATIONS WOULD ALLOW SMOOTH AND SAFE TRANSITION



EASTERN AND CENTRAL ZONE COMMANDERS

THE PLOT THICKENS

ROOSEVELT ONLY GIVES ARMY
10 DAYS

WEATHER WAS HORRIBLE—
HUGE ARCTIC STORM FORECAST

ARMY AIRPLANES DID NOT HAVE
NIGHT OR INSTRUMENT
CAPABILITY

PILOTS HAD LITTLE TRAINING ON
INSTRUMENTS/ROUTE
NAVIGATION

ARMY SUPPORT ELEMENTS
THINLY SPREAD ACROSS THE
COUNTRY



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ACTION

- 4 CRASHES AND 3 AIRCREW DEATHS DURING TRAINING, BEFORE ONE LETTER WAS CARRIED
- STORM PREVENTED TIMELY START UP ON EASTERN ZONE ROUTES
- MOST MAIL WAS DELIVERED ON SCHEDULE IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES
- THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE ARMY'S PERFORMANCE
- MANY AVIATION NOTABLES BAD MOUTHED THE ARMY EFFORT
- AIRLINES BEGAN TO RETHINK THE FUTURE AND REORGANIZE

COLLECTIBLE COVERS—ARMY EMERGENCY FLIGHTS, 1934

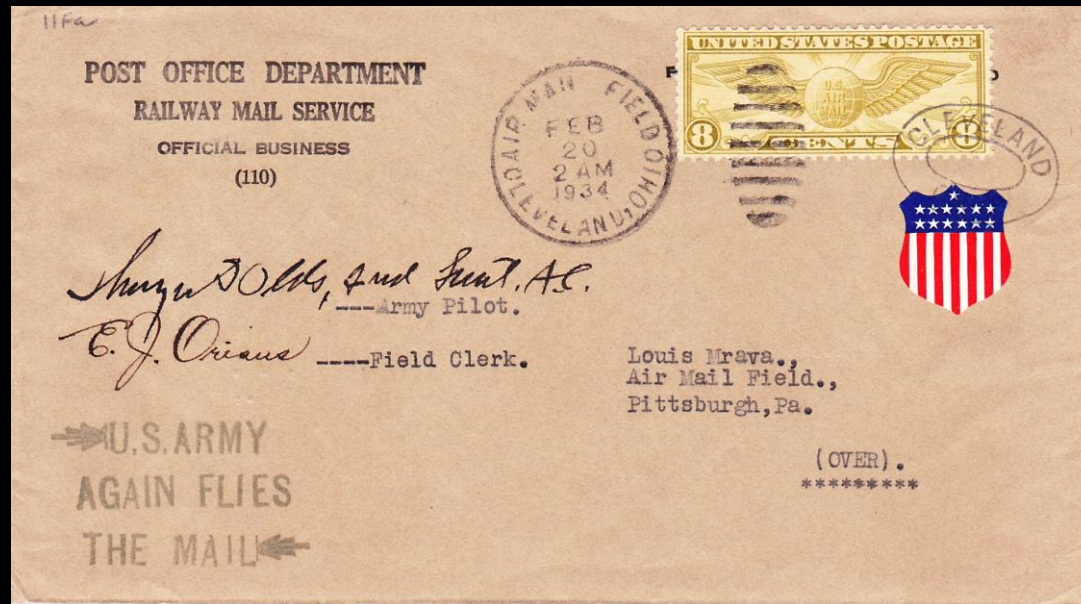
- FIRST FLIGHT COVERS 19-21 FEB 1934
- CRASH COVERS 19 and 22 FEB and 9 MAR 1934—ROUTE 19 and 17
- RESUMPTION COVERS 19 MARCH 1934
- ROUTE 3 CHANGES 19 MAR 1934
- CRASH COVER 30 MAR 1934—ROUTE 18
- ADDITION OF ROUTE 9, 8 APR 1934
- LAST ARMY FLIGHTS 8 MAY-24 MAY 1934
- UNUSUAL CACHETS OR PREPRINTED ENVELOPES ON ANY ROUTES
- PILOT SIGNED COVERS

FIRST FLIGHT COVERS—FEB 19-21



FIRST FLIGHT COVERS

FEB 20



FEB 21



CRASH COVERS—FEB 19

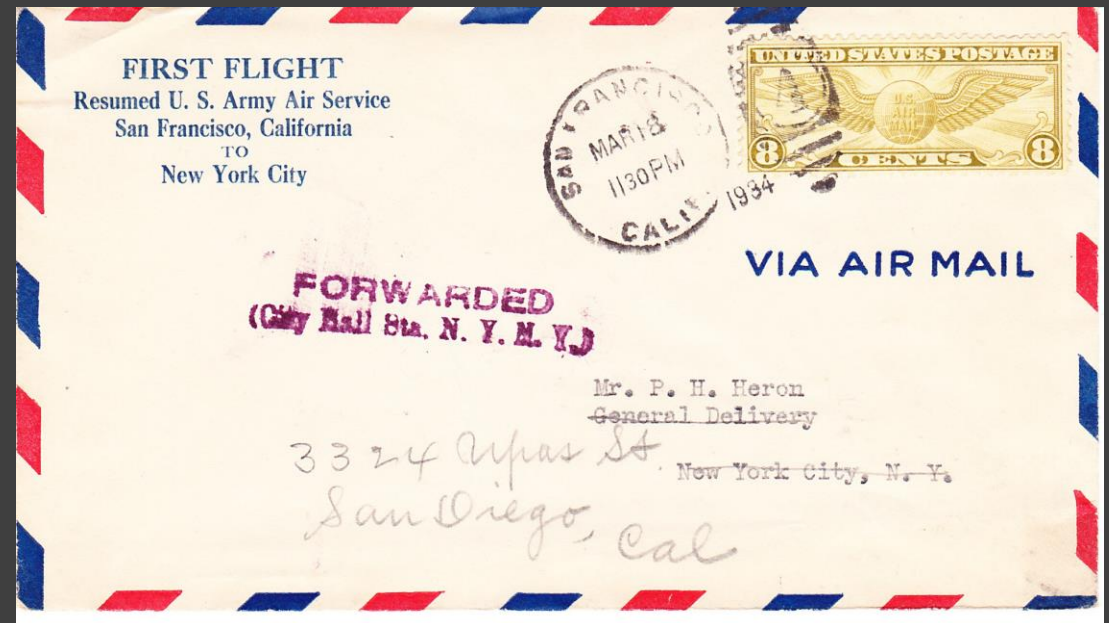


STAND
DOWN
AFTER
CRASHES—
MAR 9



ROUTE 17, 3AM , MAR 9, BURTON, OHIO. LT. OTTO WEINECKE KILLED
AFTER LOSING CONTROL OF HIS AIRCRAFT IN A SNOWSTORM

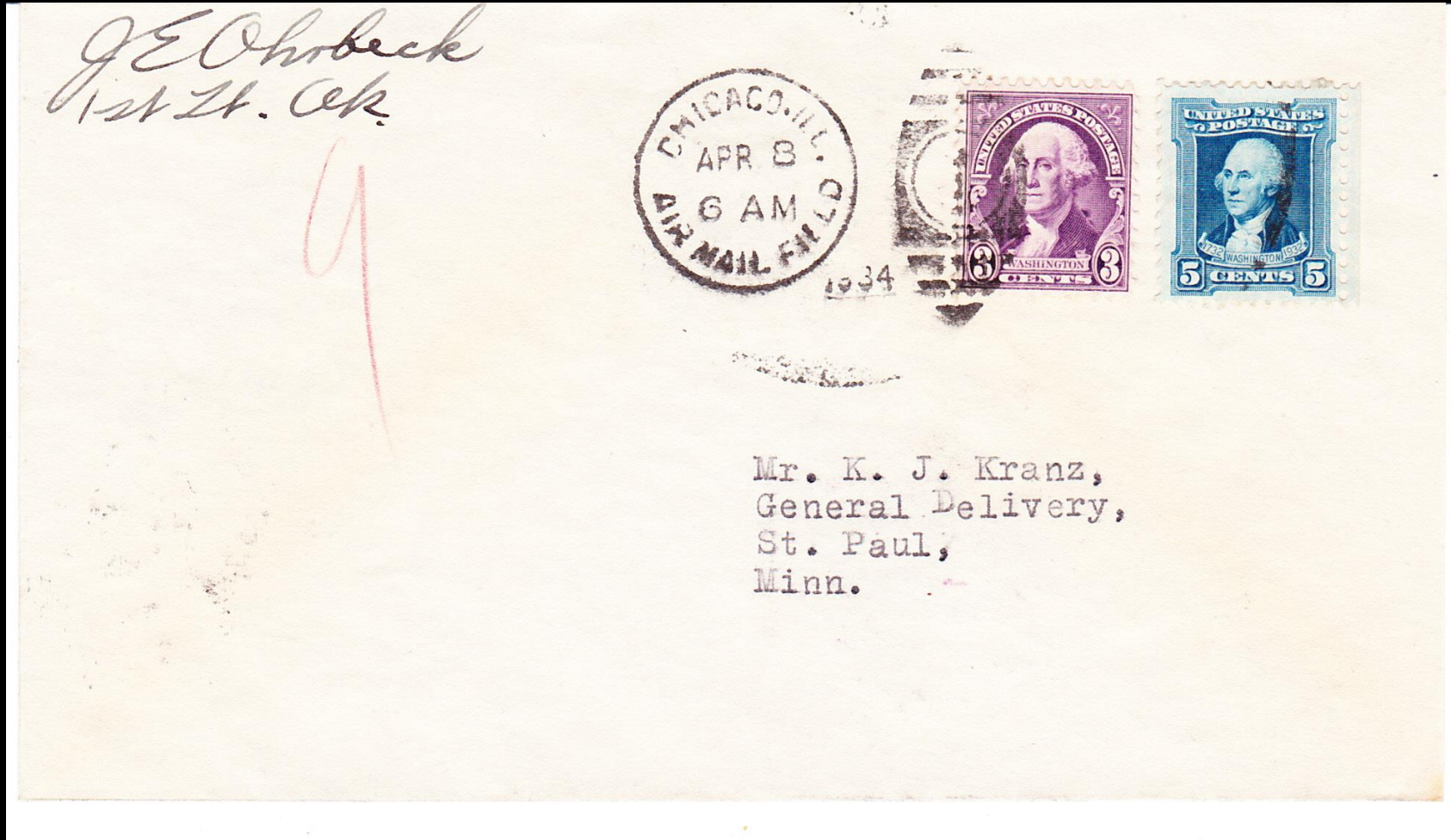
RESUMPTION COVERS—MARCH 18/19



ROUTE 3 CHANGE ADD ST LOUIS—19 MAR



ADD ROUTE 9—APR 8



LAST ARMY FLIGHTS-MAY





U. S. ARMY

THE ARMY FLIES THE MAIL
FIRST DAY - AM 4



SPONSORED BY LOS ANGELES COVER CLUB



VIA AIR MAIL

AL TWISS
61 COLUMBIA ST
COHOES, N.Y.



VIA
AIR MAIL
Par Avion

CARRIED ON FIRST FLIGHT OF
EMERGENCY SERVICE
OVER A. M. 17 AND A. M. 18
BY ARMY PLANES
SAN FRANCISCO TO NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 19, 1934

for

VIA AIR MAIL

A. L. Arnold,
307 W. 64th St.
Chicago, Ill.



U. S. ARMY

A. L. Arnold,

First Flight.

U. S. Army Planes

Carrying Mail

General Delivery,

San Francisco, Calif.



VIA AIR MAIL

UNUSUAL CACHETS AND PREPRINTED ENVELOPES

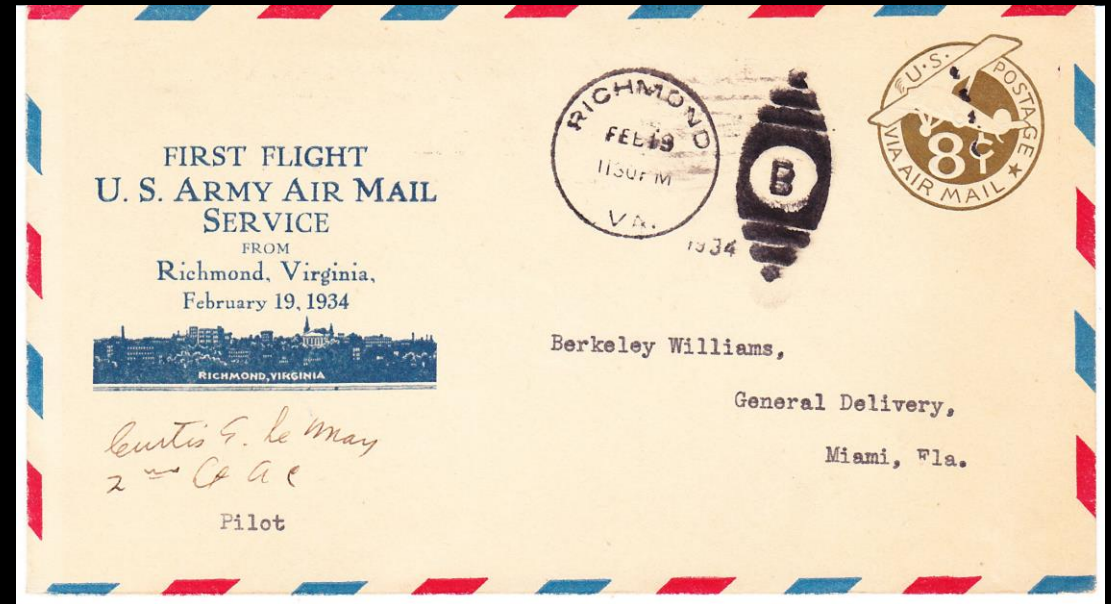
WITH LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE, AACMO COVERS
APPEAR TO BE HAPHAZARD, AMATURISH OR
REUSED DESIGNS.

PILOT SIGNED

ELWOOD QUESADA/BQ JONES

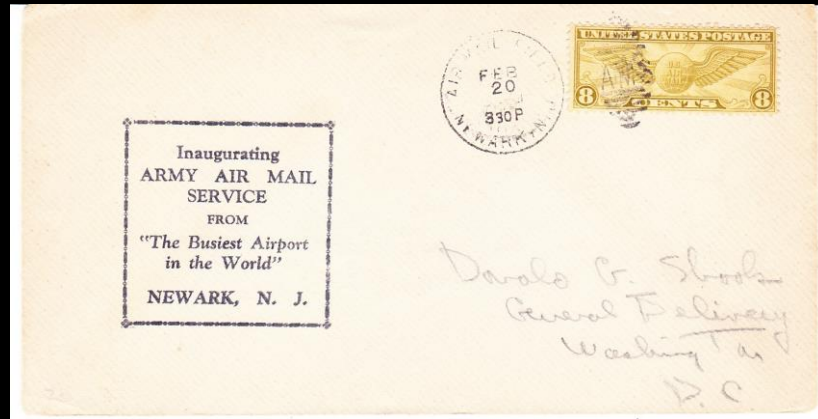


CURTIS LEMAY



COMMON COVERS--

NEWARK, NJ



- WASHINGTON, NEWARK, MIAMI, CHICAGO, CLEVELAND, CINCINNAT, SALT LAKE CITY, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, DALLAS, ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS, BOSTON, SEATTLE, KANSAS CITY



SCARCE COVERS— ANECDOTAL EXPERIENCE

HARTFORD, PONCA CITY, PORTLAND
OR, MADISON WI, ROCHESTER MN,
AKRON, IOWA CITY, LINCOLN, GRAND
ISLAND, ROCK SPRINGS, ELKO, RENO,
BALTIMORE, RALEIGH, FLORENCE,
SAVANNAH, GREENSBORO, CHARLOTTE,
SPARTANBURG, LOUISVILLE, MEMPHIS,
LITTLE ROCK, TEXARKANA, MOBILE,
TERRE HAUTE, EVANSVILLE,
CHATTANOOGA, HARRISBURG,
PITTSBURG (ROUTE 34), INDIANAPOLIS

AACMO STATS



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- Mail Delivered—768,215 pounds
- Mail lost--0
- Flying hours—14,745
- Miles flown—1,707,559
- Aircraft mishaps—66
- Aircrew lost—13

LEE DOWNER



Airmail Scandal

The Air Corps Delivers

FACTS INTO
FICTION—A NOVEL

Now AVAILABLE AMAZON BOOKS