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# Flight from Malta

Postal rate sources which are normally full of detail are strangely sketchy when it comes to airmail rates from Malta, particularly with regard to destinations in continental Europe.

From readers with evidence of missing rates, scans would be much appreciated.

Starting with the rates we already know...



## United Kingdom

To the UK via Brindisi and Paris, an inclusive rate applied. This was 5d for the first half ounce and 4d per subsequent half ounce.

From 15th May 1935, the flown leg of the journey could be made from Brindisi instead of from Paris, so this cover from Cospicua to Southsea might well be a first flight cover.



*Cospicua-Southsea 13/5/35, courtesy of Nick Levinge*

Below it, also to Southsea, is a double weight cover endorsed Via Tunis, thus using Air France instead of Imperial Airways and for which the rate was 7½d per half ounce, (from 26th December 1935).

A heavier item, (below, left) which demonstrates the need for 5d for the first half ounce, plus 4d for each of three further half ounces, giving a total of 1/5.



To London at 1/5, 12/11/35, courtesy of John Cooper



To Southsea via Tunis 4/1/36, courtesy John Cooper

### Italy/Switzerland

Three times a week an air service operated between Italy and Tripoli. The rate to Italy was 4d for the first half ounce plus 3d per subsequent half ounce.

The cover here shows the Switzerland rate of 5½d, where onward transmission from Rome would be by train. The reverse boasts a Rome Air Mail transit mark for the day after the Malta cancels.



To Switzerland, air to Rome, courtesy Nick Levinge

Below it, however, is another Switzerland bound example, (via Brindisi), but at a 5d rate, (once a further 3d for registration is allowed for).



To Switzerland via Brindisi, courtesy John Cooper

## France

To France, the inclusive rate was 6d for the first half ounce and 5d per subsequent half ounce.

Examples are hard to find. Perhaps a reader has a scan of one to fill this spot.

This rate would seem to be reflected for elsewhere in Europe...

## Denmark

Following the 6d rate, (+3d registration) is this cover to Denmark. It has cancellations of Air Mail, Malta, for 8pm Fe 6 36 and the handstamp: Par Avion Jusqu'a Roma.



To Denmark (air to Rome), courtesy John Cooper

## Germany

Also showing the 6d rate, (+3d registration), is this cover from Sliema which carries backstamps of Venezia, Roma and Berlin.



Sliema to Berlin, 26 My 36, courtesy John Cooper

Below it, a heavier cover to Germany at 1/2½d could be demonstrating the same 5d requirement for a subsequent half ounce but ending up overpaying by ½d.



Double weight to Koblenz, Ja 14 36, courtesy John Cooper

## Czechoslovakia

Not following suit of the above European destinations is this cover to Czechoslovakia sent at 7d. Decipherable strikes are of Air Mail Malta (19 Aug 1935), Valletta (Aug 19 35), Par Avion Jusqu'a Rome and, on the reverse, Chrudim (23 VIII 35).



*To Czechoslovakia, courtesy of John Cooper*

## Fez

Reflecting the rate to Tunis (by air from Malta) of 5½d is this cover of 18 May 1935.

It's backstamped Gibraltar (24 My 35) and British Post Office Fez (27 My 35). Then British Post Office Fez (2 Sep 35) to the front and, to the reverse, Krag cancel Gibraltar (Sep 3 35).



*To Fez, courtesy John Cooper*

And for examples going further afield...

## Ceylon

This cover to the Royal Navy torpedo depot in Ceylon at 2 shillings and a halfpenny would seem to comprise the rate of 3d registration, 1½d Empire surface first ounce and twice the 10d per half ounce airmail fee for the sub-continent. Backstamps: Brindisi Transit Raccoman (29 5 35) and Colombo registered (6 Jn 35).



*Ceylon double weight, courtesy John Cooper*

## Brazil

With a rate of 2/4 per 5 grams, in addition to the surface rate and registration fee, this registered Zeppelin cover to Pernambuco would seem to be under franked. Perhaps there was a further 4½d on the reverse.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> South American flight, the Malta Study Circle records these details: Malta 17 Ju 35, Roma 19 Ju 35, Stuttgart 23 Ju 35, Recife 2 Jl 35.



*Zeppelin, courtesy of a member of the Silver Jubilee Study Circle*

## Tailpiece

Nick Levinge has pointed out that there is a further rate to UK. It is that of by air to Italy and thence by train at a rate of 3d for the first half ounce and 2½d per subsequent half ounce. A scan of such an example would be gratefully received.

*With many thanks for their help to John Cooper, Nick Levinge, Neil Donen and, from the Malta Study Circle, Rodger Evans.*

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