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Postcards with wings

It's probably not often you feel the urge to send a postcard by airmail. Back in 1935, the urge might have been even rarer since it could have flown for a single leg of a quite complicated route.

It could also have been very expensive. For instance, in the case of Nigeria to some South American countries, the cost would have been 3 shillings and 9 pence, ie. 45 times that for the surface service.



For the era of the birth of international flights, a perhaps surprising number of territories quoted postcard-specific airmail rates and examples do exist...

South Africa - Chile

One possible route would be via the Gambia to Brazil air service but the owner of this card thinks that, due to the transit time of 48 days, it may have travelled by Imperial Airways from Northern Rhodesia to London, then by ship to New York, and thence by surface to Chile.



Scan courtesy of Nick Levinge

South Africa - Nyasaland

A first day card which appears to be 1/2d short of the airmail rate to Nyasaland but which seems to have slipped through since the Limbe backstamp appears to be for 1 May 35 3.30pm.



Tristan da Cunha - UK

GB 2½d uprating a 1d printed stationery card to UK and tied by undated Tristan da Cunha cds. Philatelic though it is, one wonders if the rate is correct. If flown from South Africa, the 3½d is short of the 5d rate from there but, as Nick Levinge pointed out, this isn't necessarily inconsistent with other territories where air rates are not based on those from where its mail starts its air journey.



Australia - Scotland

A 3d SJ with other adhesives raises the postage on this 1½d printed stationery card to 9d, the airmail postcard rate to UK.

They are cancelled by a Mosman slogan or Sydney Airmail cds (7 May 35).



Southern Rhodesia – South Africa

Another first day card, (this time overpaying the 2d airmail charge to South Africa), with the 3d stamp tied by a Bulawayo cds for 6 May 1935 11am.



Northern Rhodesia - Germany

A 1½d printed stationery card is uprated by a 3d and 1d SJ's to the 5½d air rate to continental Europe and tied by a Broken Hill cds for 30 Nov 1935 12pm.



UK - Germany

Not satisfied with the 2½d airmail service, a definitive 6d has been added to ensure express delivery. The cancels were of Willesden S.O. N.W.10 (8.15pm 1 Au 35) and arrival of Frankfurt (Main) (2 8 35 12.13).



Morocco - Brazil

10d worth secured air transit from Tangier (25 My 35), via Paris (26 V), Frankfurt to join the Zeppelin flight to Pernambuco



Front and back cans courtesy of Neil Donen

Kenya - Belgium

20c and definitive 10c paying the 30c air rate to Europe on this picture postcard from Niarobi.



Scan courtesy of Neil Donen

Hong Kong - Germany

51c worth of Jubilees slightly over-cooking the air rate to Europe of 50c.



Tailpiece

UK – Germany 3 reply-paid cards

German 15pf reply halves eliciting different rates of upgrade for airmail treatment.

Perhaps you can throw some light on the reason?



Scans courtesy of Jim Forte

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