

British Guiana AIR MAILS to MALTA in the 1930-1934 period

by Dr. A. Bonnici K.M., M.D.

On the 13th December 1927 Charles Lindberg made a two month long survey, starting from Washington D.C. through Mexico to the Canal zone, then running the Spanish Main, and back through the Antilles and Cuba.

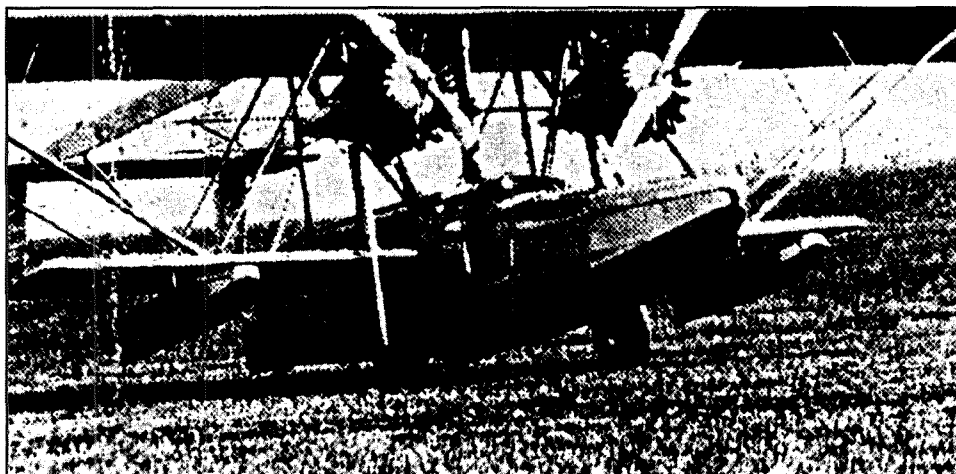
Lindberg favoured land planes, but was forced to conclude that for this region, amphibians were the logical choice.

PAN AM bought Sikorsky S – 38'S mostly for the Caribbean.

Juan Tripp lost no time in expanding PAN AM's Caribbean bridgehead astutely expanded from West-Indian Aerial Express. A succession of additional foreign air contracts quickly followed and the British Guiana sector started on the 29th Sept 1929. (This information was obtained from PAN AM brochure courtesy of E.B. Proud.)

Edward B. Proud in his excellent publication Postal History of British Air Mails, states that, "Air Mails from British Guiana to UK, via New York, started in April 1930, but no Air Mail covers were seen by him for the period Aprl 1930 to the 22nd Feb 1931."

The route taken from British Guiana was via Porto Rico San Juan, where the violet Registered hand stamp was applied, on to Miami, then by rail to New York, where the NEW YORK. U.S.A./FOREIGN hand stamp was applied, then across the Atlantic by boat to UK, and finally to Malta by boat... between 15 - 18 days.



This versatile aircraft, equally at home as an amphibian on land or water, was the backbone of Pan American's fleet during a critical period, laying the foundations of the Caribbean and Central American network in 1929 and 1930. (PAN AM)

The following reproductions on piece, are of this period, and cancelled by the Double ring AIR MAIL G.P.O./ BRITISH GUIANA with the date in the middle.



5th May 1930.



12th May 1930



8th May 1930



14th August 1930



27th February 1931
via Trinidad



6th March 1931



9th August 1931



10th August 1931



13th August 1931



14th August 1931



14th August 1931



20th December 1931



16th August 1932



10th August 1932



AIR MAIL/BRITISH GUIANA/ 5th March 1931 – SAN JUAN, P.R. / REGISTERED 8th March 1931 – NEW YORK, U.S.A./ FOREIGN/10 March 1931. No Malta arrival date stamp.

The following probably unique are British Guiana Registered Letter Envelopes sent to Malta via this route.



Par Avion
By Air Mail

BRITISH GUIANA REGISTERED LETTERS
MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT BE OBTAINED FOR THEM.

THE SECRETARY
INTERNATIONAL
TURF CLUB
VALETTA
MALTA

BRITISH GUIANA 23c
BRITISH GUIANA 9c

BRITISH GUIANA REGISTERED LETTERS
DANUS PETRIUS REGISTRATION

BRITISH GUIANA 17505
R
m/a

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.
Joseph J. Read
25 Broad Street
New Amsterdam B/C
British Guiana.

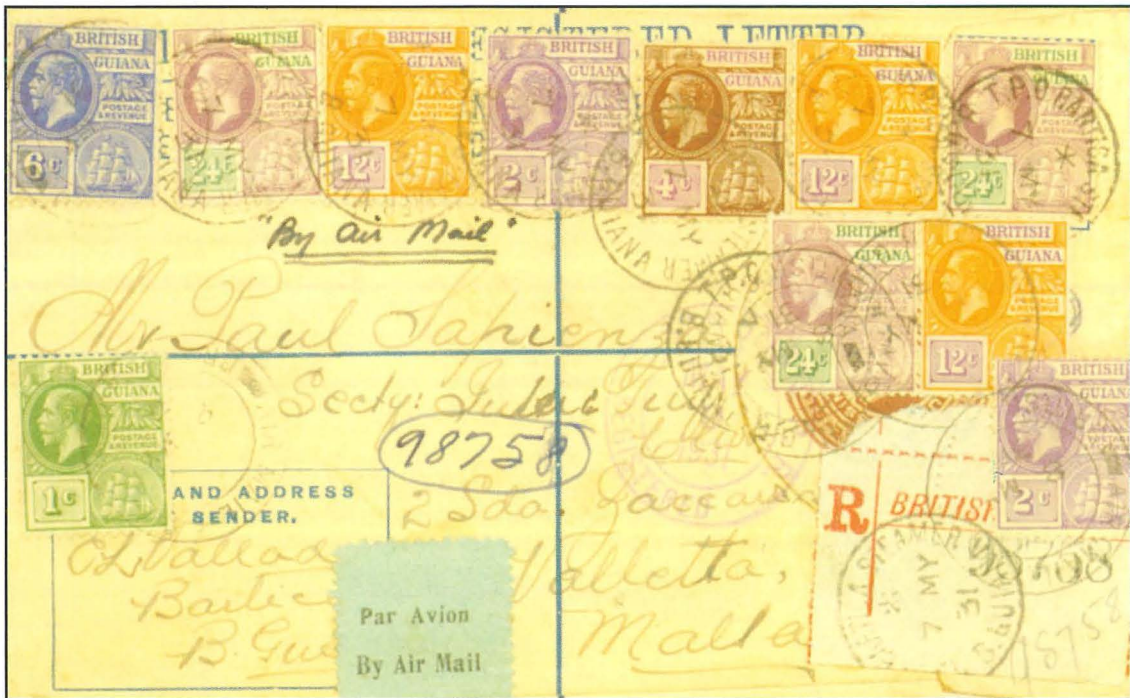
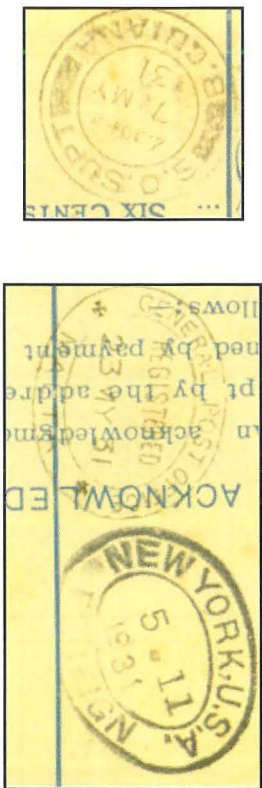
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment receipt by the addressee obtained by payment of a fee follows:

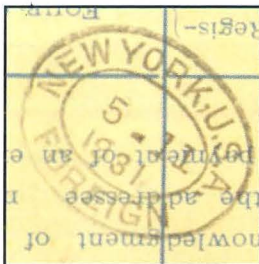
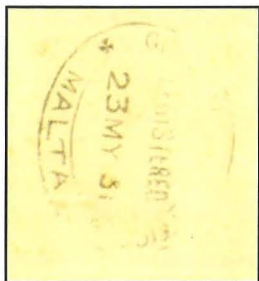
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011-5
MAY 31 1931

MFW AMSTERDAM/B.GUIANA 5 MY 31 - SAN JUAN. P.R./REGISTERED MAY 9 1931

Back. AIRMAIL. G.P.O. / 1.30.AM./5MY/31 BRITISH GUIANA - S.O. SUPT.1.30/5MY/31. /B.GUIANA - NEW YORK. U.S.A. / 5-11/1931
/FOREIGN - GENERAL POST OFFICE/REGISTERED/23 MAY 31./MALTA... 18 days.



T.P.O. Bartica Steamer / * / 7 MY/31 / B Guiana – San Juan.P.R. / May 9/1931.
 Back S.O.SUPT / 1.30.AM / 7MY / 31 B. GUIANA – NEW YORK.U.S.A. / 5-11/1931. FOREIGN – GENERAL POST OFFICE /
 REGISTERED / 23 MY 31. / MALTA ... 16 DAYS.



Air Mail GPO/8 MY /31/ British Guiana – San Juan.P.R. /May/9//1931

Back. NEW YORK.U.S.A. / 5-11 / 1931. FOREIGN. GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERD / 23 MY 31 / MALTA ... 15 DAYS.

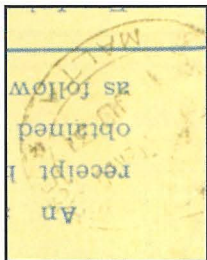


via Great Britain in manuscript

AR. – Blairmont / * / 13 My/31 / British Guiana – San Juan.P.R. / May / 16/1931
Back AIR MAIL / 11.00 AM / 31 BRITISH GUIANA. – NEW YORK.U.S.A. / 5-18 / 1931/FOREIGN. – GENERAL POST OFFICE /
REGISTERED / 1 JU 31 / MALTA... 18 DAYS



*Air Mail G.P.O./15 MY 31 / British Guiana. – San Juan.P.R. / May 16 1931 / Registered
Back NEW YORK.U.S.A., / 5-18/1931/ FOREIGN – GENERAL POST OFFICE /REGISTERED / 1 JU 31 / MALTA...16 DAYS.*



BRITISH GUIANA REGISTER

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT BE OBTAINED

The International Surf Club

R **BRITISH GUIANA** 36261

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.
J.B. Harris
 28 Lombard St.
 Georgetown, Dem.
 British Guiana, S.A.

Par Avion
 By Air Mail

Malta
J.P.O. Box No 36

Postage stamps: 6c (British Guiana), 12c (British Guiana), 3c (British Guiana), 1c (British Guiana).

Postmarks: Georgetown, British Guiana, May 15 1931; Malta, May 16 1931.

Air Mail / 15 My 31 / British Guiana. – San Juan.P.R. / May / 16 / 1931

Back NEW YORK.U.S.A. / 5-18 / 1931 / FOREIGN – GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 1 JU 31 / MALTA... 16 DAYS

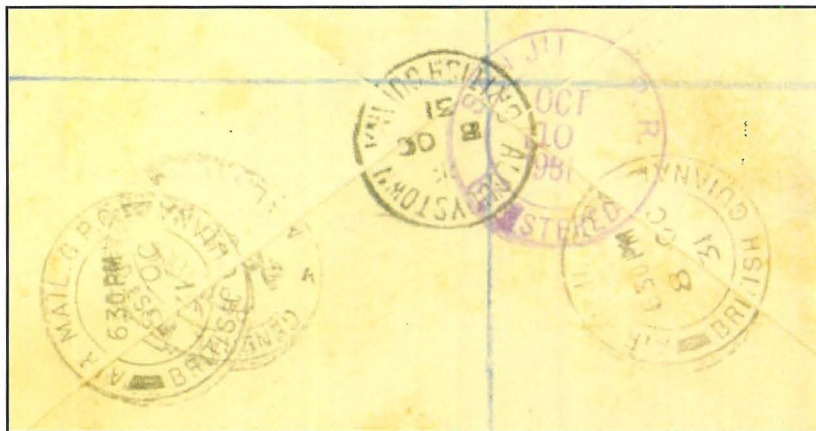
Air Mail.

Par Avion
By Air Mail

R BRITISH GUIANA
9939

From
John DeSilva
22 Evans St
Georgetown

The Secretary,
International Turf Club,
2 SDA, Zaccaria, Valletta,
Malta.



ALBUOYSTOWN /* 8 OC 31 / BRITISH GUIANA WITH Albuoystown in manuscript registration label

Back. AIRMAIL / 6.30.P.M. / 8 OC 31 / - ALBUOYSTOWN /* 8 OC 31 / BRITISH GUIANA - SAN JUAN.P.R. / OCT 10 / 1931. GENERAL POST OFFICE / REGISTERED / 26 OC 31 / MALTA... 18 DAYS.

Par Avion
By Air Mail



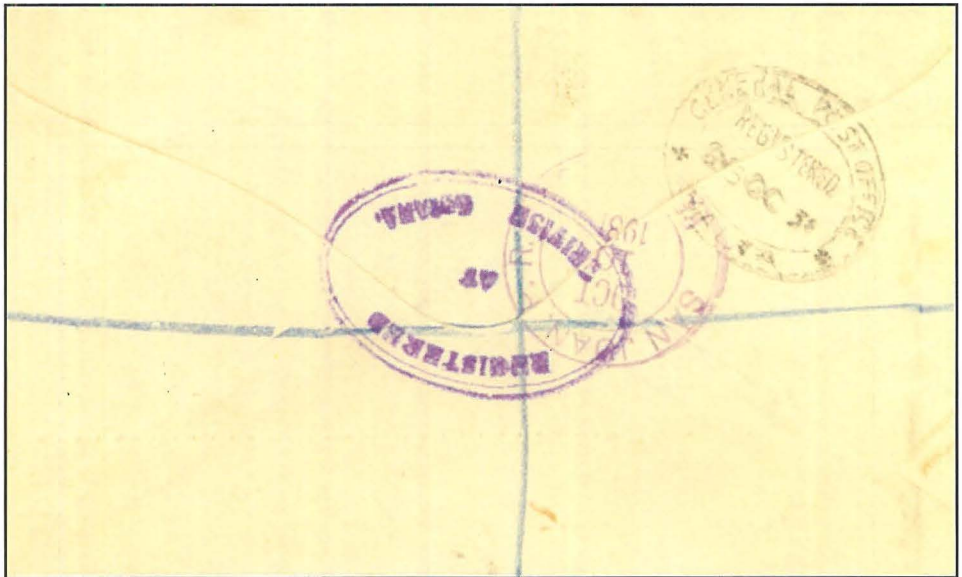
The Secretary,

International Turf Club,

G. P. O. Box. No. 36.

Valetta - - MALTA.

R BRITISH GUIANA
99450



REGISTRATION / * / 8 OC 31. / BRITISH GUIANA.
Back SAN JUAN.P.R. / OCT 10 1931. REGISTERED - GENERAL POST OFFICE /
REGISTERED 26 OC 31. / MALTA... 18 DAYS.