INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

A national Railway strike took place from the 29th May to 16th June 1955; due to this emergency the Royal Air Force operated four emergency routes which stated operation on June 1st. Mr.N.C.Baldwin (Editor of "The Aero Field") made an intensive study to identify flown mail and this selection is based on his findings and gatherings, the majority having his hand written annotation on the back.

Route 1	Northolt to Turnhouse via Linton-on-Ouse and Acklington
Route 2	Northolt to Renfrew via Wymeswold, Ringway and Silloth.
Route 3	Filton to Linton-on-Ouse via Honiley and Wymeswold
Route 4	Circular route from Northolt via Filton, Llandow, Exeter, Filton returning to Northolt.

Linton-on-Ouse, Wymeswold and Filton were used as clearing centres to transfer mail from one route to another.

P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 637 Value £ 15 Oct 2003

06/12/04 ...

Route No. 2. Northolt to Renfrew via Wymeswold, Ringway and Silloth.

Route No. 3. Filton to Linton-on-Ouse via Honiley and Wymeswold.

Route No. 4. Circular route from Northolt via Filton, Llandow, Exeter, Filton and Northolt.

Until the complete facts become known, identification of flown mails is dependent upon circumstantial evidence, and from the map of the routes it would appear that Linton-on-Ouse, Wymeswold and Filton were used as clearing centres for the transfer of mails to another route; it is also apparent that mails despatched from towns within a limited radius of the aerodromes on the four routes, would be sent by road to the appropriate aerodrome.

It is known that bags of mail arrived at Honiley for delivery in the Birmingham area on each day between June 1st and 16th from the following despatch points: Bristol, Bath, Plymouth, Taunton, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Manchester, Scarboro' and York. It is also known that mail bags were made up in Birmingham on each day during the same period for the following destinations for flight from Honiley: Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Gloucester, Cardiff, Newport (Mon.), Carlisle, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Motherwell.

Comparison of the foregoing sources and destinations with the aerodromes on the four routes confirms the assumption that collaboration occurred at the air junctions, for there would be no object in despatching mails for some of the towns if flight had been confined to the original route, e.g. Birmingham to Motherwell, if it had been flown merely to Wymeswold or Linton-on-Ouse.

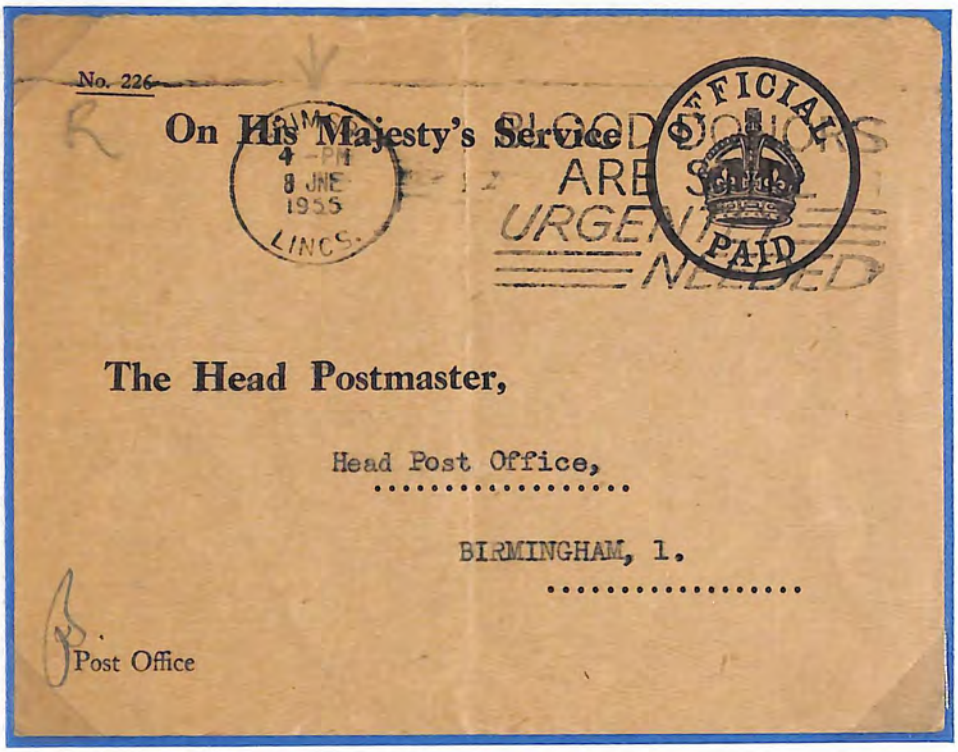
A similar procedure to that adopted in Birmingham area was doubtless employed at other provincial cities, so it should not be difficult to identify flown covers bearing postmarks dated between May 28th and June 15th.

Francis J. Field, Ltd., Sutton Coldfield, England.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE THREE



On the 9th June 4 bags of mail which included this official cover were despatched by road from Hull and Grimsby to Linton-on-Ouse and flown on the first to legs of route 3 to Honily.

P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 641 Value £ 15 Oct 2003

651

06/12/04 ...

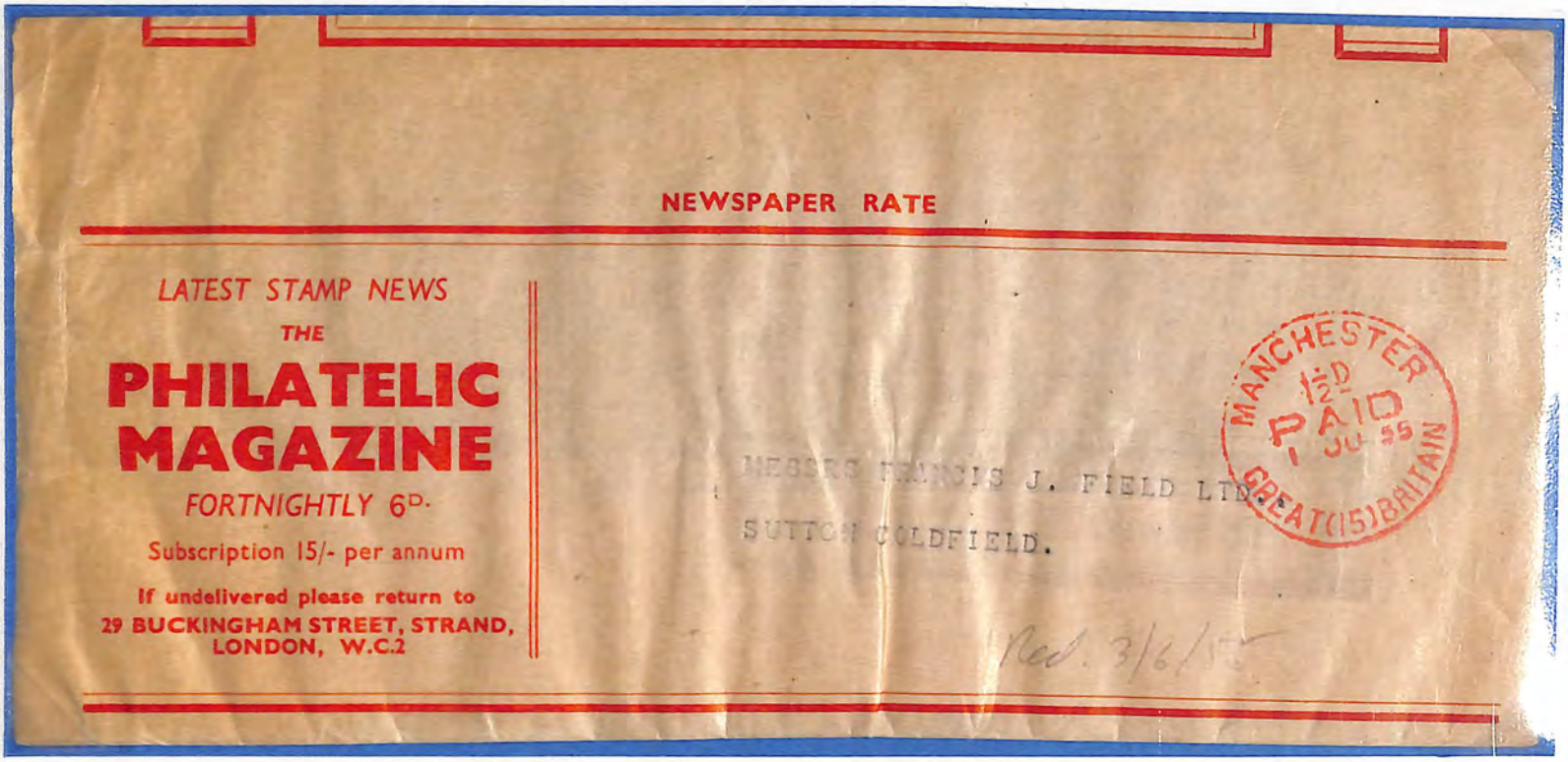
On the 24th November 1937, some test letters were posted at Kirkwall (Orkney) addressed to Lerwick (Shetlands). They were flown by Highland Airways to Inverness (signed by pilot.) where they were transfered to rail to be conveyed to Aberdeen. Again being handed to an Airline (Allied Airways) to be flown to Lerwick. On arrival at Lerwick on the 25th the cover was backstamped. This flight was piloted by Capt. E.A. Starling (cover signed) operating the second flight of the Post Office contract of first class mail to Shetlands.

Backstamp

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE'S TWO & THREE



38 bags of mail were carried from Manchester (Ringway) to Wymeswold on the 2nd June (Route2), where this wrapper was transferred to route 3 to continue its journey to Honily.

P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

06/12/04 ...

INS 643 Value £20 Oct 2003

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE ONE

Cover carried over the entire route from Turnhouse to Northolt.

P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

INS 639 Value £ 15 Oct 2003

06/12/04 ...

191

Mail flown during the

Railway Strike, 1955.

TURNHOUSE ~ NORTHOLT

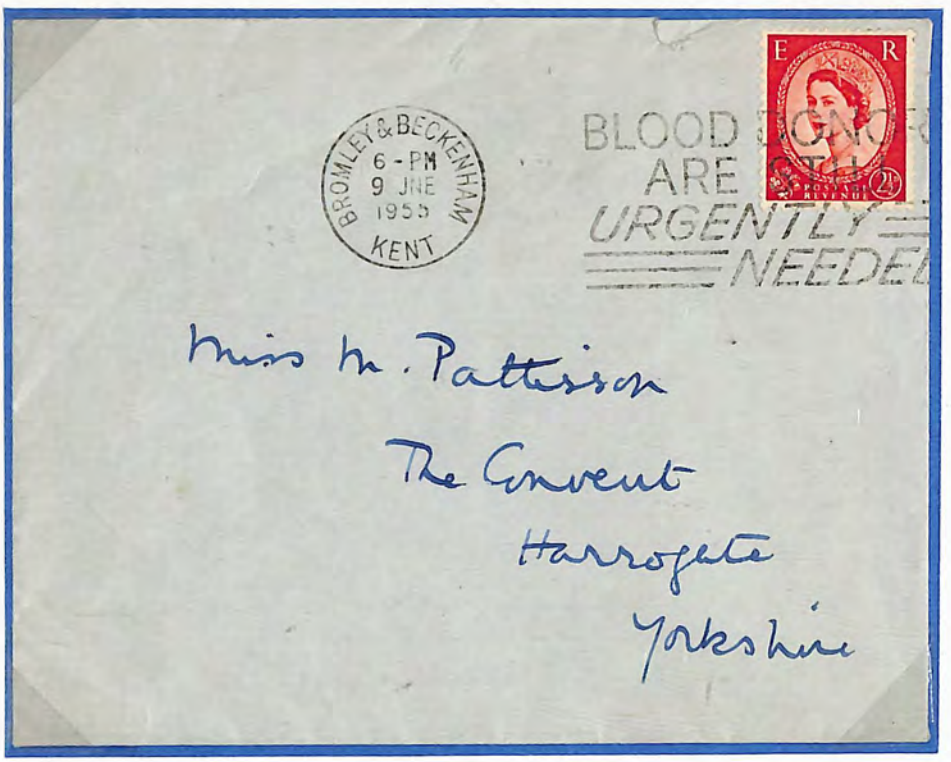
June 15th, 1955

Carried by the R.A.F. on Route 1.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

NORTHBOUND ROUTE ONE



Cover carried from Northolt to Linton on Ouse, being he first leg of the London, Turnhouse route.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

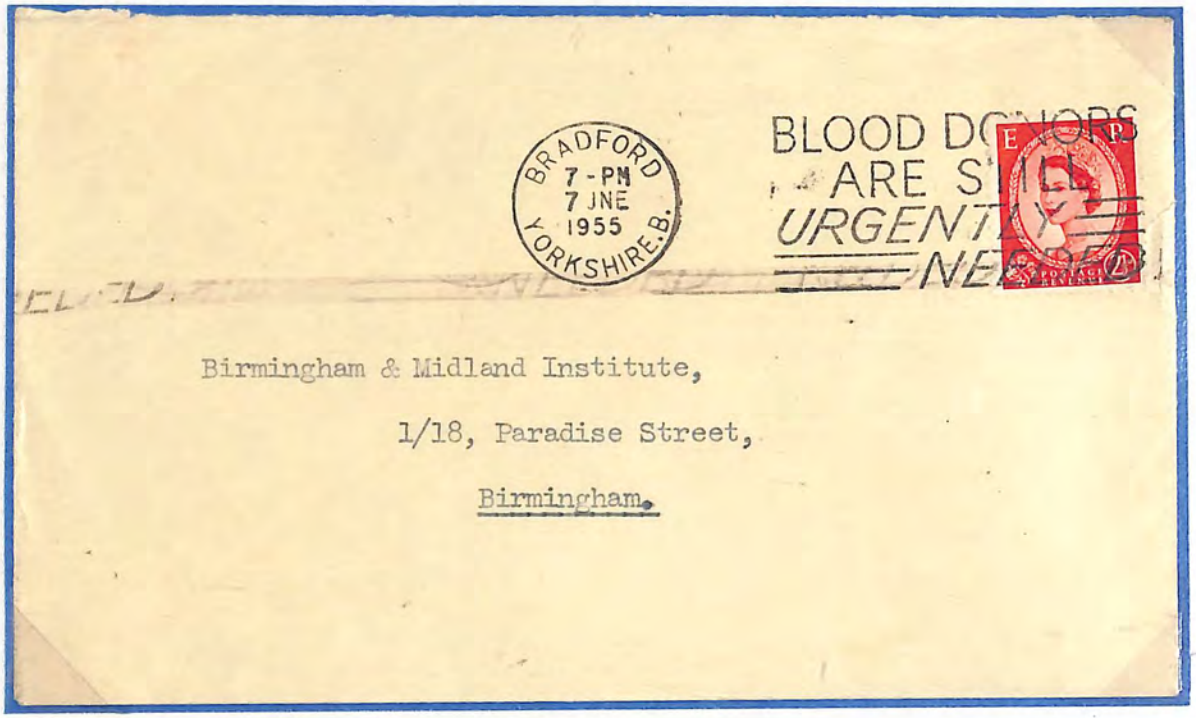
NORTHBOUND ROUTE ONE

Cover dated 2nd June flown on the northbound stages of route one from Northolt to Acklington.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE THREE

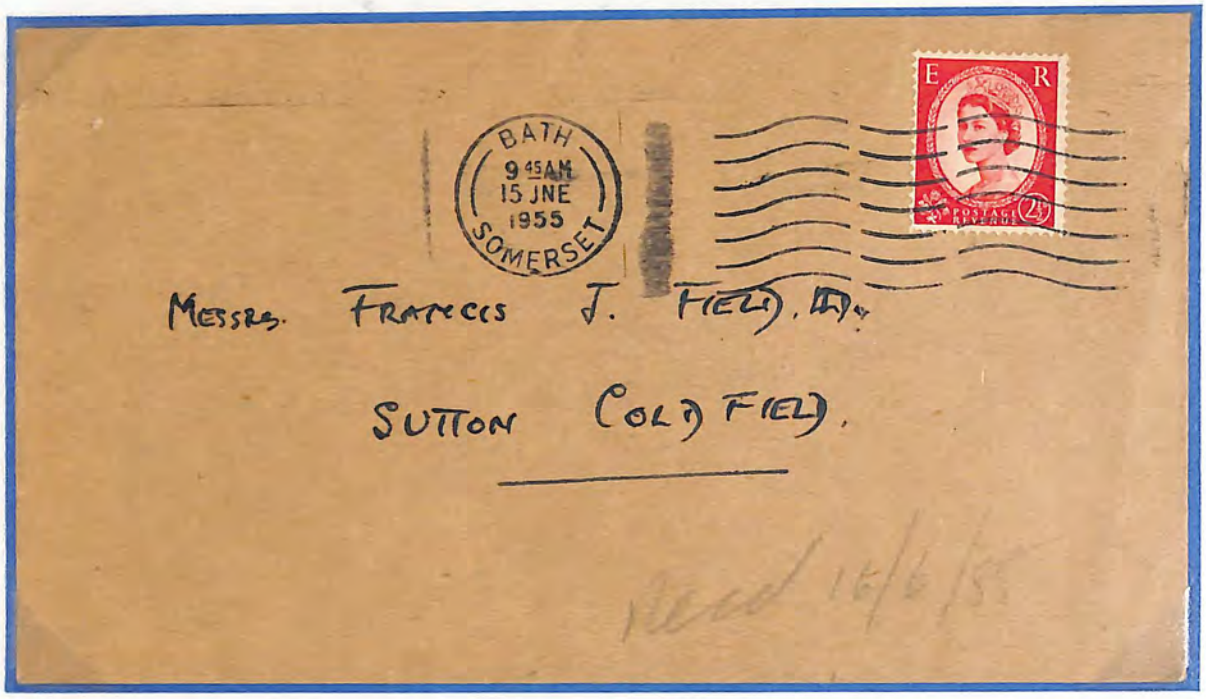


On the 8th June four bags of mail were despatched from Bradford to Birmingham, and flown by the RAF on route three via Wymeswold.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

NORTHBOUND ROUTE THREE



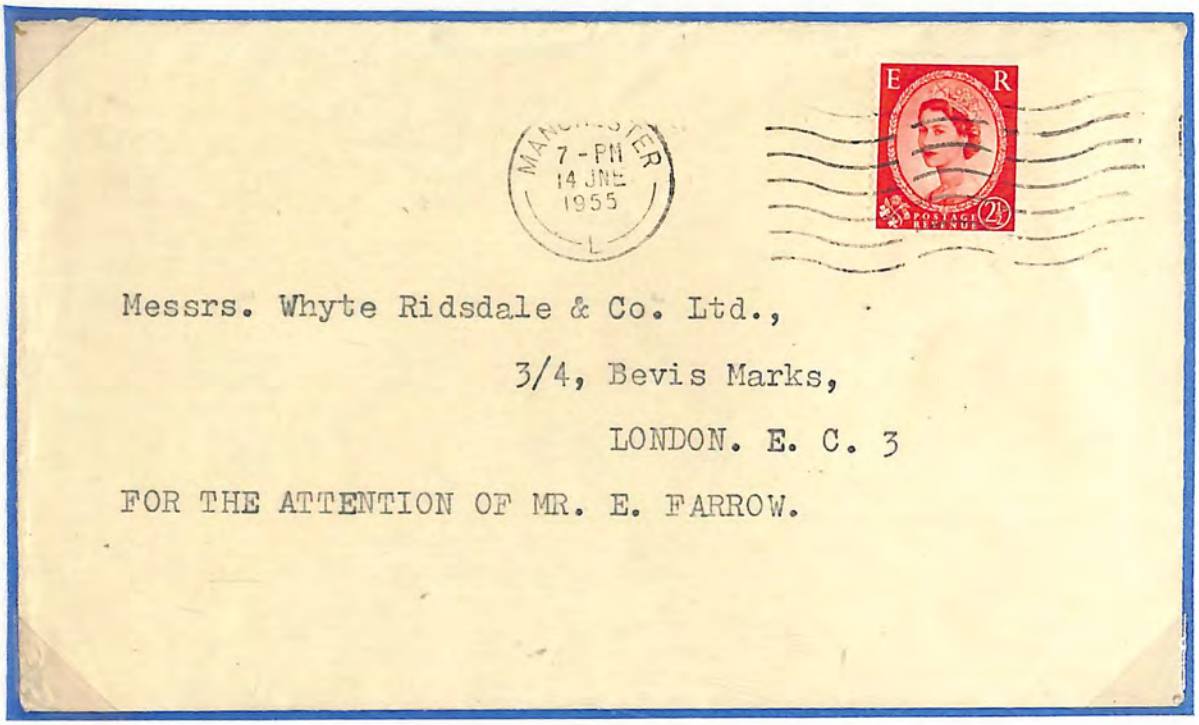
On the 16th June eight bags of mail were despatched from Bath to Birmingham, being flown by the RAF on route three from Filton to Honiley.

In addition to the RAF flights, British European Airways usual mail carrying routes were more intensively used and additional services were flown, operating mainly at night.
Derby Aviation Ltd. also carried newspapers from Blackbush to Exeter and Cardiff using a Dakota 4, G-ANTD.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE TWO



Cover carried over the entire route from Ringway to Northolt.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE ONE

Cover dated 13th June flown on the final leg of
route one from Linton to London (Northolt).

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

NORTHBOUND ROUTE FOUR

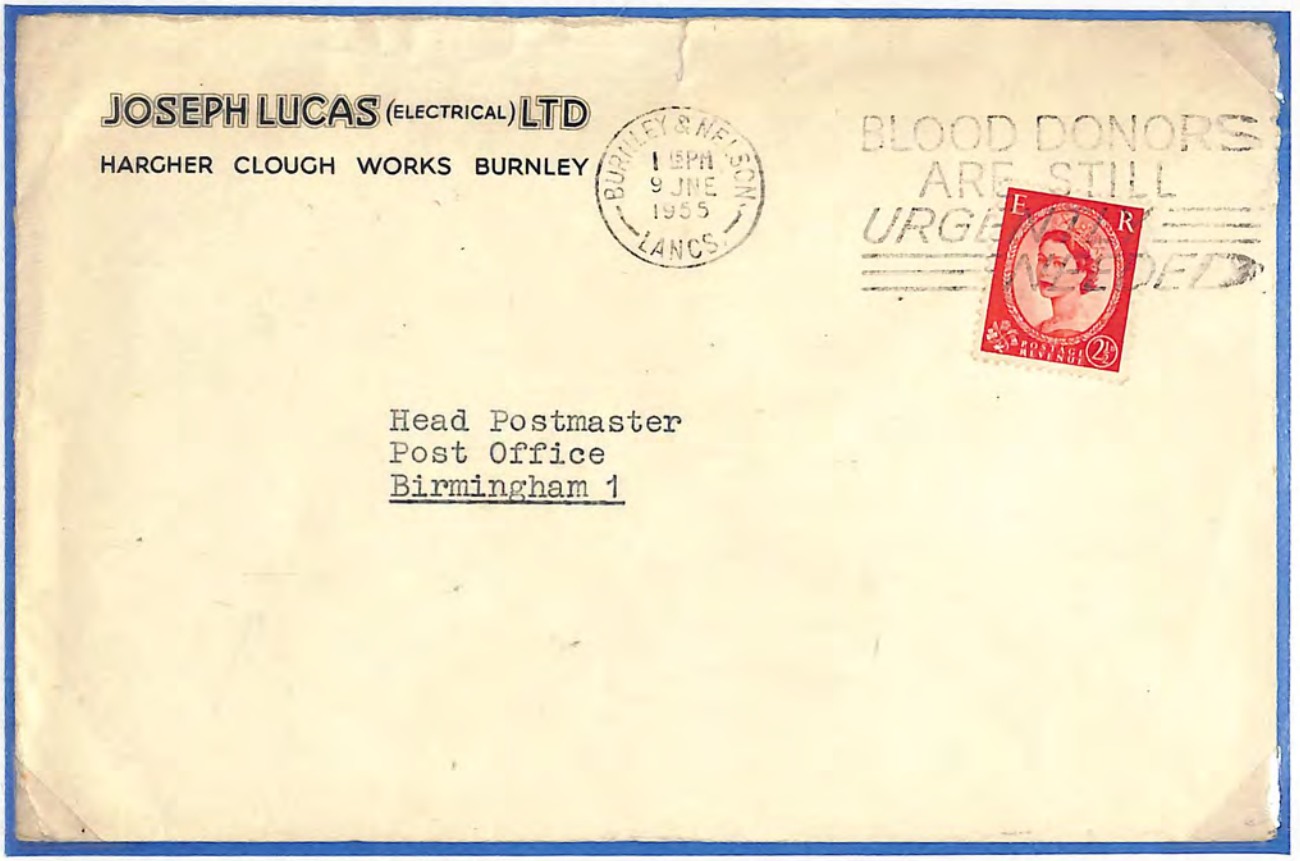
Cover dated 12th June flown on route four from

Exeter to Northolt

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

SOUTHBOUND ROUTE'S TWO & THREE



Mail arrived at Honiley each day for delivery in the Birmingham area. 18 bags were carried to Honiley from Ringway on the 10th June. The above having flown on route 2 from Ringway to Wymeswold and then been transferred on to route 3 for Honiley.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

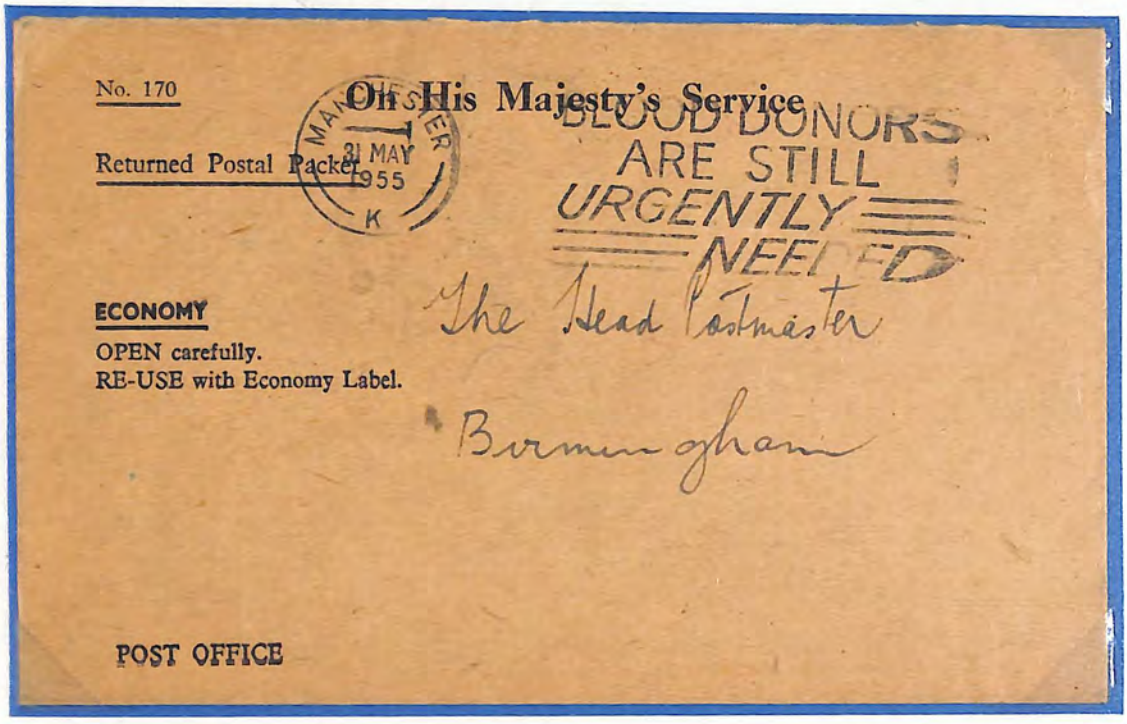
NORTHBOUND ROUTE'S THREE & FOUR

Two bags of mail were sent on the 15th June from Plymouth to Honily, these were flown from Exeter to Filton on route four, they were transferred there to route three to continue the flight to Honiley.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

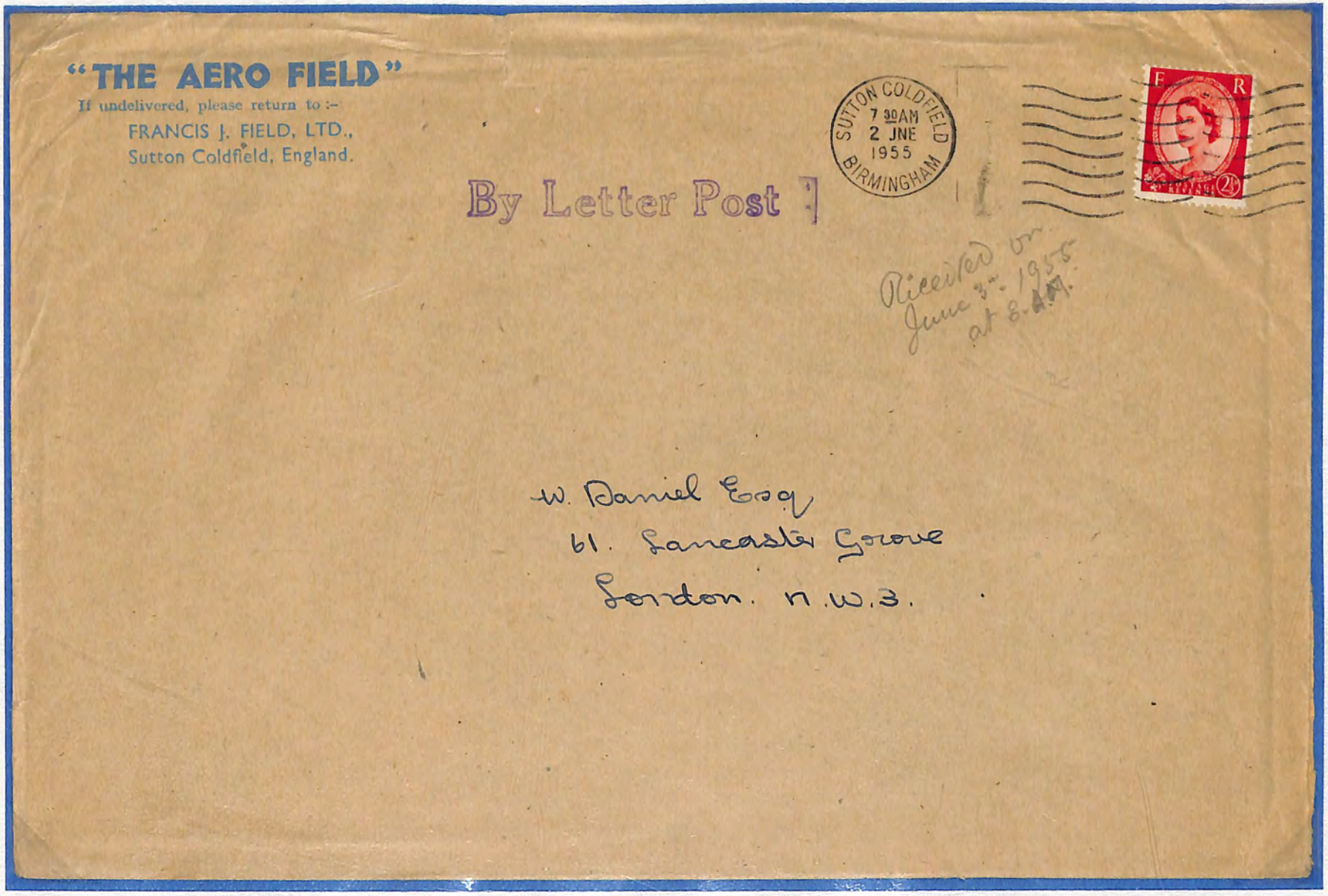
SOUTHBOUND ROUTE'S TWO & THREE



This official cover was carried from Manchester to Birmingham utalising the RAF services. Flown on Route two from Ringway to Wymeswold and thence from Wymeswold to Honiley by route three. Sixteen bags of mail being flown.

1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

Commercial cover from Francis J Field, flown from Birmingham to London via routes 2 & 3



P.Lister
97 Albany Park Avenue
Enfield Highway
EN3 5NX

03/13/06 ...

INS 2010 Value £ 50 January 2006

174

Emergency Air Routes

During the Railway Strike that lasted from May 29th until June 16th, the Royal Air Force operated four emergency mail routes, the first flights being made on June 1st and the last on June 16th. The routes were as follows:

Route No. 1. Northolt to Turnhouse via Linton-on-Ouse and Acklington.

Route No. 2. Northolt to Renfrew via Wymeswold, Ringway and Silloth.

Route No. 3. Filton to Linton-on-Ouse via Honiley and Wymeswold.

Route No. 4. Circular route from Northolt via Filton, Llandow, Exeter, Filton and Northolt.

RAILWAY STRIKE, 1955

R.A.F. air mail routes during Railway Strike, June 1-16, 1955

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sources and destinations with s confirms the assumption that r junctions, for there would be for some of the towns if flight inal route, e.g. Birmingham to own merely to Wymeswold or

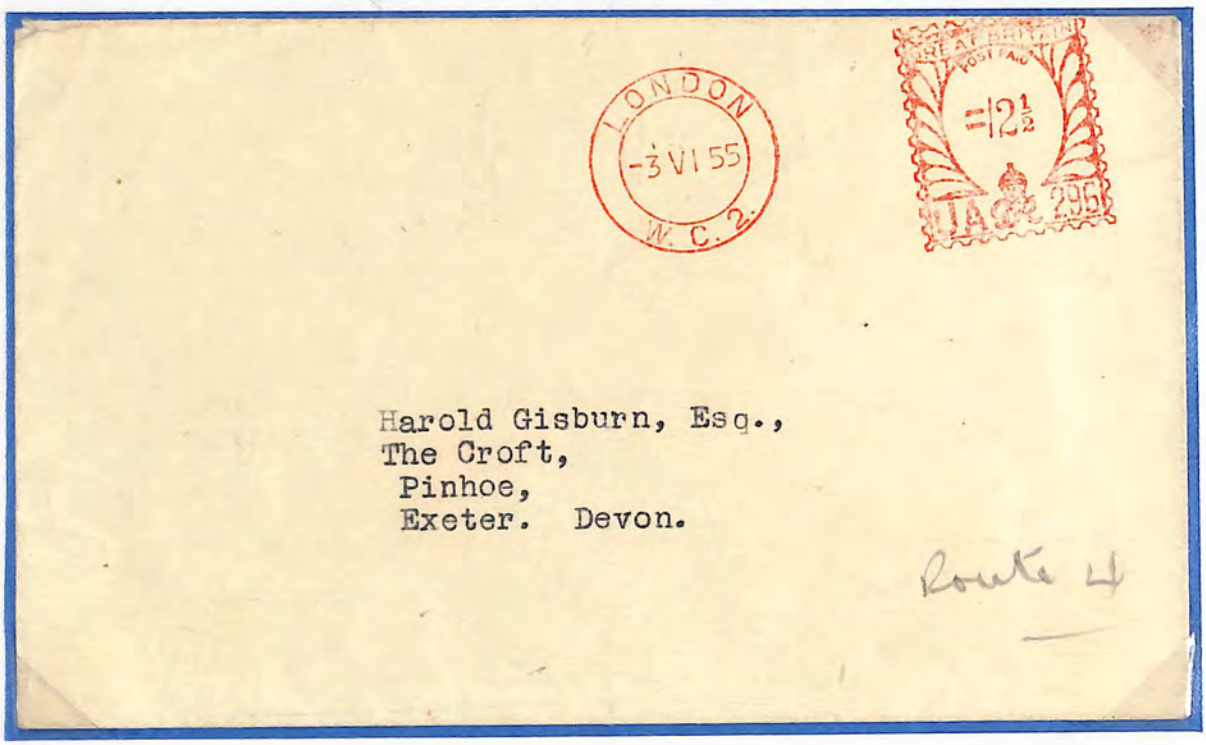
that adopted in Birmingham area other provincial cities, so it should flown covers bearing postmarks nd June 15th.

Field", Sutton Co'dfield, England.

INTERNAL AIRMAILS
DURING THE
1955 RAILWAY STRIKE

1st to 16th June

WESTBOUND ROUTE FOUR



Cover carried on the 3ed June from Northolt to Exeter, via Filton and Llandow, Exeter being the furthest point on the circular route.