

RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM PLYMOUTH

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One

All covers are back  
stamped 29<sup>th</sup> Sept



Covers flown on  
the afternoon  
northbound  
service of route  
one.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

ROUTE ONE

END OF CONTRACT



Cover posted at 3-30pm in Plymouth and flown to Cardiff on the 4-35pm flight which arrived at 5-40pm. As the days flights on the Link service had taken place and the service concluded the mail was transferred to the G.P.O where it received a 6 pm transit postmark. The following day being a Sunday the cover was held and not delivered to Bristol until Monday 1st October.

# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES

END OF CONTRACT

Route 1

29th September 1934



A Railway Letter originating from Preston, carried to Plymouth by L.M.S. where it was posted and entered the G.P.O. system and then flown by Railway Air Services on the last flight of route 1 over the Plymouth - Cardiff stage. The cover bears the Cardiff backstamp of the 29th September.



# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

## ROUTE ONE

## TEIGNMOUTH



Cover bearing a 1 1/2d photogravure stamp on its day of issue, flown from Teignmouth to Cardiff. This was the only day that Teignmouth was included on route one. The newspaper cutting is taken from the 'Liverpool Daily Post' of 21<sup>st</sup> August, which gives a full account of Rodney Beresford's flight and who's signature endorses the cover.

### FIGHT AGAINST STORM

#### PILOT'S TEMPESTUOUS JOURNEY

Captain Ronald Beresford, the pilot, had an exciting story to tell when he returned to Liverpool from Plymouth last evening. Immediately he left Speke, Captain Beresford, who has had eighteen years' flying experience to his credit and was with Kingsford Smith in Australia, was flung violently from his seat against a strut overhead, when he took off his helmet to don the wireless head-phones. After that he deemed it advisable to put on his padded helmet again.

"It was the worst flight in the whole of my flying experience," he said. "A terrific wind was blowing over the mountains, the full force of the violent gusts that lifted the plane spasmodically being experienced after leaving Birmingham over the Wye Valley. There were times," he interposed smilingly, "when I did not know whether the plane was flying me, or I was flying the plane."

Captain Beresford flew the machine at a cruising speed of 110 miles an hour, at which rate over the ground he should have arrived from Birmingham at Bristol in an hour, but actually took an hour and thirty-five minutes, his cruising speed against the wind being cut down to less than sixty miles an hour over the ground. He, nevertheless, arrived back in Liverpool on the return journey according to schedule.

RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

ROUTE ONE

LIVERPOOL - PLYMOUTH

This was the only route which successfully carried out a full service in both directions. The pilot was Rodney Beresford who piloted a De Havilland 'Dragon', the weather however did cause some delays to the schedule.





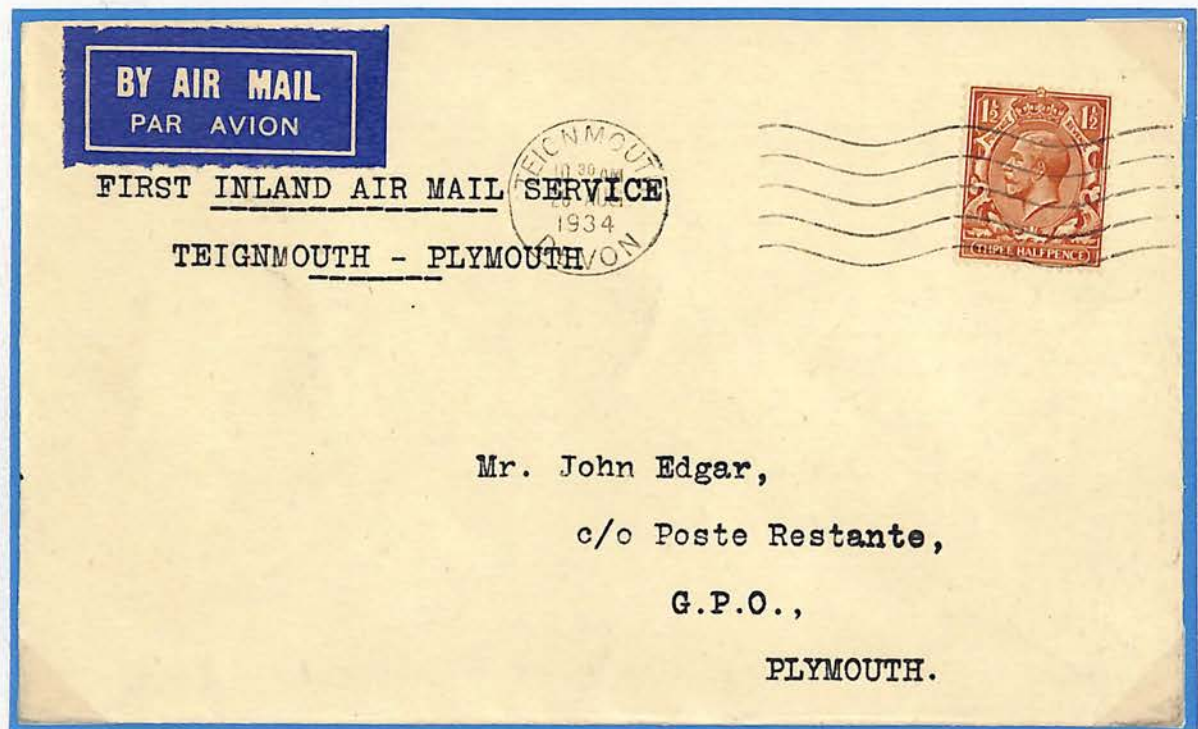
RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

ROUTE ONE

TEIGNMOUTH



Teignmouth was only included in the itinerary of route one on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. Covers flown both to and from Plymouth on this day.





RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

ROUTE ONE

FROM TEIGNMOUTH



Covers fully flown  
on the service on  
20<sup>th</sup> August 1934.

Flown to Cardiff  
where it transferred  
to the link.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

By SURFACE

FROM TEIGNMOUTH



Sent by surface as if  
flown it would have  
to changed to route 2  
at Birmingham and  
again for the shuttle.

Due to the route to  
London being  
shorter than via  
Birmingham it was  
dispatched by  
surface transport.





# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

## G.P.O. NOTICE



## SOUTHAMPTON

## INLAND AIR MAIL

Commencing on the 20th August *Inland Air Mail Services* twice daily will be established on weekdays between Southampton and Birmingham, Bristol and Cowes at the following times :—

					p.m.	p.m.
Southampton Airport	...	...	...	dep.	12.20	5.15
Bristol (Whitchurch Aerodrome)	...	...	...	arr.	1. 0	5.55
Birmingham (Castle Bromwich Aerodrome)	...	...	...	arr.	2. 0	6.55
					a.m.	p.m.
Southampton Airport	...	...	...	dep.	11.20	4. 0
Cowes (Somerton Aerodrome)	...	...	...	arr.	11.30	4.10

The first service from Southampton to Birmingham will connect with Air Mail Services to Belfast, Douglas (Isle of Man), Glasgow and Manchester, and the second Service with an Air Mail Service to Liverpool.

## RATES OF POSTAGE

The rates of postage will be 1½d. for the first 2oz. and 1d. for each subsequent ounce, for postcards 1d. each ; that is to say, there will be no increase in charge as compared with the ordinary service for letters not exceeding 2oz. in weight, and for postcards.

## USE OF AIR MAIL LABELS

All correspondence intended for despatch by Air Mail should bear a blue Air Mail label, and if one is not available, letters should be clearly endorsed "By Air Mail" on the left hand top corner of the envelope.

## POSTINGS & COLLECTIONS

The latest times of posting in Southampton for the places mentioned other than Cowes, will be as follows :—

Head Post Office	...	...	...	...	11.15 a.m.	4. 0 p.m.
Ogle Road Branch P.O.	...	...	...	...	11. 0 a.m.	3.15 p.m.
Docks Branch P.O.	...	...	...	...	11. 0 a.m.	3.20 p.m.
General Collections from Street Letter Boxes					8. 0 a.m.	2.30 p.m.
between					and	and
					9. 0 a.m.	3.30 p.m.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One

Covers flown both  
north & southbound  
from Southampton  
on the last flights of  
route one.



All covers bear  
appropriate back  
stamps.

John S. Davis Esq.,  
Poste Restante,  
BRISTOL.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

ROUTE THREE

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

Covers fully flown  
on the service on 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 1934.



MISPLACED  
BLACK  
S.S.M. ↑  
3.0 →



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

ROUTE THREE & TWO

FROM SOUTHAMPTON



Covers fully flown  
on the service on 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 1934.



Flown to Birmingham  
where they transferred  
to route two.

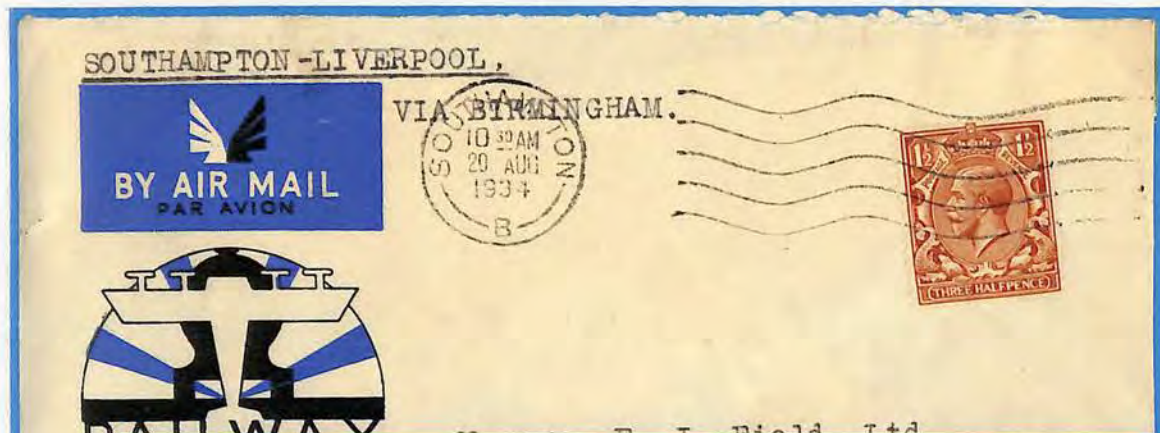




RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

COMBINED ROUTES

FROM SOUTHAMPTON



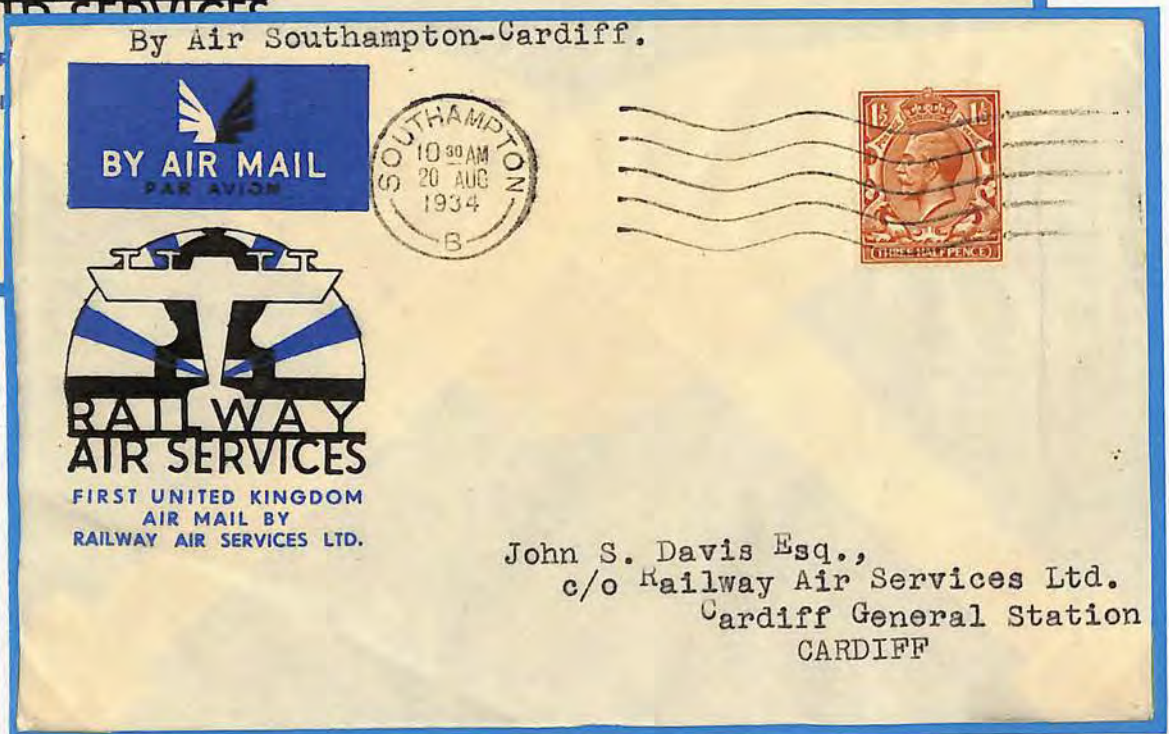
Covers fully flown  
on the service on 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 1934.

Liverpool : Route 1  
From Birmingham



Douglas: Shuttle from  
Manchester.

Cardiff: Link from  
Bristol by Norman  
Edgar.





RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One

Covers flown  
northbound to  
Birmingham  
thence on route  
two.



All covers bear  
appropriate back  
stamps.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One & Three

Both covers are back  
stamped October 1<sup>st</sup>  
at Plymouth.



Covers prepared for the last flights of routes one & three, however there was never any service from Southampton to these destinations, due to the distance by surface being much shorter than by the air routes.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One & Three

Cover flown from  
Southampton to  
Bristol, thence by  
the link to Cardiff.



Cover flown from  
Southampton to  
Birmingham on  
route one thence  
route three to  
Liverpool.





## LIVERPOOL

### AIR MAILS

#### INLAND SERVICES

On and from the 20th August, an experimental Air Mail Service will operate Daily (Sundays excepted) between Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Plymouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight, and postal packets as under-mentioned may be posted for inclusion in Mails which will be made up for those places.

Any kind of letter packet may be sent by Air Mail and the ordinary arrangements for registration and express delivery will apply, but for the present definite acceleration will be obtained only in the case of correspondence for the places indicated.

The Air Mail will reach the Head Post Offices of the respective places approximately as follows :—

Birmingham	...	...	...	...	...	10.15 a.m.
Bristol	...	...	...	...	...	11.30 a.m.
Cardiff	...	...	...	...	...	11.15 a.m.
Cowes, I.O.W	...	...	...	...	...	12 noon
Plymouth	...	...	...	...	...	12.30 p.m.
Southampton	...	...	...	...	...	12 noon

The acceleration afforded by the use of the service is that after the closing times for the Night Mail for the destinations indicated, letters posted up to and including the times mentioned overleaf will secure delivery the same afternoon.





Railway Air Services.

1934.

Liverpool - Plymouth - Liverpool.

*The Liverpool - Plymouth line opened on May 7<sup>th</sup>, but mail was not officially accepted until Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Time Table of Liverpool - Plymouth service.*

**AIR**  
**RAILWAY SERVICES**

**PLYMOUTH**  
**TEIGNMOUTH**  
**CARDIFF**  
**BIRMINGHAM**  
**LIVERPOOL**



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES

(3328)

## MAIL LIST

AIRCRAFT

DATE

3<sup>rd</sup>  
30 Nov

TIME

1130

FROM

LIVERPOOL

TO

LONDON

200 Pairs 100 lbs. (1) 400L

No. OF BAGS	ORIGIN*	DESTINATION*	WEIGHT (in lbs.)	TOTAL WEIGHT (lbs.)
1	MANCHESTER	LONDON	1 lb 6 oz	2

\*For completion only when mail is labelled from or to towns not served by the Air Services.



BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

First flight  
LIVERPOOL-GLASGOW



FIRST FLIGHT

71 Rodney St  
L7.50 Liverpool 1

Mr John S. Davis.,

~~Poste Restante,~~

~~GLASGOW.~~

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

By 1st Liverpool-Belfast.



R. A. King, Esq.,  
9, Seymour St.,  
Lisburn,  
N. IRELAND.

72



# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

AIR & SURFACE

FROM LIVERPOOL



Flown from Liverpool  
on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1934  
to Birmingham and  
thence by surface due  
to weather conditions.  
Arrived and re posted  
at Cowes on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
and again re posted  
(1/2d) at Birmingham  
on the 22<sup>nd</sup>



A scarce F.F.Field  
'Map' cover flown  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.





RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

AIR & SURFACE

FROM LIVERPOOL



Flown from Liverpool  
on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1934  
as far as Birmingham  
and thence by surface  
to London due to the  
weather conditions.

Fully flown on route  
1 to Cardiff where  
its transferred to the  
link to Bristol.





RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

NON EXISTANT ROUTES

FROM LIVERPOOL



LIVERPOOL  
20 AUG  
MANCHESTER  
A



LIVERPOOL  
- GLASGOW  
1934  
A



ces  
dilly



Liverpool  
- Douglas  
1934  
A



ces



A Phillips  
Railway Air Services  
L.M.S. Office, 7 Parade Street  
DOUGLAS ISLE OF MAN



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

ROUTE ONE SOUTHBOUND

FROM LIVERPOOL



Fully flown from  
Liverpool on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 1934.



A Phillips  
Railway Air Services  
North Road Station  
PLYMOUTH



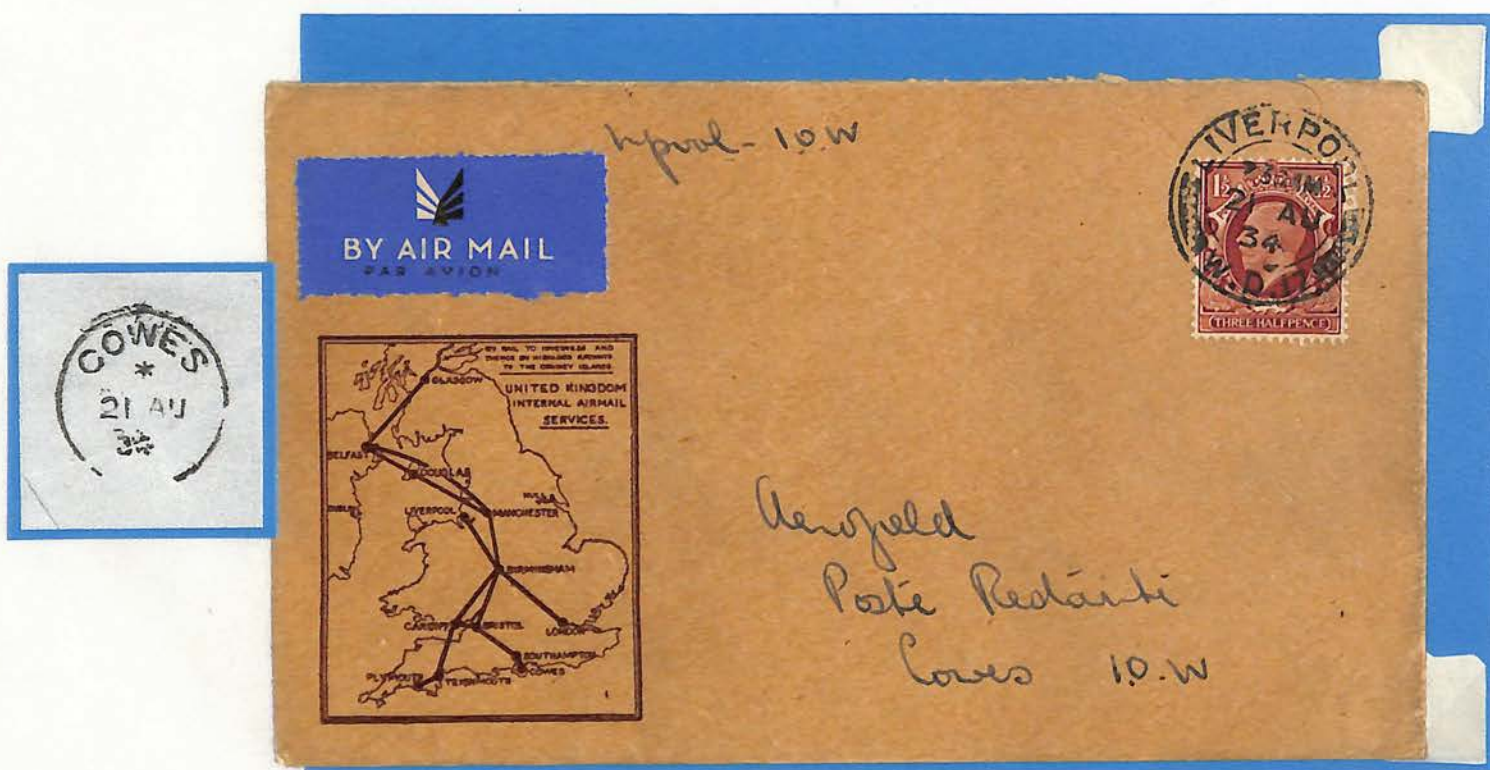
RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 1934

FROM LIVERPOOL



F.J.Field covers  
fully flown to  
their destinations  
on a combination  
of routes.





# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

## ROUTE ONE

### LIVERPOOL - PLYMOUTH

Extract from the Liverpool 'Daily Post' of 21st August 1934.



MR. J. A. ECKES, chairman of the Postal Advisory Committee of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, presenting a blue Royal Air Mail pennant to Captain Beresford, pilot, at yesterday's inauguration of the inland air mail services at Liverpool Airport.

"DAILY POST."

## NEW LIVERPOOL AIR SERVICE

### TO PLYMOUTH AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Yet another air service from Liverpool Airport was officially inaugurated yesterday. It is between Liverpool and the Isle of Wight, and is operated by the Railway Air Services, which is sponsored by the railways and Imperial Airways, Ltd.

A 'plane for Plymouth has been leaving Liverpool Airport daily, but with this new service there will be scheduled services to Cardiff, Teignmouth, Southampton, and Cowes.

An eight-seater twin-engined liner operates the service, and when it left, shortly before nine, there were four passengers. It returned last night about 7.45, and brought three passengers.

The full journey to Plymouth is scheduled to take about four hours. This new service will be run on modest lines at first, but should demand warrant it, extensions will at once be made.

The fares are as follow:—Cardiff 45s (single), and 70s (return); Southampton 65s and 110s, Cowes 70s and 117s 6d, Teignmouth 80s and 115s, and Plymouth 85s and 120s.

"This service will test still further the extent of the demand throughout the country as a whole for more and efficient air travel facilities," said an official. "Liverpool seems destined to become one of the great air centres of the country. We are proceeding with caution and ensuring financial stability by making the supply approximate, as closely as possible, with the demand."



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

FROM LIVERPOOL

29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1934

Last Acceptances for Route One

Both covers are back  
stamped 29<sup>th</sup> Sept.



. Davis Esq.,  
e Restante,  
ARDIFF.



Flown to Plymouth  
thence by road to  
Teignmouth.

John S. Davis Esq.,  
Poste Restante,  
TEIGNMOUTH.



# RAILWAY AIR SERVICES

## NEW CONTRACT

### SOUTHBOUND

Airmail to London  
Railway Air Services Ltd  
First flight under new  
contract December 2.1935



FIRST FLIGHT



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES LTD.  
AIRWAY TERMINUS, VICTORIA, S.W.1.

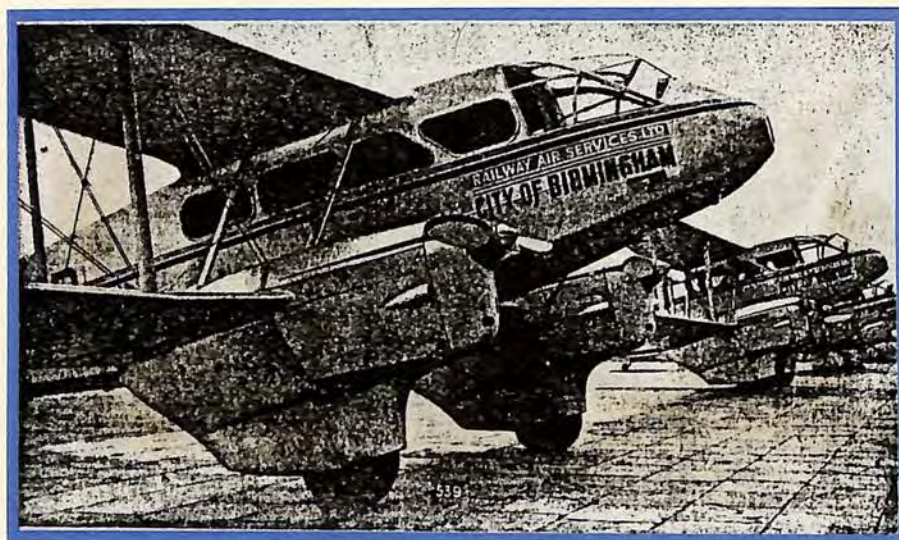
Recd 4 PM. 2 DEC 1935

PILOT

*E.F. Finnegan*

Mr J. Stephen.,  
c/o Railway Air Services Ltd  
Airway Terminus  
Victoria Station  
LONDON. S.W. 1.

On the 2nd December 1935, Railway Air Services regained the northern mail contract from Hillman Airways. The first south-bound flight was made by Capt. E.F. Finnegan piloting 'City of Birmingham' (G-ACPR). Liverpool - London stage displayed.





RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

END OF CONTRACT

ROUTE THREE (SOUTHBOUND)



all three stages of route 3 on the last Southbound  
they are backstamped 29th. All covers originated from Liverpool  
and flew the Liverpool - Birmingham stage last flight of route one.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

ROUTE TWO

END OF CONTRACT

Due to the R.A.S. mail plane being damaged on landing at Speke (Liverpool) it was not possible to forward by air, mail that was addressed to destinations in the north.



Hence both of these sou  
to there destinations where t

sea  
1st Dec.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

ROUTE TWO

SUBSTITUTION OF LIVERPOOL

TIME TABLE OF SERVICE

	am	pm
Belfast (Aldergrove) ...dep.	9-45	arr. 1-30
Liverpool (Speke) ...arr.	11-10	dep. 12-05
	dep. 11-30	am
	pm	arr. 11-45
London (Croydon) ...arr.	1-00	dep. 10-15



FLOWN LIVERPOOL - LONDON

On 1st November 1934, an entirely new time table came into operation. It substituted Liverpool for Birmingham & Manchester thus Liverpool was put into regular aerial contact with Ireland and Scotland as well as Croydon for London.



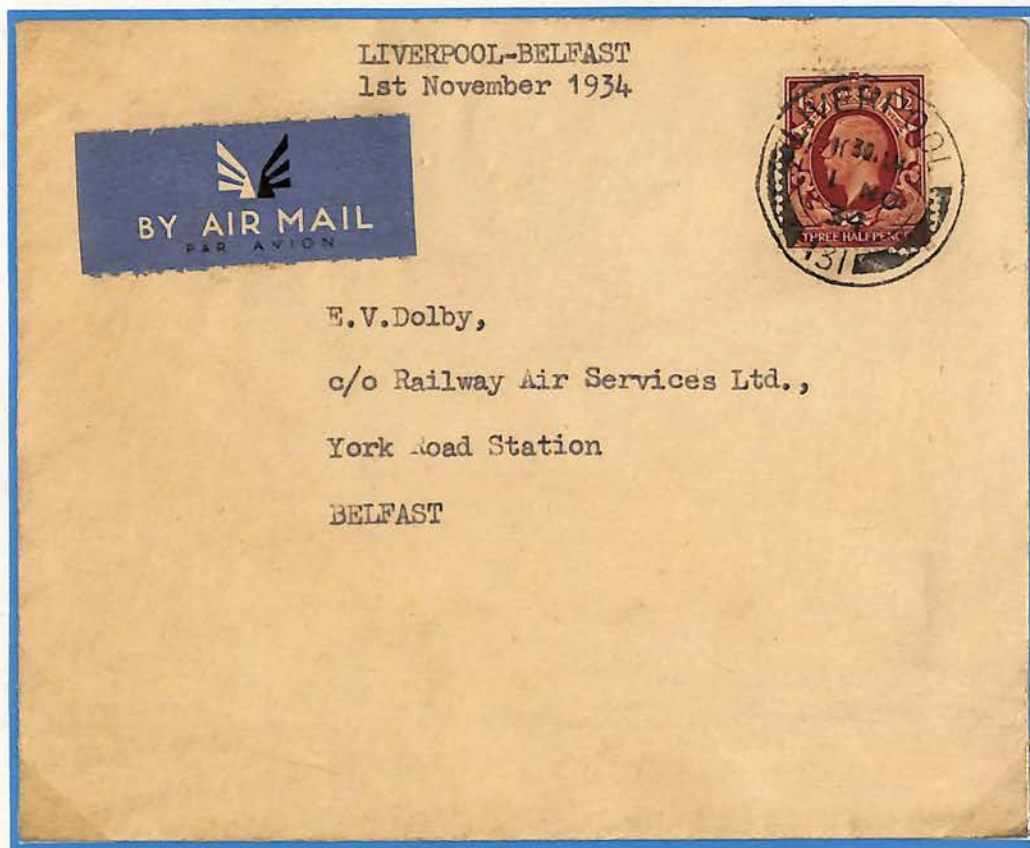
RAILWAY AIR SERVICES Ltd.

1<sup>st</sup> November 1934

TEST LETTER

London – Liverpool – Belfast – Glasgow

Liverpool - Belfast



On this date the revised route came into operation where Liverpool replaced Birmingham and Manchester. A few test letters were sent by E. V. Dolby as test letters on behalf of Railway Air Services.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

CHANGE OF ROUTE

1ST NOV. 1934

An amendment to the main route (No 2) London - Glasgow was made, replacing Birmingham and Manchester with Liverpool the main service was now between Belfast and Croydon via Liverpool and a connecting service between Belfast @ Glasgow.

RAILWAY AIR SERVICES

(3328)

MAIL LIST

AIRCRAFT

*Dolphin*

DATE

*Nov 1st*

TIME

*11-*

FROM

*Liverpool*

TO

*London*

200 Pairs 100 lbs. (11) 8-11

No. OF BAGS	ORIGIN*	DESTINATION*	WEIGHT (in lbs.)	TOTAL WEIGHT (lbs.)
<i>3</i>			<i>2lb 10oz</i>	
<i>2</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>1lb 6oz</i>	<i>5</i>

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION



LIVERPOOL-LONDON

First flight

FIRST FLIGHT

Mr John S. Davis.,

83, St. Georges Sq,

LONDON. S. W. 1.



RAILWAY AIR SERVICES, LTD.

ROUTE TWO

END OF CONTRACT

On the 30th November the mail carrying contract for the G.P.O. came to an end. Unfortunately an accident prevented some of the mails from being flown. The example below was the only stage from Liverpool on which mail was flown.

RAILWAY AIR SERVICES

(3328)

MAIL LIST

AIRCRAFT

DATE

TIME

FROM

TO

300 Pads 100 lbs. (11) 8-34.

No. OF BAGS	ORIGIN*	DESTINATION*	WEIGHT (in lbs.)	TOTAL WEIGHT (lbs.)
1		LONDON EC	5lb 11oz	6
1		LONDON SW	1lb 8oz	2
1		LONDON SS	2lb	2

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Last despatch by  
Railway Air Services Ltd  
(November 30, 1934)  
LIVERPOOL-LONDON



J. S. Davis.,  
c/o S.D. Barfoot Esq.,  
11, Cecil Road,  
MUSWELL HILL.  
London. N. 10.

71 Rodney St  
Liverpool