

## Pan American Airways Route 5.

### The LATI substitute "U" service, January to April 1942.

Route 5 was the hastily introduced LATI substitute "U" service, which carried mail on an irregular schedule between Natal, Brazil and Lisbon, with occasional calls at Bathurst, Gambia (from 8<sup>th</sup> March 1942) to enable Allied censorship of Axis mail.

The flight path was New York – Bermuda – San Juan – Port of Spain (Trinidad) – Belem – Natal – Fisherman's Lake – Bolama – Lisbon, reversing direction at Lisbon and returning by the same route. This flight path when shown on a map describes a large letter "U" which led to the name for the route.

The first Route 5 flight began as Special Mission No. 9 which, on returning from its diplomatic mission to Rio de Janeiro, picked up mail at Natal and flew it to Lisbon. Mail was loaded at Natal on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1942, arriving in Lisbon on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The aircraft left Lisbon on the same day and returned to New York via the southern route Lisbon-Bolama-Natal-Trinidad-San Juan-New York, apparently over-flying Bermuda on this occasion.

The last flight on Route 5 was No. 5013 leaving New York on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1942, returning as 5014 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. The "LATI substitute" flights were then re-scheduled as Routes 7 and 8 flying the "O" service in opposite directions around the South Atlantic.

Despite the urgent need for Allied censorship of Axis mail carried between Europe and South America, the only Route 5 flights to call at Bathurst, Gambia, were 5005 en route northward to Lisbon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1942 and 5007 also travelling northbound on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1942. This latter flight was the first occasion on which actual mail censorship took place. During the period from January to May 1942, Axis mail travelled largely uncensored between Europe and South America, much to the astonishment and delight of Nazi Germany and (Nazi?) Switzerland.

The following records are missing from the Archive: Flights 5001/2; 5003/4. However, flight 5001/2 is recorded in the records of Special Mission 09 as above. Flight 5003/4 dates are not yet confirmed.

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY  
 ATLANTIC DIVISION  
 Trip Summary - TransAtlantic

Route	Times G. C. T.		Performance						Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks	
	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. G1/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid Exp. Lbs.	No. Paid Psgrs.				
Trip 5005	Date														
NBA-JUA	2/20/42	0125	1250	11:25	132	132	0	208	8000	4.4	0	20 HST 4 LBN	Ptly to Ovc. Rain		
JUA-SPA	2/20/42	1433	1930	4:57	137	118	-19		8000	0	0	0	Ptly		
SPA-BEL	2/21/42	1042	2032	9:50	138	113	-25	218	8000	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy Rain		
BEL-NAT	2/22/42	0948	1703	7:15	142	124	-18		8000	4.4	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
NAT-HST	2/22-23/42	1919	0914	13:55	129	120	-9		1000 9000	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc. Rain		
HST-BLO	2/23/42	1313	1505	1:52	130	132	/2		4000	315	0	0	Clear		
BLO-LBN	2/23-24/42	1920	1140	16:20	132	119	-13	198	8000 9000	4.4	0	0	Clear to Cldy Rain		
													Total Time: 65:34		
Trip 5006															
LBN-BLO	2/24-25/42	2202	1246	14:44	132	131	-1	195	1000 8000	961	15.4	1 NAT 25 NBA	Clear to Cldy		
BLO-NAT	2/25-26/42	1912	0814	13:02	132	136	/4		8000	0	0	0	Clear to Ovc. Rain		
NAT-BEL	2/26/42	1036	1638	6:02	142	152	/10		8000 10000	0	0	7 JUA	Ptly		
BEL-SPA	2/27/42	1053	1825	7:32	136	146	/10	240	8000	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
SPA-JUA	2/28/42	1527	2010	4:43	137	131	-6		1500	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
JUA-NBA	2/28-3/1/42	2222	1136	13:14	127	118	-9	212	8500 9500	0	0	0	Clear to Cldy		
GENERAL REMARKS: Mail weights listed are local loads only.													Total Time 59:17		

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY  
 ATLANTIC DIVISION  
 Trip Summary - TransAtlantic

Route	Times G. C. T.		Performance							Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks
	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. G1/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid Exp. Lbs.	No. Paid Psgrs.				
Trip 5007	Date														
NBA-JUA	3/5/42	0225	1413	11:48	130	135	-5	202	8000	0	0	22 LBN	Clear to Cldy		
JUA-SPA	3/5/42	1611	2125	5:14	133	116	-17	204	8000- 9000	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
SPA-BEL	3/6/42	1043	1957	9:14	136	126	-10	233	8500	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc.		
BEL-NAT	3/7/42	1000	1730	7:30	132	124	-8	241	8500	40	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
NAT-HST	3/7-8/42	1927	1231	17:04	132	110	-22	204	9000 8000	90	0	2 HST	Ptly to Cldy Rain		
HST-BLO	3/8/42	1633	1821	1:48	130	126	-4	224	8000	0	0	0	Clear		
BLO-LBN	3/9-10/42	1505	0647	15:42	132	135	/3	197	5000 8000	4.4	0	0	Clear to Ptly		
													Total Time: 68:20		
Trip 5008															
LBN-BLO	8/10-11/42	1743	1341	19:58	128	109	-19	189	8000	1111	22.	5 NAT 17 NBA	Clear to Cldy		
BLO-NAT	3/11-12/42	1930	0900-	13:30	126	146	/20	193	8000	0	0	0	Clear to Ptly		
NAT-BEL	3/12/42	1202	1812	6:10	143	153	/10	218	10000	0	0	9 JUA 17 NBA	Ptly		
BEL-SPA	3/13/42	1101	1935	8:34	132	131	-1	202	8000	0	0	0	Ptly		
SPA-JUA	3/14/42	1600	2100	5:00	132	131	-1	218	8000	0	0	0	Clear to Ptly		
JUA-NBA	3/15-16-42	2145	1111	13:26	129	114	-15	201	8000 9000	0	0	0	Clear to Ptly		

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PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Trip Summary-TransAtlantic

Route		Times C. C. T.		Performance						Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks
Trip	Date	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. Gl/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid No. Exp. Lbs.	Paid No. Psgrs.			
NBA-MIA	3/16/42	1512	2335	8:23	134	124	-10	200	800	0	0	10 BLO 8 LBN	Clear to Ovc.		
MIA-JUA	3/17/42	0530	1320	7:50	131	128	-3	192	8000	0	1982	2 NAT 9 LBN 30 RIO 1 BLO	Ptly		
JUA-SPA	3/17/42	1521	2000	4:39	132	125	-7	243	8000	132	0	0	Ptly to Cldy		
SPA-BEL	3/17-18/42	2100	0738	10:38	137	115	-22	200	8000	0	0		Clear to Ovc. Rain		
BEL-NAT	3/19/42	0924	1707	7:43	132	120	-12	231	8000	0	0	0	Cldy. to Ovc.		
NAT-FSH	3/19-20/42	1940	0956	14:16	135	119	-16	210	9000	0	0	0	Clear to Ovc.		
FSH-BLO	3/20/42	1158	1536	3:38	133	132	-11	202	4000	0	0	0	Cldy - Hazy		
BLO-BLO	3/21/42	1656	1815	1:59	121	121	0	0	-	0	0	0			Ret. Blo. due Mechanical trouble
BLO-BLO	3/22/42	1020	1154	1:34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-- --		Test Flight
BLO-BLO	3/22/42	1646	2021	3:50	114	109	-5	0	-	-	-	0	-- ---		Ret. BLO. Due Mechanical trouble
BLO-BLO	3/29/42	0843	1145	4:42	130	130	0	-	0	-	-	-			Test Flight
BLO-LBN	3/29/30/42	1012	11:36	16:24	134	128	-6	294	8000	8.8	0	3 LBN			

Total Time: 85:36

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Trip Summary-TransAtlantic

Route		Times G. C. T.		Performance						Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks
Trip	Date	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. Gl/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid Exp. Lbs.	No. Psgrs.			
LBN-BLO	3/30-31/42	1837	1113	16:36	134	132	-2	200	8000	1583	150	8 NAT 16 NBA	Hazy - Clear to Ptly		
BLO-NAT	3/31/-4/1	1936	0832	12:56	131	141	/10	200	8000	0	0	0	Clear to Cldy - Hazy		
NAT-BEL	4/1/42	1116	1751	6:35	139	151	/12	191	9000 8000	0	0	2 SPA	Cldy to Ovc. - Hazy		
BEL-SPA	4/2/42	0955	1804	8:09	137	139	/ 2	214	8100	0	0	0	Clear to Ptly		
SPA-JUA	4/3/42	1500	1935	4:35	140	129	-11	214	8000	0	0	3 NBA	Clear to Ptly		
JUA-NBA	4/3-4/42	2125	0900	11:35	133	134	/ 1	210	8000	0	0	0	Clear to Ovc.		

Total Time: 60:26

GENERAL REMARKS: Mail weights listed are local loads only.

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Trip Summary - TransAtlantic

Route		Times G. C. T.		Performance						Cargo				Weather	Delays	Remarks
Trip	Date	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. Gl/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid Exp. Lbs.	No. Paid Psgrs.				
NBA+JUA	4/13/42	0200	1302	11:02	129	135	/6	217	10,000	0	1372	9 FSH 1 NAT 1 LBN	Clear to Cldy			
JUA -SPA	4/13/42	1512	1934	4:22	139	131	-8	196	8,000	0	0	0	Ptly			
SPA-BEL	4/14/42	1124	2036	9:12	134	121	-13	236	8,000	0	1669	4 BEL	Ptly to Cldy - Rain			
BEL-NAT	4/15/42	1028	1754	7:26	138	127	-11	236	10,000	0	104	0	Ptly to Cldy			
NAT-FSH	4/15-16/42	2006	0854	12:48	135	127	-8	220	9000 10000	2235	0	1 LBN	Clear to Cldy			
FSH-BLO	4/16/42	1016	1332	3:16	139	130	-9	206	7000	0	0	0	Hazy			
BLO-LBN	4/17-18/42	1402	0550	15:48	136	144	/8	210	9000	4.4	0	0	Clear to Cldy - Hazy			
													Total Time: 63:54			
<u>Trip 5012</u>																
LBN-BLO	4/18-19/42	1832	1206	17:34	132	127	-10	194	8000 10000	705	68	2 FSH 7 NAT 9 NBA	Clear to Cldy - Hazy			
BLO-BLO	4/20/42	1012	1038	:26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	- - - -		Test flight for Engines	
BLO-FSH	4/20/42	1326	1823	4:57	118	105	-13	230	8000	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy			
FSH-NAT	4/20-21/42	1916	0820	13:04	135	148	/13	203	8000 10000	0	0	0	Clear to Ovc			
NAT-BEL	4/21/42	1208	1750	5:42	142	165	/23	220	8000	0	0	0	Ptly			

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Trip Summary - Transatlantic

Route	Times G. C. T.		Performance							Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks
	Date	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Deck Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. G1/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Exp. Paid Lbs.	No. Paid Psgrs.			
BEL-SPA	4/22/42	0842	1618	7:30	140	152	/12	199	10000	0	0	0	Cldy		
SPA-JUA	4/22/42	1750	2208	4:18	141	138	-3	258	8000	0	0	0	Ptly		
JUA-BDA	4/22-23/42	2312	0544	6:32	136	150	/14	205	9000	0	0	0	Cldy		
BDA-NBA	4/23/42	0846	1558	6:20	126	112	-14	244	8000	76	24	11 NBA	Ptly - Bazy		

Total Time: 66:23

GENERAL REMARKS: MAIL WEIGHTS LISTED ARE LOCAL LOADS ONLY.

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 Trip Summary - Transatlantic

Route		Times G. C. T.		Performance						Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks
Trip	Date	Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	TAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas Cons. G1/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Paid Lbs.	Exp. Paid Lbs.	No. Psgrs.			
NBA-BDA	4/24-25/42	2351	0535	5:44	136	130	-6	204	4000-8000	0	0	25 SPA	Clear to Ovc.		
BDA-JUA	4/25/42	0717	1404	6:47	130	131	/1	210	1000	0	0	25 FSH 1 LBN	Ptly - Hazy - Rain		
JUA- SPA	4/25/42	1532	2013	4:41	139	123	-16	216	8000	0	0	0	Ptly		
SFA-BEL	4/26/42	1143	2222	10:40	136	107	-29	224	8000-9500	0	2187	0	Clear to Ovc.		
BEL-NAT	4/27/42	1011	1803	7:52	140	116	-24	218	8000-10000	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc.		
NAT-FSH	4/27-28/42	2014	1018	14:04	132	118	-14	212	9000	185	0	1 LBN	Ptly to Ovc. Rain		
FSH-BLO	4/28/42	1231	1529	2:58	142	159	/17	244	8000	0	0	0	Ptly		
BLO-LBN	4/28-29/42	1858	1056	15:58	134	128	-6	195	8000	2.2	0	0	Ptly to Ovc. Hazy		
													Total Time: 68:44		
<u>Trip 5014</u>															
LBN-BLO	4/29-30/42	1813	0919	15:06	134	131	-3	200	8000	946	77	6 NAT 13 FBA	Clear to Ovc.		
BLO-NAT	4/30-5/1/42	1902	0820	13:18	130	141	/11	199	3000	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc. Hazy - Rain		
NAT-BEL	5/1/42	1048	1621	5:33	141	162	/21	230	10000	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc.		
BEL-SPA	5/2/42	1005	1720	7:15	142	152	/10	212	6000-9000	0	0	0	Ptly to Ovc.		

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS COMPANY

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Trip Summary - TransAtlantic

-2-

Route	Times	G. C. T.		Performance						Cargo			Weather	Delays	Remarks	
		Depart	Arrive	Dock to Dock Time	PAS Kts.	GS Kts.	Av. Wind Kts.	Gas. Cons. Gl/Hr.	Alt.	Contr. Mail Lbs.	Paid Exp. Lbs.	No. Paid Psgs.				
Trip 5014	Date															
SFA-JUA	5/3/42	1508	1931	4:23	136	135	-1	226	7400	0	0	3 JUA	Ptly			
JUA*BDA	5/3-4/42 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2250	0521	6:31	141	132	-9	230	8200	0	0	0	Ptly to Cldy			
BDA-NBA	5/4/42	0921	1503	5:42	136	130	-6	203	4000	0	0	35 NBA	Ptly - Hazy			

Total Time: 57:48

GENERAL REMARKS: Mail weights listed are local loads only.