

BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

Following the fall of France and the entry of Italy into the war in June 1940 BOAC were able to re-establish Trans African flights with effect from 21st July 1940. The first route used was the old Elders Colonial/Imperial Airways route established in 1936.

Route 1 (The old route). Flown 21.7.40 -1945

Takoradi –Accra- Lagos- Oshogbo-Kaduna-Kano-Maiduguri-Fort Lamy-El Geneina-El Fasher-El Obeid-Khartoum (and after 28.8.40) Wadi Haifa-Cairo.

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Covers dated prior to 16th October 1940 have to have travelled by Route 1.

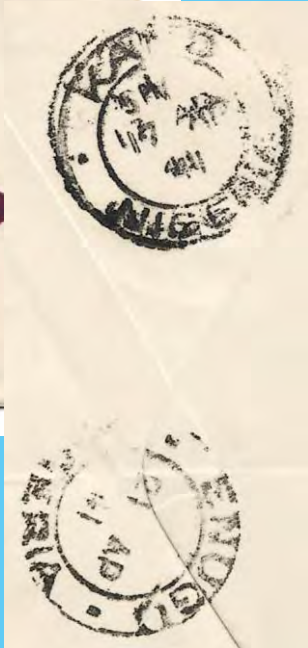
24th August 1940. Bibiani to South Africa. Sent via Route 1 and the Horseshoe Route. There are 3 flights on which the cover could have left Takoradi: TC 4 which departed Takoradi on 3rd September and flown by *Dione* from Accra to Lagos and *Lothair* from Lagos to Khartoum arriving on 5th September, TC 5 which also left on 3rd September and was flown by *Danae* to Khartoum arriving on 6th September and TC6 which left on the 13th September and was flown by *Demeter* to Lagos and *Dione* to Khartoum arriving on the 16th September. The receipt stamp of 21st September strongly suggests that the cover was flown on the Horseshoe Route Flight WS 15 by *Cameronian* between Khartoum (17th September) and Durban (19th September). The cover was clearly delayed but it is not possible to say whether this happened at Takoradi or Khartoum.



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Mail coming out of or going into Northern Nigeria before 22nd October 1941 when Pan Am Africa started flying the route must have been flown by BOAC on Route 1.

7th April 1941. Port Elizabeth, South Africa to Enugu via Kano . Flown on the Horseshoe Route either Flight NE 766 departing Durban on the 9th April and flown by *Coorong* from Durban to Kisumu and *Corio* from Kisumu to Khartoum arriving at Khartoum on the 11th April or Flight NE 77 departing Durban on the 12th April and flown by *Canopus* from Durban to Kisumu and *Coorong* from Kisumu to Khartoum arriving on 14th April. The cover was then carried on Flight K760 flown by a Lockheed Electra *Leith* arriving at Kano on 17th April. Rate 1/-3d. Passed by Kano (?) Censor.



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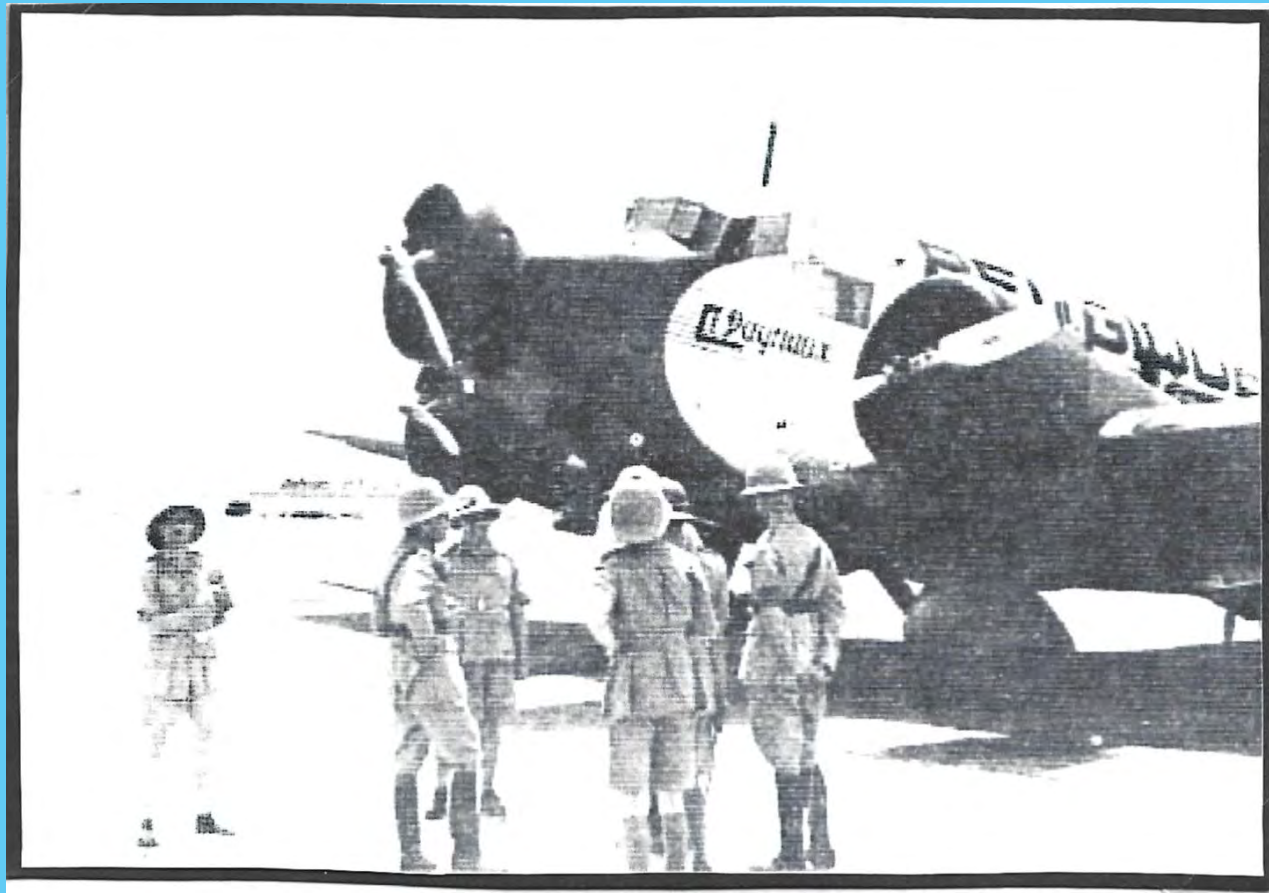
From 16th October 1940 until the 27th August 1945 the Belgian airline SABENA flew under charter to BOAC between Takoradi and Cairo.

Route 2 (the SABENA charter route)

Takoradi-Accra-Lagos-Douala-Bangui (by 17.04.41) - Leopoldville (from 8.10.42)-Libenge-Stanleyville-Juba-Khartoum-Wadi Haifa – Cairo.

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On the BOAC charter route SABENA flew a combination of Junkers JU52s and Lockheed 14's.



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Mail sent from the Belgian Congo via the Gold Coast has to have travelled by Route 2.

10th November 1941. Elizabethville to Switzerland via Takoradi (by air to Takoradi only). Carried on Flight SS85 flown by Junkers JU 52 OO – AUG leaving Stanleyville on 29th November and arriving at Takoradi on 30th November. Back stamped Sekondi on 1st December 1941. Opened by UK and Belgian Congo Censors. Rate 22 Francs, 50 Centimes. As it travelled by air only as far as Takoradi the cover was 111 days in transit.



BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

17th August 1942. Free French Cameroun to South Africa via Stanleyville. The cover has been flown on the SABENA/ BOAC Charter route Flight SN 162. It was flown from Douala (21st August) to Libenge on a Lockheed 14 OO-CAH and then from Libenge to Stanleyville on a Junkers JU 52 OO-AGW arriving on 24th August. At Stanleyville it was put on the fortnightly SABENA service to Cape Town. Rate 13 Francs, 50 Centimes. Opened by Douala Censor (A)



BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

19th October 1942. Douala, Free French Cameroun to Cape Town via Stanleyville and Leopoldville. Flown on the SABENA/BOAC Charter Flight 6T177 leaving Douala on the 21st October and arriving at Stanleyville on 22nd October flown by a Lockheed 14 OO-CAH.

By this date the SABENA South Africa flight was leaving from Leopoldville so the cover (despite 6T177 having stopped at Leopoldville) had to be returned to Leopoldville on Flight 5T 178 flown by Junkers JU 52 OO-AGU arriving at Leopoldville on 25th October. Rate 14 Francs, 50 Centimes. Opened by Douals Censor.



BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

Between 4th July 1941 and 2nd January 1945 BOAC flew C class Flying Boats between Lagos and Cairo.

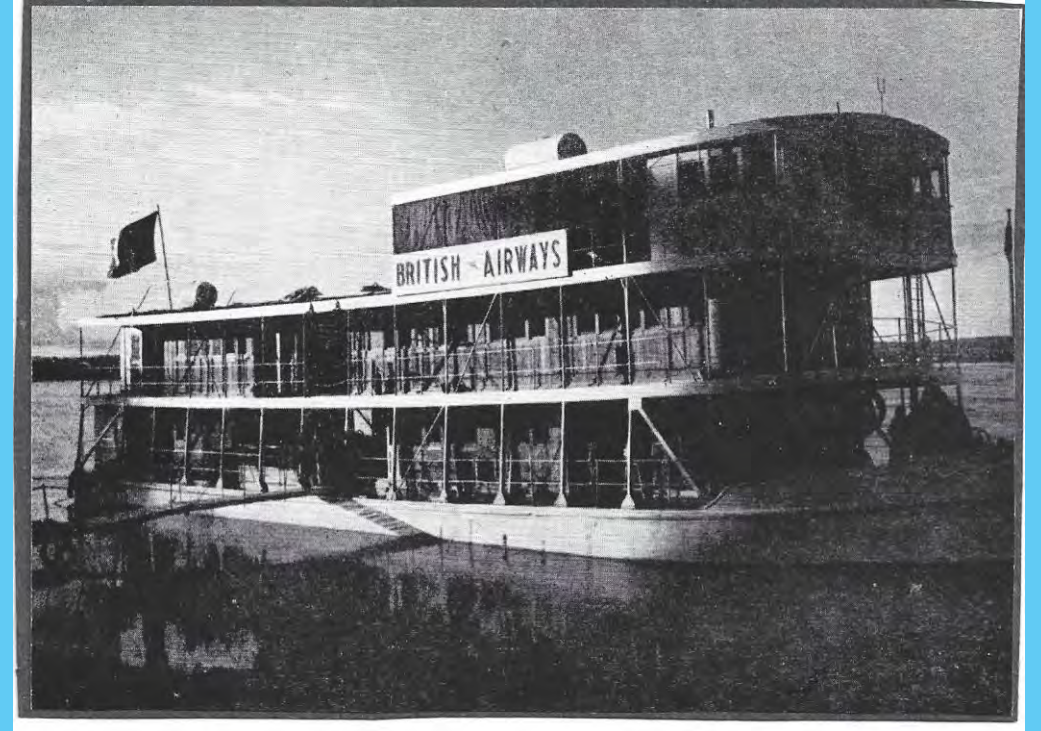
Route 3. (the Congo –Nile route)

Lagos-Libreville-Pointe Noire-Leopoldville-Coquilhatville-Stanleyville-Port Bell-Buttaba-Malakal-Khartoum-Wadi Halfa-Cairo

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Canopus being refueled at Olvendo on the Congo.



The British Airways (BOAC) rest house on the Congo at Leopoldville. Rent 1 Franc a year - International Surface Postage from the Belgian Congo 2 Francs 50 !

BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

Mail flown from Pointe Noire to Lagos would have to have gone by the BOAC Congo/Nile Route.

29th October 1941 Pointe Noire, French Congo to Lagos. Flown on Flight CL 18 flown by *Caledonia* leaving Pointe Noire and arriving at Lagos on 31st October.

The cover bears an unusual oval 'Passed for Despatch, British Airways Pointe Noire' mark. Rate 15 Francs 54 Centimes (Philatelic !). Passed by Pointe Noire and Lagos Censors.



BOAC TRANS –AFRICA ROUTES 1940-1945.

21st January 1943. Leopoldville to Lagos. Although endorsed BOAC the cover has been flown by the SABENA/BOAC Charter service on Flight 5T 205 flown by Lockheed 14 OO CAP leaving Leopoldville and arriving in Lagos on 25th January. Rate 21 Francs, 50 Centimes. Opened by Leopoldville Censor and passed by Lagos Censor.

