

Nigerian use of French Air Mail Services in April – June 1940.

22nd April 1940. Sutton Coldfield to Lagos/Accra. The envelope (produced by Francis Field) suggests that the cover was sent via the Air France/Aeromaritime service. However the Post Office circular states that the first despatch did not happen until 21st May 1940 so the cover must have been flown on BOAC flight DS266 from Poole to Khartoum on *Cassiopeia* (delayed for 2 days due to bad weather at Poole and Biscarosse and then BOAC/Elders Colonial flight KL223 from Khartoum to Lagos flown by *Dione* arriving at Lagos on the 3rd May 1940. Rate 1/-3d.



MAY 15, 1940 222

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN MAILS

AIR MAILS

AIR MAIL SERVICE TO NIGERIA

Air mail correspondence for Nigeria, prepaid at the postage rate of 1s. 3d. per half ounce (postcards 7d.), will in future be despatched by the French air services to West Africa as well as by the England—Africa air service. The correspondence will be despatched by whichever service offers the earlier outlet and no special superscription will be necessary. No separate air postage rate for printed papers, etc., will be available by either service.

The air mail supplement issued with the Post Office Circular of the 18th of October, 1939, should be amended as follows:—

Page 2, Nigeria. Col. 4. Amend entry to read "Noon Fri.; 7.30 a.m. Tues.; (6-7)".

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Following publication of a Table of Rates on 4th April 1940 Air Mail was sent from British Cameroon for transmission by the Aeromaritime service from Douala in French Cameroun.

20th April 1940. Kumba to the UK via Victoria and Douala. Rate 1/-6d. Passed by Douala Censor. The cover was posted on a Saturday for a departure from Douala on the following Wednesday (24th April) arriving in Dakar on the next day . At Dakar the cover was transferred to the Air France flight arriving in Paris on the 29th April and London on the 30th April 1940.



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27th April 1940. Lagos to Leopoldville. Initially sent on the Northbound Aeromaritime service on 1st May. Cotonou then sent the cover on the Southbound Aeromaritime service to Pointe Noire (via Lagos!) arriving on 6th May. From Pointe Noire it was sent by rail to Brazzaville (7th May) and across the Congo to Leopoldville (9th May). Rate 1/- (9d Air Mail + 3d Registration). Opened by Lagos Censor. Transit time 12 days.



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8th May 1940. Lagos via London to the USA. The Northbound Aeromaritime flight departed on that date . Rate 1/- 8d (presumably 1/-6d Air Mail to London + 2d for Surface Mail from London to the USA).



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The last Northbound Aeromaritime flight left Lagos on the 19th June 1940. Mail for the UK was carried by air only as far as Sierra Leone.

18th June 1940. Lagos to the UK. Sent on the last Northbound Aeromaritime flight. Rate 4/- 9d (3x 1/-6d Air Mail to the UK + 3d Registration). Cover endorsed SABS (Stamps affixed by Sender). Opened by Lagos Censor (12).



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From 31st May 1940 arrangements were made to send Air Mail from Kano via the French Air Afrique Trans-Sahara service. It seems that this involved a maximum of 4 flights.

14th June 1940. Kano to the UK endorsed 'Ragie Air Afrique' and sent by the Tans-Sahara Route presumably on the flight of the 14th June. Rate 1/-6d. Passed by Kano Censor (21).

