

Dispatch no 42 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 8 June 1923	Arrive Cairo 9 June 1923
Depart Port Said 10 June 1923	Arrive London 18 June 1923



**BUSRA CITY
31 MAY. 23**

Correct postage of 10 annas applied, 6 annas special air fee plus 4 annas foreign letter rate.

Letter endorsed in manuscript "By Air Mail Baghdad – Cairo".

Transit time unknown due to the absence of receiving datestamping.

Letter posted on the last day of usage of the overprinted Occupation stamp issue as they were demonetised as from 1 June 1923.



BAGHDAD (IRAQ) 7 JUN. 23 10 P.M.

Correct postage prepaid of 9 annas, special air fee 6 annas plus surface letter rate to the U.K. 3 annas.

Total transit time from date of posting, 11 days.

Paris to Marseilles Rail, Sea to Alexandria, then Dispatch no 44 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart Paris 15 June 1923	Arrive Marseilles 16 June 1923
Depart Marseilles 17 June 1923	Arrive Alexandria 20 June 1923
Depart Cairo 21 June 1923	Arrive Baghdad 23 June 1923



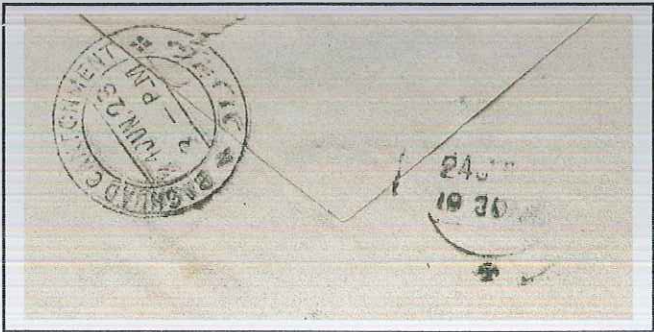
PARIS 15.15 12.6 23 DUQUESNE

Correctly rated letter from France to Iraq via the RAF air service between Cairo and Baghdad, 50 centimes for the basic foreign letter rate per 20 grams (1 April 1921 – 1 April 1924), plus the airmail surtaxe of 1 franc, 25 centimes per 20 grams (15 June 1922 – 19 January 1924), total of 1 franc, 75 centimes.

Airmail label Mair type, FRA-A-3a, issued during February 1923.

Letter travelled Paris to Marseilles via railway transport, Marseilles to Alexandria via France packet steamer, Alexandria to Cairo via railway and Cairo to Baghdad via RAF No 70 Squadron aircraft departing Cairo for Ziza on 23 June 1923 and arriving at Baghdad on 23 June 1923.

Total transit of 12 days from date of posting in Paris to receipt in Baghdad.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping of Baghdad (G.P.O.) c.d.s. 24 June 1923 and Baghdad Cantonment c.d.s. 24 June 1923.

Dispatch no 44 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 14 June 1923
Depart Cairo 23 June 1923

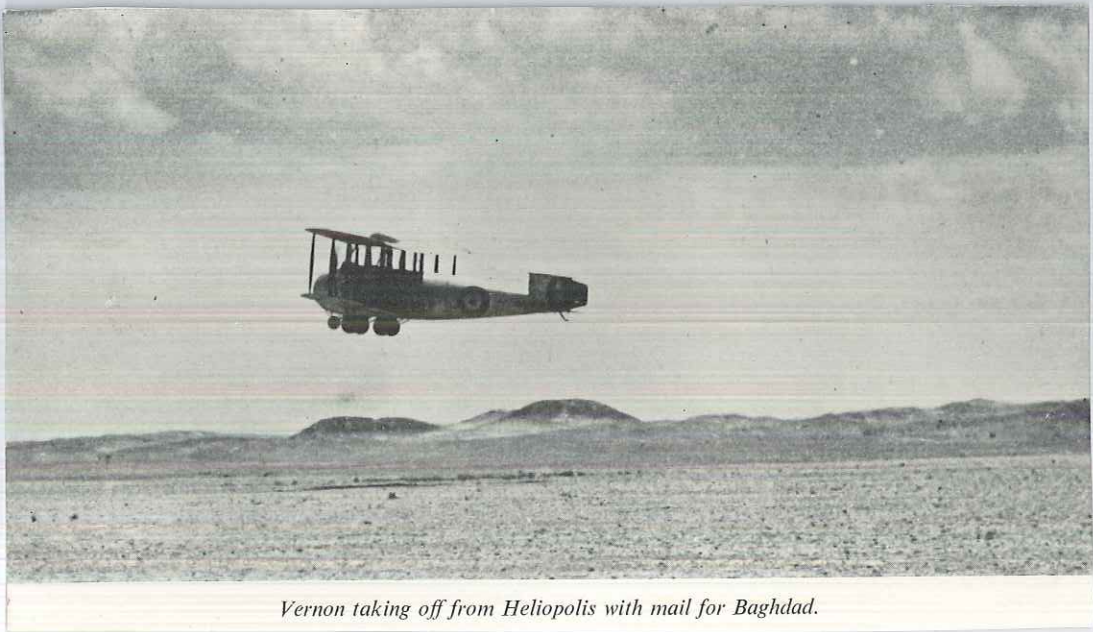
Arrive Port Said 21 June 1923
Arrive Baghdad 23 June 1923



CLEETHURPES 13 JU 23 GRIMSBY

Correct postage of 8½d applied, 2½d postage plus 6d air mail fee. On 14 May 1923 the UPU overseas letter rate was reduced from 3d per ounce to that of 2½ d per ounce. The air fee remained unchanged at 6d per ounce with this new foreign letter rate staying in force until 28 November 1923.

Total transit of 12 days from posting to receipt in Baghdad

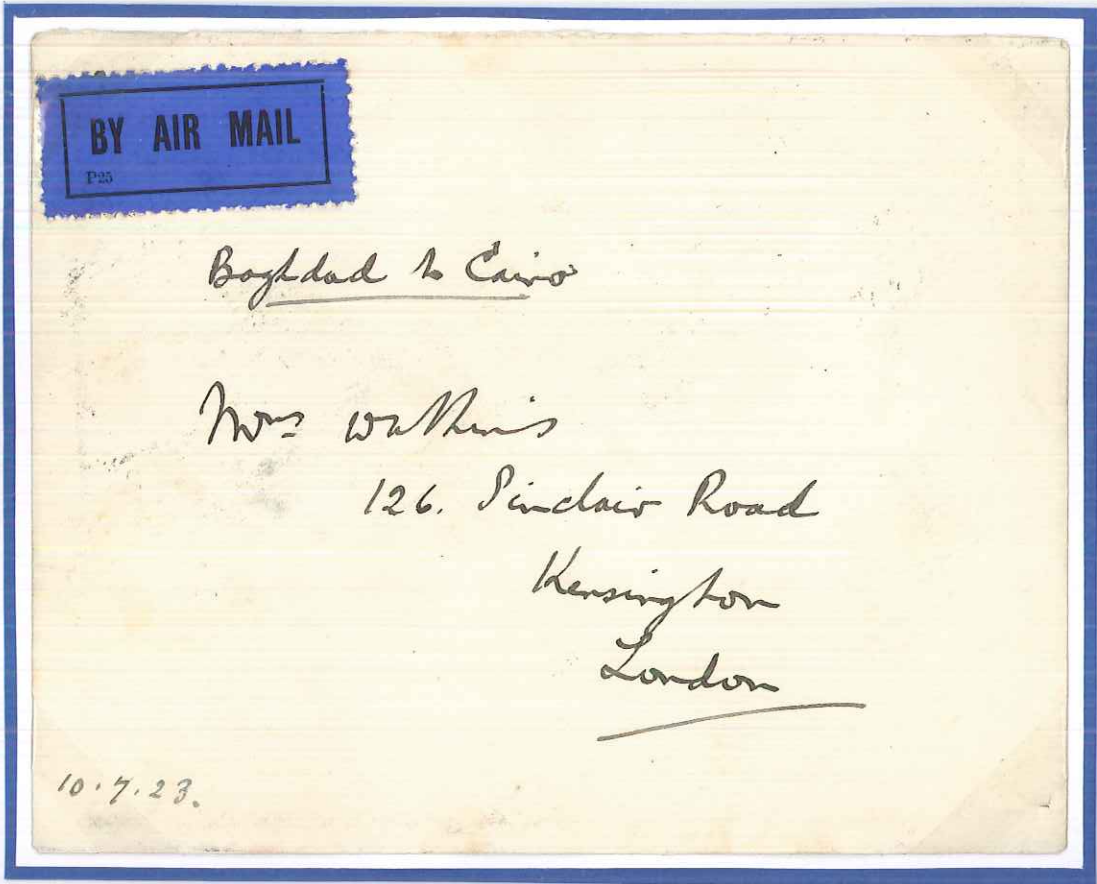


Vernon taking off from Heliopolis with mail for Baghdad.

Photo of Vickers Vernon taking off from Heliopolis, Egypt with the mails for Baghdad. No's 45 and 70 Squadrons flew these aircraft which bore the brunt of this air service.

Dispatch no 45 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 12 July 1923	Arrive Cairo 13 July 1923
Depart Port Said 15 July 1923	Arrive London 23 July 1923



MAKINA CAMP 11 JUL 23

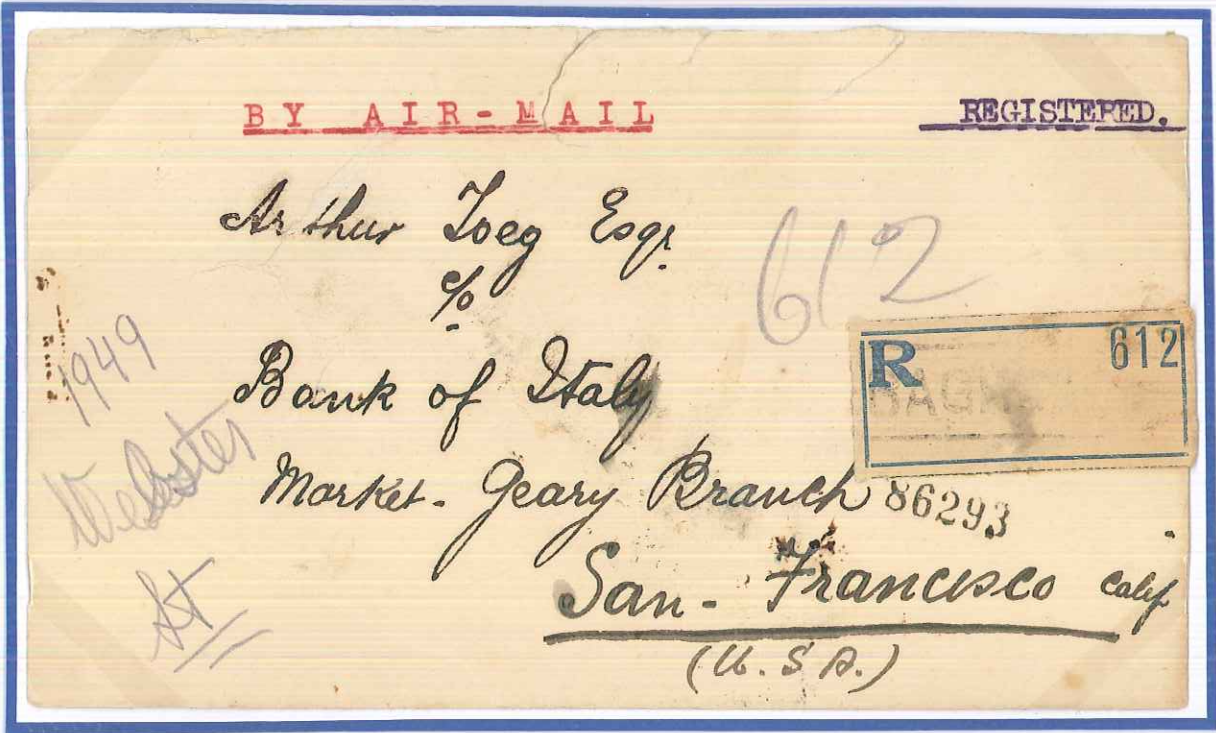
Correct postage of 9annas applied to reverse of cover. Total transit of 13 days from posting to delivery.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping of Makina Camp dated 11 July 1923.

Dispatch no 46 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 26 July 1923	Arrive Cairo 29 July 1923
Depart Port Said 30 July 1923	Arrive London 6 August 1923



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) REG. 26 JUL. 23

Correct postage of 12 annas applied to rear, made up as 3 annas registration fee, 6 annas air fee plus 3 annas surface letter rate. Total transit to destination 27 days, 12 days to London then 15 days to cross the Atlantic and the United States from New York to San Francisco.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show the postage applied and date stamping of Cairo, dated 29 July 1923, New York, dated 16 August 1923 and San Francisco, dated 20 August 1923.

Multi-lingual air mail label, Mair type IRQ-A-1a.

Dispatch no 46 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 12 July 1923	Arrive Port Said 18 July 1923
Depart Cairo 19 July 1923	Arrive Baghdad 21 July 1923

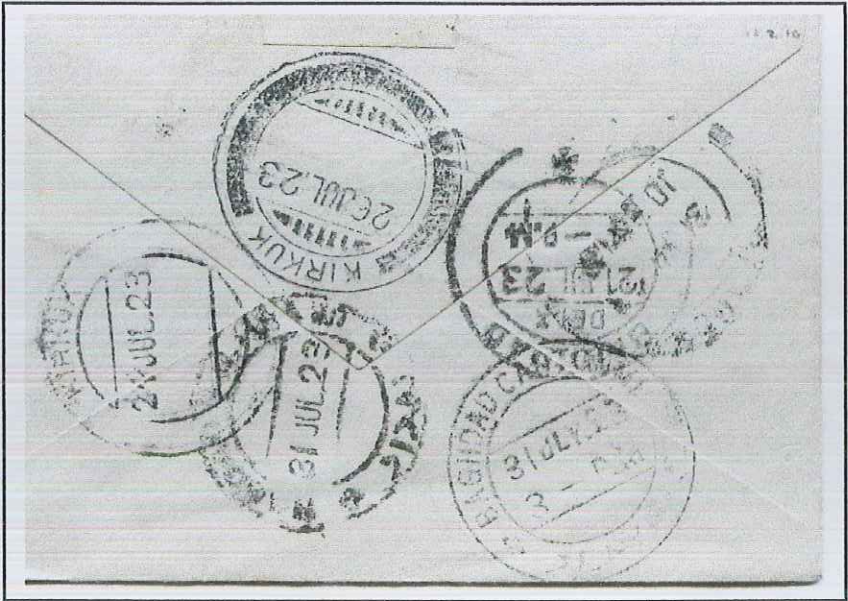


TAUNTON 11 JUL 23

Letter incorrectly rated at 9d. should have been 8½d. 2½d. postage plus 6d. airmail fee.

Airmail label Mair type, GBR-A-3a.

Total transit 11 days for date of posting to receipt in Baghdad.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping between original receipt at Baghdad (21 July 1923) and final delivery Baghdad Cantonment (31 July 1923).

Dispatch no 47 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 26 July 1923	Arrive Port Said 1 August 1923
Depart Cairo 2 August 1923	Arrive Baghdad 4 August 1923



BIRMINGHAM 9.45 AM 16 JY 23

Correct postage applied of 8½d, made up of 6d air fee plus 2½d surface letter rate to Iraq.

Transit time of 19 days from date of posting in the United Kingdom.

Airmail label Mair type GBR-A-3b.



**STOUPBRIDGE
25 JY 23**

Incorrectly rated postage applied of 7½d, should have been 8½d. The penny underpayment has been charged at 2 annas collected on delivery to the recipient.

Handstamped with large boxed "T" plus horseshoe type cachet "BAGHDAD, DUE, 2 AS."

Airmail label Mair type GBR-A-3c.

Total transit time from date of posting, 10 days.

Dispatch no 47 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 10 August 1923	Arrive Cairo 12 August 1923
Depart Port Said 13 August 1923	Arrive London 20 August 1923

**BAGHDAD 4 AUG. 23
11.30 A.M.**

Correct postage prepaid
applied of 9 annas.
3 annas surface letter rate
plus 6 annas air fee.

Letter endorsed with "**By
AIR MAIL**" in manuscript.

Transit total of 11 days
from posting to receipt in
London.

Letter has been
incorrectly posted with
overprinted occupation
issue adhesives which
had been demonetised
as from 1 June 1923,
thus were no longer
valid for postage.

**BAGHDAD
9 AUG 23
5.30PM**

Correct postage
of 9 annas
applied, 6 annas
air fee plus
3 annas surface
letter rate.

Letter travelled
from Baghdad
departing on
10 August and
arriving at Rafa,
Southern
Palestine on
11 August.
Transferred to the
railway at Rafa
for transporting to
Jerusalem,
arriving on 13
August 1923.

Total transit of
5 days from date
of posting to
delivery.



Dispatch no 49 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 23 August 1923
Depart Cairo 1 September 1923

Arrive Port Said 31 August 1923
Arrive Baghdad 2 September 1923



SALE 22 AU 23 MANCHESTER

Correct postage of 8½d per ounce applied.

Total transit of 13 days from date of posting until received in Baghdad.



Reduced scan of reverse to
show receiving c.d.s. of
Baghdad dated 2 SEP. 23

Dispatch no 49 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 7 September 1923	Arrive Cairo 7 September 1923
Depart Port Said 9 September 1923	Arrive London 17 September 1923



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) SOR. 28 AUG. 23

Correct postage applied, 9 annas, 3 annas letter rate plus 6 annas air fee.

Transit time Baghdad to London 21 days.

As the air mail label has not been crossed out it is possible that the letter was transferred in London to the air mail service by Daimler Hire Limited in alliance with Deutscher Aero Lloyd of Germany to fly the mails from London, (Croydon) to Cologne and rail carriage from there to Berlin.

No back datestamps in evidence.

Bilingual air mail label, Mair type IRQ-A-1a.

Dispatch no 52 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 4 October 1923	Arrive Port Said 11 October 1923
Depart Cairo 13 October 1923	Arrive Baghdad 14 October 1923



SANDOWN 3 OC 23 I. OF WIGHT

Correct postage of 8½d per ounce applied, made up of 2½d postage and 6d airmail fee per ounce.

Air mail label Mair type GBR-A-2.

Transit of 12 days from date of posting to receipt in Baghdad.



Reduced scan of reverse to
Show receiving c.d.s. of Baghdad
Dated 16 OCT 23.

Dispatch no 53 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 2 November 1923	Arrive Cairo 3 November 1923
Depart Port Said 4 November 1923	Arrive London 12 November 1923



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) 26 OCT 23 5 – P.M

Postage rates from Baghdad to Cairo and beyond, 3 annas surface letter rate per ounce, plus 6 annas special air mail fee per ounce, 21 December 1921 to 13 December 1923.

Incorrect postage of 6 annas applied, should have been 9 annas, deficiency of 3 annas not noticed by the mail clerks in Baghdad's G.P.O.

Air mail label, Mair type IRQ-A-5.

Transit time between posting in Baghdad and arrival in London, 21 days.

Dispatch no 55 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 15 November 1923	Arrive Port Said 23 November 1923
Depart Cairo 24 November 1923	Arrive Baghdad 25 November 1923

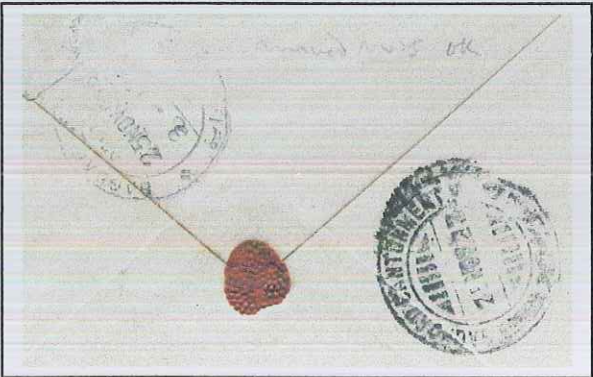


COMBE-MARTIN R.S. OLDFIELD 5.30 PM 13 NO 23

Correct postage of 8½d applied, postage 2½d per ounce plus 6d per ounce air mail fee, (14 May 1923 to 28 November 1923).

Framed type 2 air mail label in black on light blue and lettering with serifs.

Total transit time of 13 days from date of posting to receipt in Baghdad.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show circular date stamps of Baghdad dated 25 November 1923 and Baghdad Cantonment dated 25 November 1923.

Dispatch no 56 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 29 November 1923	Arrive Port Said 6 December 1923
Depart Cairo 8 December 1923	Arrive Baghdad 10 December 1923



LOCHAWE 28 NO 23

Correct postage of 10½d for a 2 ounce letter, made up of 2½d per first ounce and 2d per second ounce postage plus 6d air mail fee.

Total transit time from posting to receipt 13 days.

Air mail label Mair type GBR –A-3b.



Reduced scan of reverse to show receiving c.d.s. of Baghdad dated 12 DEC 23.

Dispatch no 56 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 14 December 1923
Depart Port Said 16 December 1923

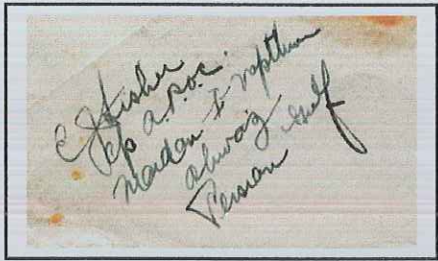
Arrive Cairo 15 December 1923
Arrive London 24 December 1923



BASRAH 11 DEC 23 SORTING

Correct postage prepaid of 9 annas, 3 annas letter rate plus 6 annas air mail fee. This rate of 9 annas did not change until 13 December 1923.

Letter written at Ahwaz, Persian Gulf on the Persian side of the river Tigris and postmarked in Basrah, Iraq. This was a common practice amongst European workers on the oilfields of southern Persia (Iran) as it was the quickest way of getting the mails to foreign destinations especially to the United Kingdom or the United States via the Baghdad – Cairo air mail service.



Reduced colour scan of reverse
to show writer's address as
"A.P.O.C. Ahwaz, Persian Gulf".

Framed single line handstamped cachet with seriffed lettering applied in Iran. Listed by McQueen between late 1923 and 1924, with few known always applied in red ink.

Listed by Andrews as type 3 applied at Abadan Post Office, Southern Iran



BASRAH 11 DEC. 23 SORTING

Correct postage of 9 annas applied to front (6 annas) and rear (3 annas), made up of 3 annas letter rate plus 6 annas air mail fee.

Framed type 3 Jusqu'a handstamped cachet applied in red by Iranian Post Office in Abadan, southern Persia and then passed by special arrangements to the Iraq Post Office in Basrah, southern Iraq for transporting to Baghdad to be uplifted by the air mail service to Cairo. Total transit time of 14 days from posting to receipt in London.



Reduced colour scan of the reverse to show the adhesives and circular date stamping of Basrah.

Cross national country border mail between Persia and Iraq is not common and was mainly used by employees of the Anglo – Iranian Oil Company working at the oil refinery in Abadan, southern Persia across the river Tigris from Basrah in southern Iraq to get their mail to the United Kingdom quickly via the Baghdad to Cairo air service.

Dispatch no 58 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 11 January 1924	Arrive Cairo 13 January 1924
Depart Port Said 14 January 1924	Arrive London 21 January 1924



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) 29DEC.23

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, being 3 annas surface postage plus 3 annas per ounce (20 grams or part thereof) air mail fee.

This new letter rate from Baghdad to Cairo and beyond was introduced as from 13 December 1923.

Envelope is additionally notated in manuscript with **"Aireal mail"** and has received a receipt date stamp from the addressee dated 24 January 1924.

Time in transit from date of posting in Baghdad to receipt in London, 26 days.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping of Baghdad dated 29 DEC.23

Dispatch no 62 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 6 March 1924	Arrive Cairo 7 March 1924
Depart Port Said 8 March 1924	Arrive London 17 March 1924



LOWER BAGHDAD (IRAQ) 5 MAR 24

Correct postage of 9 annas pre-paid (letter rate postage plus air mail fee).

Total transit of 13 days from date of posting to receipt in the United Kingdom.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show receiving c.d.s. of Birchington dated 17 MR 24

The mails were carried by two Vickers "Vernon" aircraft from No 70 Squadron on this dispatch from Baghdad. On route one of the aircraft had to make a forced landing at Tel el Kabir, Egypt.

The mails were not delayed due to this forced landing caused by engine problems as the mails were able to be transported by railway to Port Said to meet the P&O mail steamer which departed on the 8th March.

Dispatch no 65 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 30 May 1924	Arrive Cairo 31 May 1924
Depart Port Said 1 June 1924	Arrive London 9 June 1924



BAGHDAD IRAQ 25MAY24 8.30AM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas special air fee plus 3 annas surface letter rate.

Letter has received a faint unlisted handstamp cachet above the adhesive postage stamps and is understood to be a private cachet applied by the writer and sender of the letter.

BYAIR MAIL

This item of mail reached its destination in Germany in 13 days from date of posting in Baghdad.



Reduced colour scan of reverse
to show backstamping of Berlin,
dated 11.6.24.8-7V
Tempelhof.

Dispatch no 69 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 29 May 1924	Arrive Port Said 4 June 1924
Depart Cairo 5 June 1924	Arrive Baghdad 6 June 1924

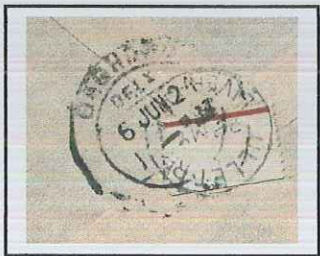


WAVERTREE.LIVERPOOL 28 MY 24 2

Correct postage of 5½d per ounce plus 3d per ounce airmail fee applied, reduction in both postage and the airmail fee as from 28 November 1923.

Air mail label Mair type GBR-A-3d.

Total transit of 11 days from posting to receipt in Baghdad.



Reduced scan of reverse
to show receiving c.d.s.
of Baghdad dated
6 JUN 24.

Dispatch no 72 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 25 July 1924	Arrive Cairo 26 July 1924
Depart Port Said 28 July 1924	Arrive London 4 August 1924

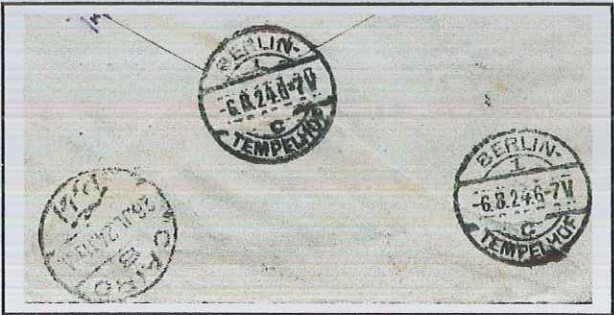


HINAIDI (IRAQ) 24JUL24 7.30AM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas special air fee plus surface letter rate of 3 annas.

Air mail label, Mair type IRQ-A-1a.

Total transit time of 14 days from posting to delivery at destination in Germany.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show the backstamping of Cairo and Berlin, Tempelhof.

Letter has received large handstamped cachet applied to front "BY AIR MAIL" unlisted by McQueen.

Dispatch no 78 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 18 September 1924	Arrive Port Said 25 September 1924
Depart Cairo 26 September 1924	Arrive Baghdad 27 September 1924



LONDON.E.C.OFFICIAL 17 SP 24 8

Official "OHMS" envelope from the Income Tax Department, no postage required. Lower left front has additional 'crown with oval, AIR REGISTRY' cachet applied.

Total transit of 11 days to Baghdad and a further 2 days to addressee in Shaiba.



Reduced scan of reverse to show receiving backstamped c.d.s. of Baghdad dated 27 SEP 24 and Shaiba dated 29 SEP 24.

Dispatch no 76 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 19 September 1924
Depart Port Said 21 September 1924

Arrive Cairo 19 September 1924
Arrive London 29 September 1924



BAGHDAD (IRAQ) REG. 18SEP24

Correct postage of 9 annas applied, 3 annas special air fee, 3 annas surface letter rate plus 3 annas registration fee. Letter has Mair type air mail label, IRQ-A-1b attached, plus registration label no 64.

Total transit time of 12 days from date of posting in Baghdad to arrival in London.

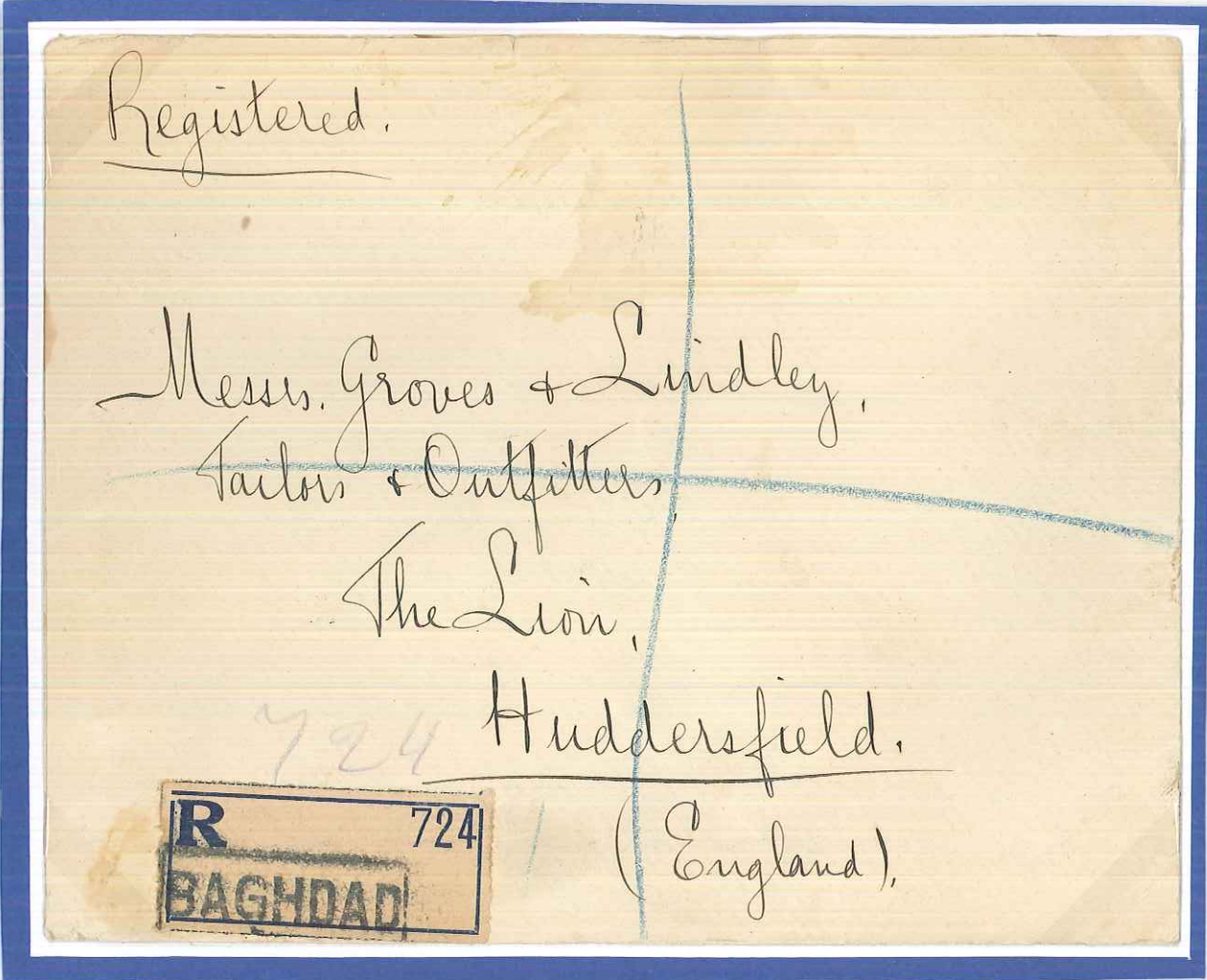


Reduced colour scan of reverse
To show receiving backstamp of
London dated 29 September 1924.

Letter flown all the way between Baghdad and Heliopolis in one day, the first regular flight to do so.

Dispatch no 81 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 28 November 1924	Arrive Cairo 29 November 1924
Depart Port Said 1 December 1924	Arrive London 8 December 1924



BAGHDAD H.O. 20 NOV.24

Correct postage on reverse of 9 annas, made up of surface letter rate postage of 3 annas, plus air mail letter fee of 3 annas and registration fee of 3 annas.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show adhesives and backstamping of Baghdad H.O. REG. dated 20 NOV. 24.

Dispatch no 83 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 26 December 1924	Arrive Cairo 27 December 1924
Depart Port Said 28 December 1924	Arrive London 5 January 1925



BUSRAH (IRAQ) 23DE24

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, special air fee 3 annas plus 3 annas surface letter rate.

Typed routing instead of airmail label, "BY AIR MAIL BAGHDAD – CAIRO".

Transit time unknown as cover is not Backstamped with receiving datestamp of Grenoble, France.

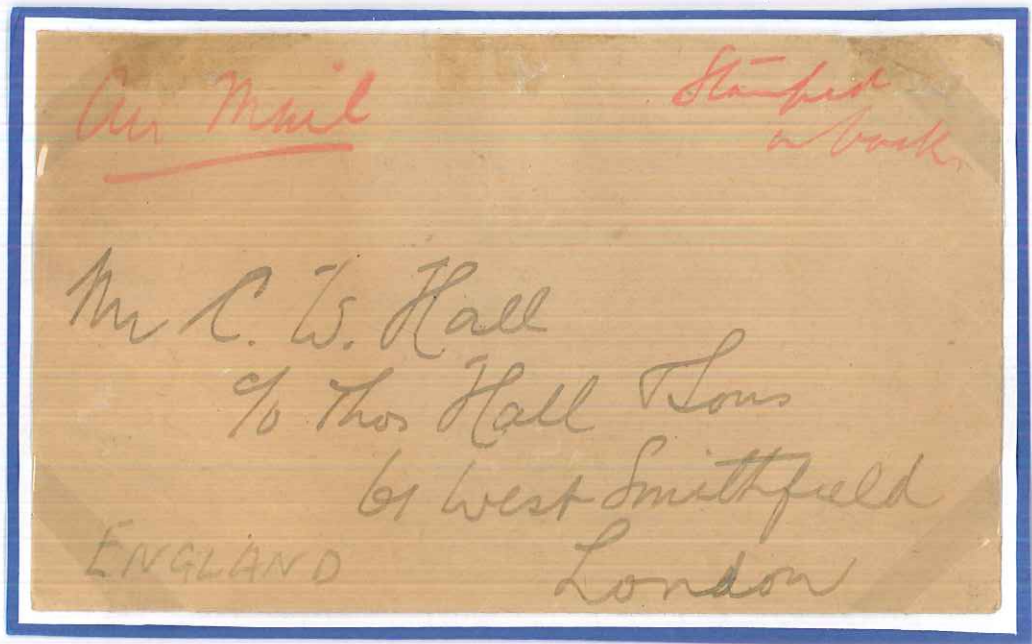


Reduced colour scan of reverse
to show backstamping of Port Said,
dated 28 December 1924.

Letter travelled to destination in France from the United Kingdom after arrival in London on 5 January 1925.

Dispatch no 84 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 8 January 1925	Arrive Cairo 10 January 1925
Depart Port Said 11 January 1925	Arrive London 17 January 1925



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) SOR. 8JAN.25

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas special air fee plus 3 annas surface letter rate.

Manuscript on front with, "Air Mail" and "Stamped on back".

Total transit time from posting to delivery, 10 days.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show adhesive postage stamps and c.d.s. of Baghdad, 8 January 1925.

Dispatch no 85 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 23 January 1925	Arrive Cairo 24 January 1925
Depart Port Said 25 January 1925	Arrive London 2 February 1925

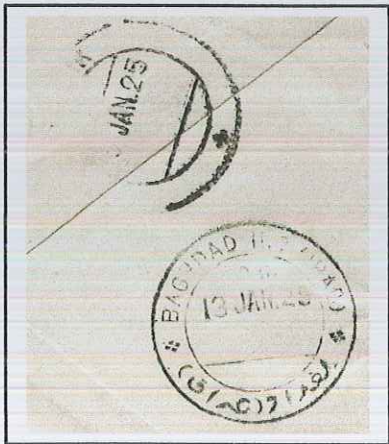


F.P.O. No. 137 8 Jan. 25

Correct postage of 6 annas applied made up as 3 annas surface postage plus 3 annas special air fee per ounce.

Official "OHMS" cover with "**Overland Mail**" crossed out and "**AIR MAIL**" both in manuscript.

Transit time from posting to arrival in United Kingdom, 26 days.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show
c.d.s. backstamping of Kirkuk dated
9 January 1925 and Baghdad H.Q. (Iraq)
dated 13 Jan.25

This circular datestamp of Forces Post Office No 137 was not issued in official records and is noted by both Proud and Firebrace as "NOT REGISTERED".

Dispatch no 86 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 5 February 1925	Arrive Cairo 7 February 1925
Depart Port Said 8 February 1925	Arrive Zug, Switzerland 14 February 1925



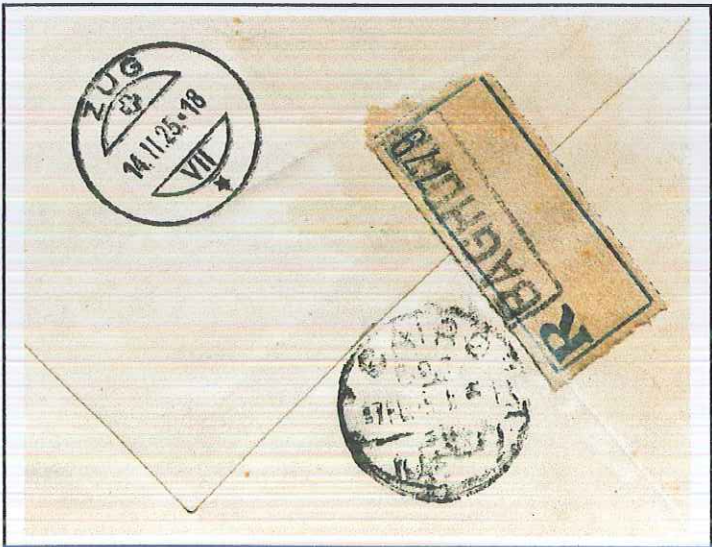
BAGHDAD REG. 5 FEB. 25

Correct postage of 9 annas applied. 3 annas surface letter rate, 3 annas air mail fee plus 3 annas registration fee.

Letter endorsed in typing with Jusqu'a routing of "BAGHDAD – HAIFA", letter travelled from Baghdad, Cairo, Port Said, and Marseilles, to Switzerland.

Air mail label Andrews type 2b, in two lines in English and Arabic script, black on greenish blue.

Total transit time of 10 days from posting to delivery.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to
Show backstamping c.d.s. and
registration label,

Cairo 7 February 1925
Zug 14 February 1925.

Damascus to Baghdad Surface Transport, then Dispatch no 88 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Damascus 19 February 1925	Arrive Baghdad 26 February 1925
Depart Baghdad 5 March 1925	Arrive Cairo 7 March 1925



DAMAS 19.- 2.- 25

Correct postage of 20 piastres pre-paid, 10p50 per 20 grams basic foreign letter rate plus 7p50 per 20 grams air mail surtaxe from French Levant to non-French Africa, including Egypt. Registration fee 2p.

Total transit time of 10 days from posting to receipt in Egypt.

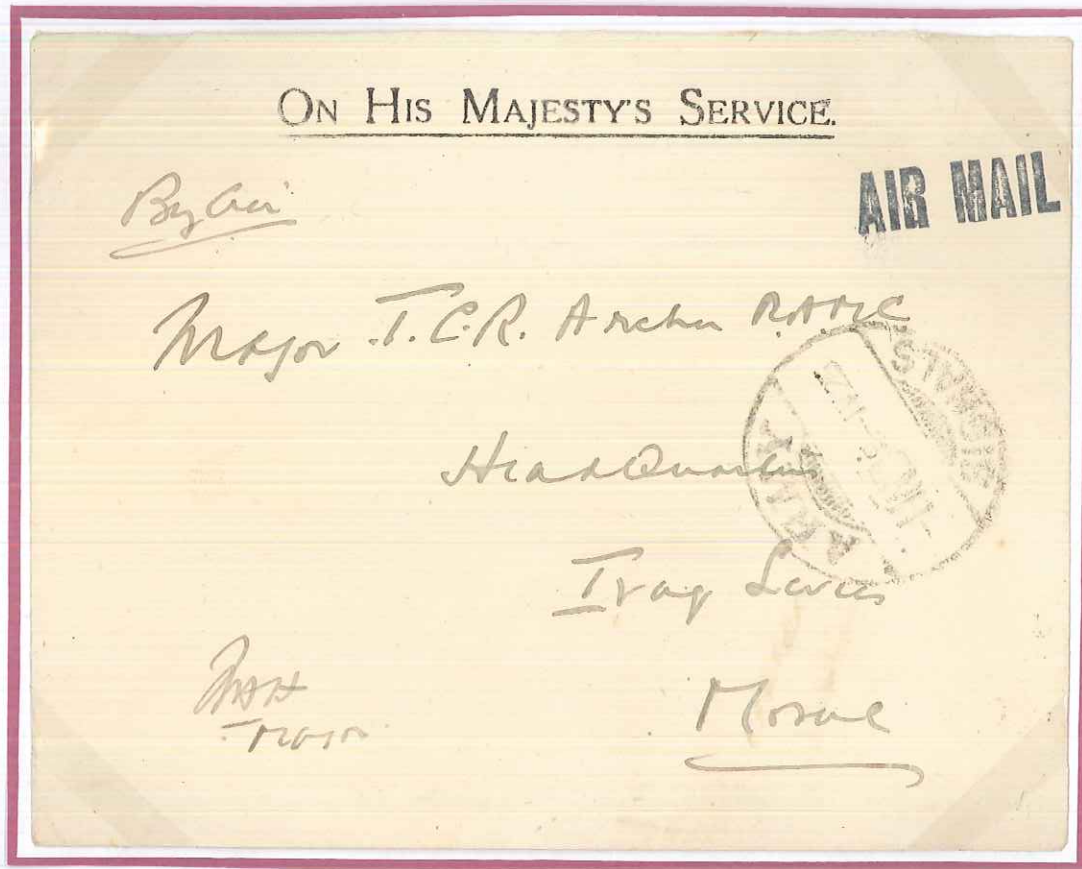


Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping of Baghdad H.O. and Cairo receiving c.d.s.

Letter travelled via the Nairn Brothers Overland passenger and mail service from Damascus to Baghdad. All mail carried was handed into the G.P.O. in Baghdad for onward transmission, in this case via the RAF's air mail service to Cairo.

Official "O.H.M.S." Cover Flown Internally From Hinaidi, Baghdad to Mosul, Northern Iraq

Charged with maintaining 'Peace and Order' within Mesopotamia the RAF carried out the duties by air and on a number of occasions official mail was also carried to military depots, installations and forces in the field. In some instances this official mail was stamped with official circular handstamps, with many being not handstamped at all. The letters had to be signed for on receipt by the Officer receiving these letters on arrival at the aircraft landing ground.



ARMY -IND. 9 - IV. 25 SIGNALS

Official cover flown on an internal flight between Baghdad and Mosel, no postage payable as the letter is from Headquarters in Baghdad to Headquarters, Iraq Services, Mosul. This weekly air service from Hiniadi to Mosul via Kirkuk was operated by No 45 Squadron Vickers Vernon aircraft as from late 1923.

On receipt the letter has been initialed and the rank of the recipient placed on the lower front left hand side, "MAH, Major".

Cover has had the unlisted handstruck cachet of "AIR MAIL" applied. Additionally it is also endorsed "By Air" in manuscript, also the c.d.s. "ARMY SIGNALS" has been applied. Both the cachet and c.d.s. were applied at Hinaidi prior to departure.

The reverse of the cover is embossed with an albino impression official seal "GOVERNMENT OF INDIA".

Seven such flown internally within Iraq by the RAF are recorded, all are official envelopes.

Dispatch no 94 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 28 May 1925	Arrive Cairo 29 May 1925
Depart Port Said 30 May 1925	Arrive London 8 June 1925

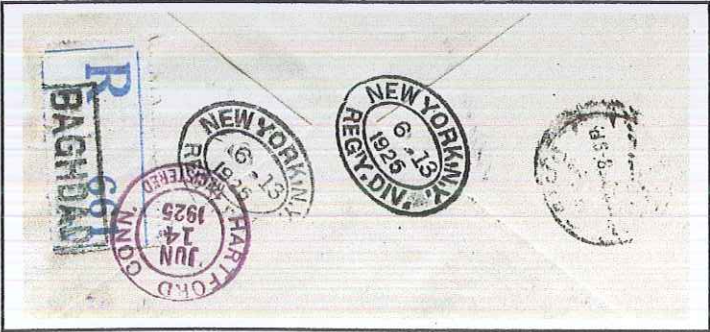


BAGHDAD H.O. 28 MAY 25

Correct postage of 9 annas prepaid, 3 annas postage letter rate, 3 annas air mail fee and 3 annas registration fee.

Air mail label Andrews type 4b, in English and Arabic script on two lines, black on greenish blue.

Transit time from date of posting to delivery in United States, 19 days.



Reduced colour scan of reverse
To show c.d.s. backstamping of,
Cairo 29 May 1925
New York 13 June 1925
Hartford 14 June 1925.

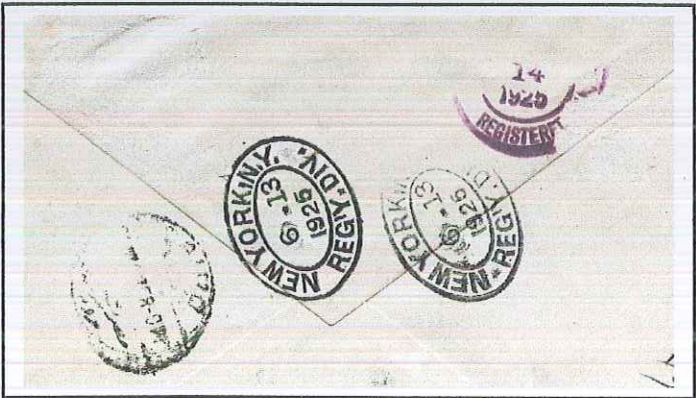


BAGHDAD H.O. REG. 28 MAY 25

Correct postage of 9 annas, 3 annas surface letter rate to Cairo and beyond, 3 annas air mail fee plus 3 annas registration fee.

Air mail label Andrews type 4b, in both English and Arabic script on two lines, black on greenish blue.

Transit time from date of posting to delivery in United States, 19 days.

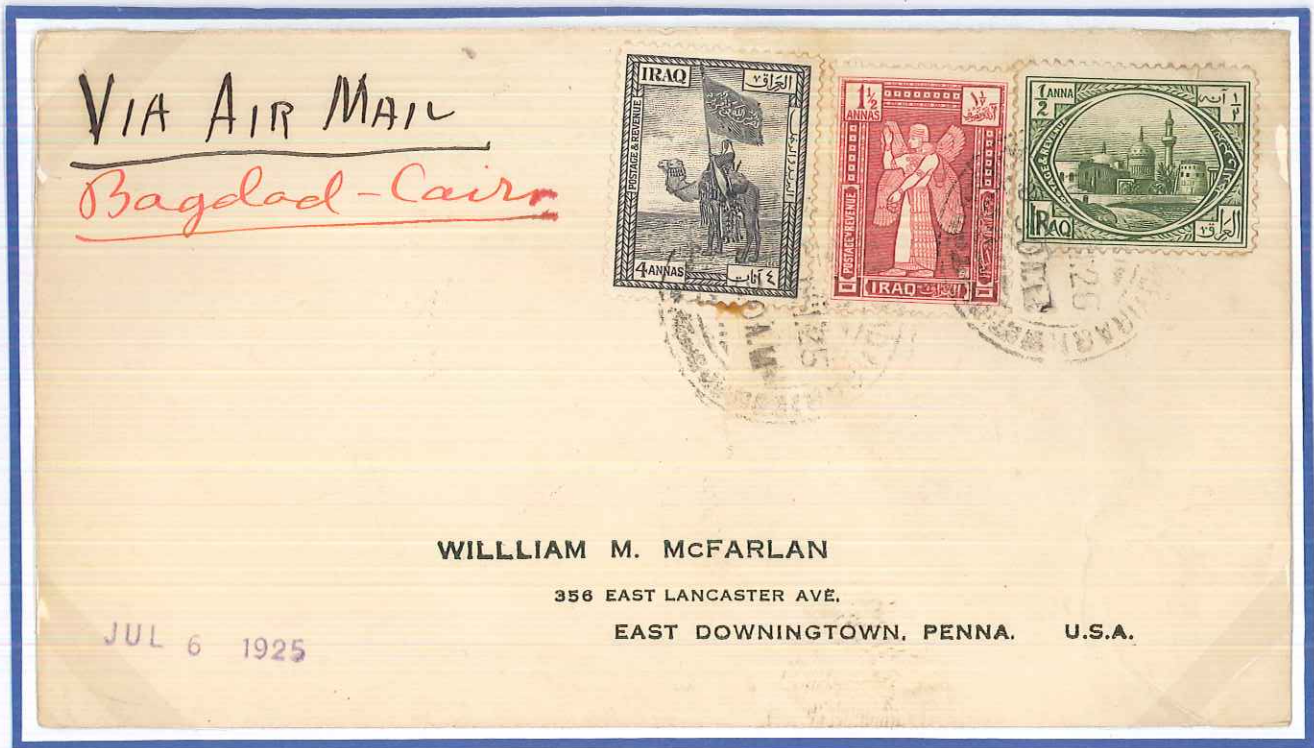


Reduced colour scan of reverse
To show receiving backstamping
c.d.s. of,

Cairo 29 May 1925
New York 13 June 1925
Hartford 14 June 1925.

Dispatch no 95 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 11 June 1925	Arrive Cairo 13 June 1925
Depart Port Said 14 June 1925	Arrive London 22 June 1925



BAGHDAD (IRAQ) 6 JUN. 25 8.30 AM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas surface postage from Baghdad to Cairo and beyond, plus 3 annas air mail fee per ounce.

Transit time from posting in Baghdad to arrival in London prior to onward carriage to the United States via trans-Atlantic mail steamer, 19 days.

Total transit time unknown as cover is not backstamped on receipt or arrival.

Manscripted with routing jusqu'a "VIA AIR MAIL" and "Baghdad – Cairo"

Dispatch no 99 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart Alexandria 10 July 1925
Depart Cairo 13 July 1925

Arrive Cairo 12 July 1925
Arrive Baghdad 14 July 1925



ALEXANDRIA 10. VII. 25

Correct postage of 27 milliemes, postage of 15 milliemes plus 12 milliemes air fee per 20 grams.

Air mail label applied at Alexandria is Andrews type 2, white on blue in two lines English and Arabic script.

Additionally the front has received the unframed cachet in black of “AIR MAIL” again in both English and Arabic script, Andrews type 1.

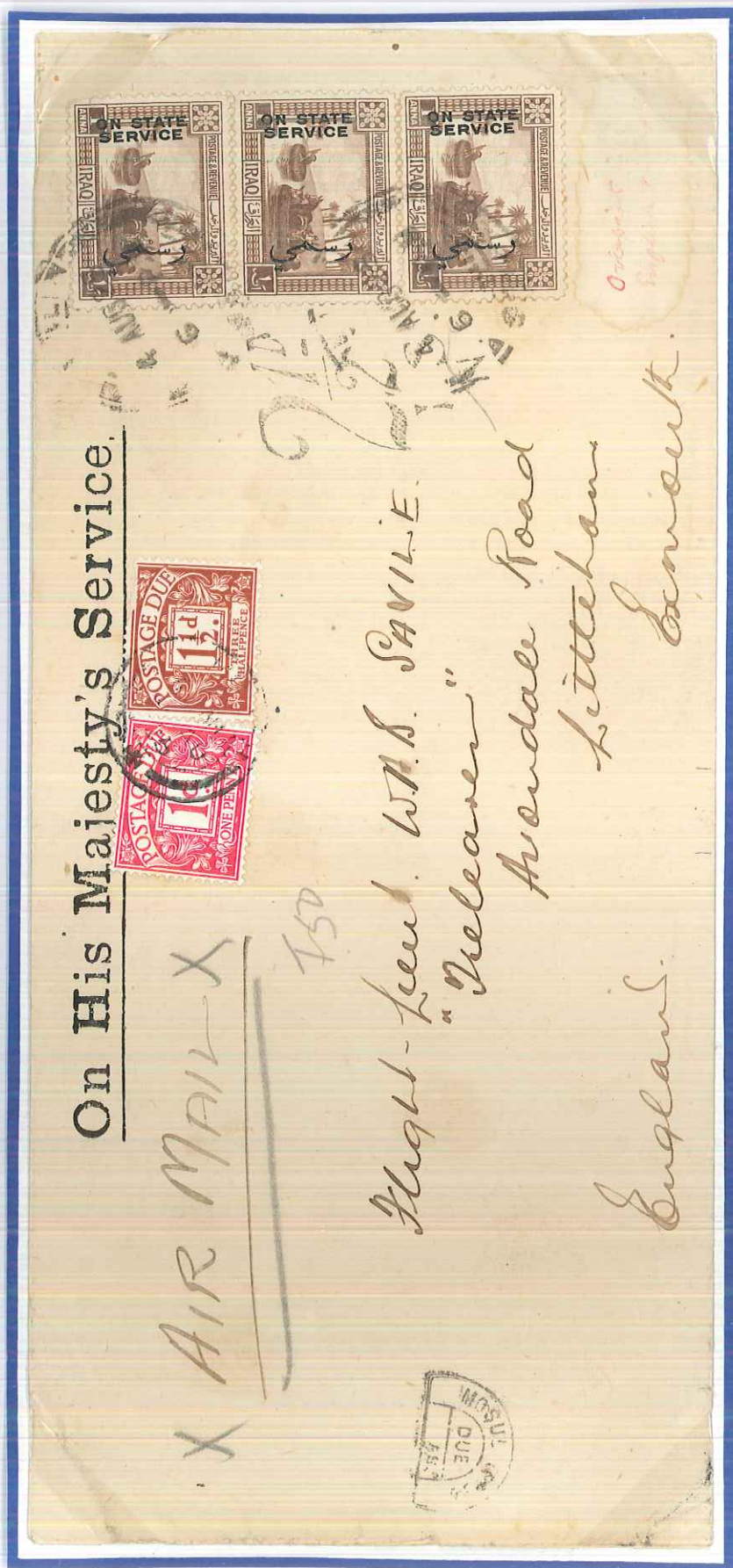
Total transit from Egypt to Iraq 5 days from date of posting to delivery.



Reduced colour scan of reverse
to show receiving c.d.s. of
Baghdad dated 14 July 1925.

Dispatch no 99 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 6 August 1925	Arrive Cairo 8 August 1925
Depart Port Said 9 August 1925	Arrive London 17 August 1925



MOSEL
4 AUG. 25
6 – PM

Underpaid by 3 annas official letter has been handstamped with the cachet “2½D” and “MOSEL POSTAGE DUE, ANS.” Proud type UP2.

2½d collected from recipient on arrival in the United Kingdom with postage due adhesives applied cancelled with Exmouth c.d.s. dated 19 August 1925.

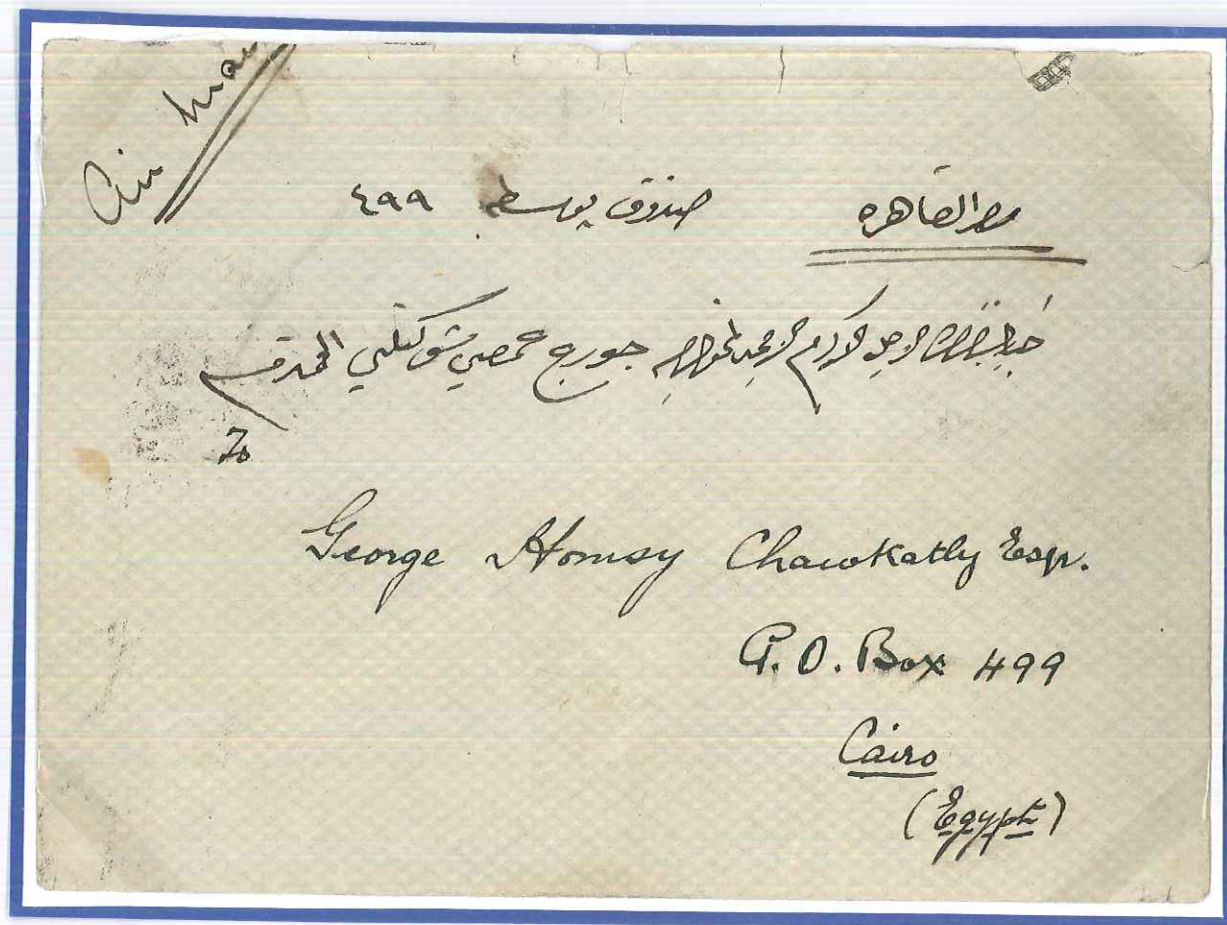


Reduced colour scan of reverse to show receiving backstamping c.d.s. of Baghdad 6 August 1925.

Transit time from date of posting to arrival, 16 days.

Depart Baghdad 17 September 1925

Arrive Cairo 19 September 1925



BAGHDAD H.O. (IRAQ) 15 SEP. 25 5.30 PM

Correct postage of 9 annas applied to rear, 3 annas per ounce, plus 1½ annas each addition ounce or part thereof, (triple weight letter, 3 ounces) plus 3 annas air mail fee.

Total transit time of 5 days from posting to arrival in Cairo, Egypt.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show receiving c.d.s. of Cairo, dated 19 September 1925 and adhesives applied of 9 annas.

Dispatch no 105 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 1 October 1925
Depart Cairo 8 October 1925

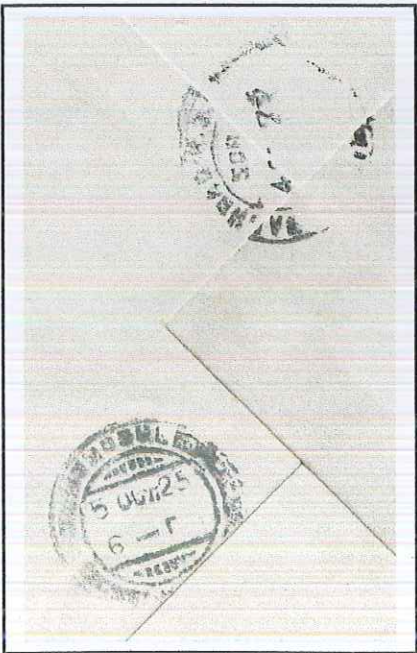
Arrive Port Said 7 October 1925
Arrive Baghdad 9 October 1925



OXFORD 23 SP 25

Correct postage of 5½d per ounce applied, made up of 2½d postage and 3d airmail fee.

Transit time of 17 days total from date of posting to receipt in Mosul.



Reduced scan of reverse to
show receiving c.d.s. of
Baghdad dated 10 OCT 25
and Mosul dated
15 OCT 25.

Dispatch no 104 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 15 October 1925

Arrive Cairo 16 October 1925

Depart Port Said 17 October 1925

Arrive London 24 October 1925



BASRAH 6 OCT 25 SORTING

Correct postage of 10½ annas (quadruple 4 ounce letter rate, 3 annas first ounce, 1½ annas each additional ounce or part thereof), plus 3 annas air mail fee. (13 December 1923 to 1 May 1927).

Letter is additionally endorsed with **"Airmail"** applied in manuscript.

No backstamping on reverse for time and date of receipt in London.

Total transit time of 19 days from date of posting to delivery in London.

Dispatch no 108 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart Jerusalem 14 November 1925	Arrive Gaza 15 November 1925
Depart Gaza 19 November 1925	Arrive Baghdad 20 November 1925



JERUSALEM 13 NOV 25. 11 AM

Correct postage of 20 milliemes applied, 8 milliemes surface letter rate plus 12 milliemes air mail fee per 20 grams as from 28 December 1923.

No receiving backstamps to reverse of cover.

Total transit time 8 days from date of posting to delivery in Baghdad.

AIR MAIL

Envelope has been handstruck with one of the large unofficial cachet applied in black.

This cachet is one of a number of private handstamps applied to the mails and is unlisted by both Mc Queen and Andrews.

Dispatch no 109 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 24 December 1925	Arrive Cairo 26 December 1925
Depart Port Said 28 December 1925	Arrive London 4 January 1926



BAGHDAD H.Q. (IRAQ) 18 DEC. 25 4 – PM

Incorrect postage applied of 10 annas, overpaid letter 3 ounce to Cairo and beyond 3 annas per ounce, additional weight charged at 1½ annas per ounce or part of an ounce plus 3 annas for the air mail fee per ounce, as from 13 December 1923.
Letter overpaid by 1 anna.

Transit time of 18 days from date of posting to delivery in United Kingdom.

Letter front has received the black on yellow Mair type IRQ-A-5 air mail label.



This printed cachet is one of a number of private jusqu'a route markings in use during this period. These are considered to be unofficial and as such are unlisted by both Andrews and Mc Queen.

Dispatch no 114 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 4 February 1926	Arrive Port Said 10 February 1926
Depart Cairo 11 February 1926	Arrive Baghdad 12 February 1926



PORTSMOUTH 3 FEB 1926

Correct postage of 5½d applied, made up of 2½d postage per ounce plus 3d airmail fee.

Air mail label Mair type GBR-A-2.

Transit time from posting to receipt 9 days total.



Reduced scan of reverse to show receiving c.d.s. of Baghdad dated 12 FEB 26.

Dispatch no 115 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 18 February 1926	Arrive Alexandria 24 February 1926
Depart Cairo 25 February 1926	Arrive Baghdad 27 February 1926

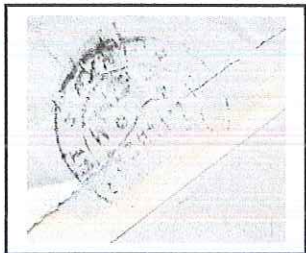


SOUTH KENSINGTON.S.W.1 10 FE 26

Correct postage of 5½d. pre-paid. Airmail label Mair type, GBR-A-3d (issued April 1924).

Total transit of 18 days from date of posting in the U.K. to receipt in Iraq.

All mail bags from this dispatch were carried by three Vickers "Vernon" aircraft from No 45 Squadron. One aircraft landing at Ziza, Southern Palestine and the other two aircraft landing at Mosefig, Transjordan on route to Hinaidi, Iraq.



Reduced colour scan of backstamped c.d.s.
on reverse of cover.

Dispatch no 116 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart Cairo 12 March 1926	Arrive Baghdad 12 March 1926
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10 MR. 26 3.30P. CAIRO

Correct postage of 42 milliemes, 15 milliemes postage, 12 milliemes air mail fee plus 12 milliemes registration fee.
Bi-lingual (English and Arabic) air mail label, Andrews type 2 affixed to front.

Transit time of 3 days from posting to delivery.



Reduced colour scans of the
reverse to show the receiving c.d.s.
backstamping.

BAGHDAD REG. 13 MAR. 26

BASRAH REG. 15 MAR. 26

MAGIL REG. 15 MAR. 26

Registered first day cover from Cairo to Margil, Southern Iraq dated 10 March 1926 with the deep violet 27 milliemes air mail adhesive issued to prepay the postage of 15 milliemes plus the air mail fee of 12 milliemes by the Egyptian Post Office specifically for the Cairo – Baghdad air mail service.

This specially printed stamp issue was only available for this air mail service and was illegal to be used for any other air mail service or usage.

Dispatch no 115 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 18 March 1926	Arrive Cairo 20 March 1926
Depart Port Said 21 March 1926	Arrive London 27 March 1926



BAGHDAD H.Q. (IRAQ) 10 MAR. 26 6 – PM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas postage surface letter rate plus 3 annas air mail fee.

Total transit time of 18 days from date of posting to delivery in United Kingdom.

AIR MAIL
BAGHDAD-CAIRO.

Front has had a privately printed unofficial air mail label stuck on.

Both Andrews and Mc Queen do not record this type of printed label.

Dispatch no 117 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart Alexandria 17 March 1926	Arrive Cairo 18 march 1926
Depart Cairo 25 March 1926	Arrive Baghdad 26 March 1926

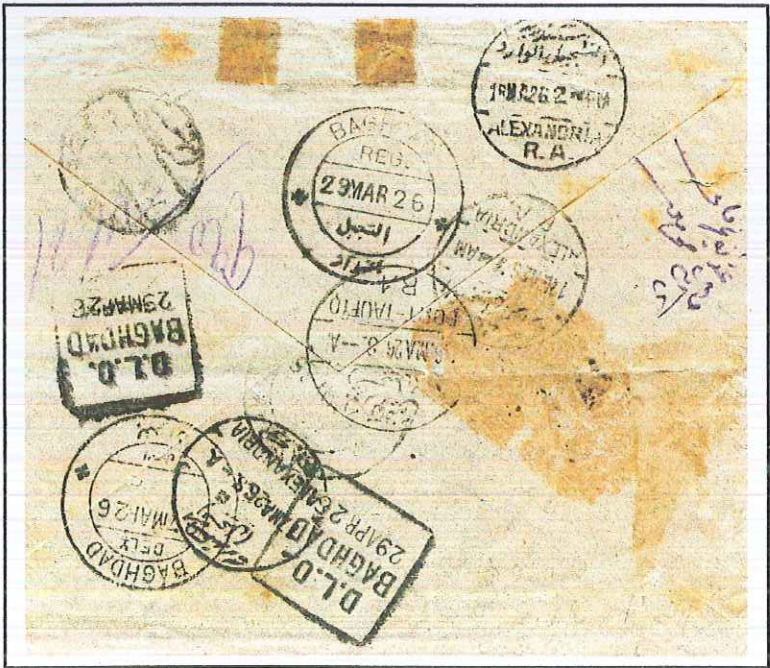


ALEXANDRIA
17 MA 26 8.-A

Correct postage of 42 milliemes applied, 15 milliemes postage and 12 milliemes per 20 grams air mail fee, (rates as from 22 December 1923) plus 15 milliemes registration fee.

Bi-lingual (English and Arabic) registration label and unframed type 1 cachet "AIR MAIL" applied to front at Alexandria.

Additionally cover has been manuscripted on front with "Insufficient, address, 28/3".



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping c.d.s. and Dead Letter Office cachets.

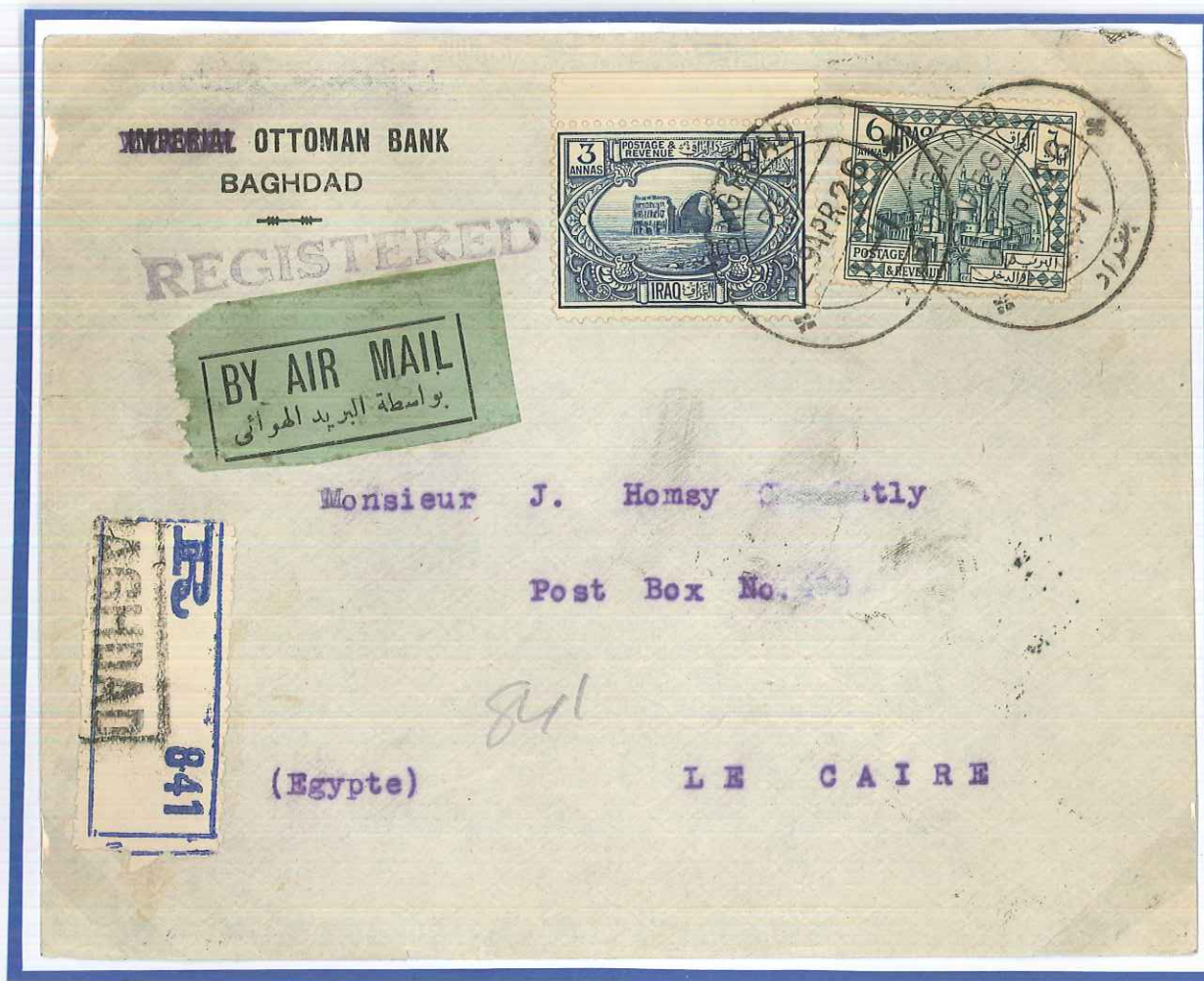
Port Taufiq 16 March 26
Alexandria 17 Mar 26
Baghdad 27 March 26
Baghdad REG. 29 March 26

Boxed cachet of D.L.O.
Baghdad 29 March 26

Dispatch no 118 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 29 April 1926

Arrive Cairo 30 April 1926

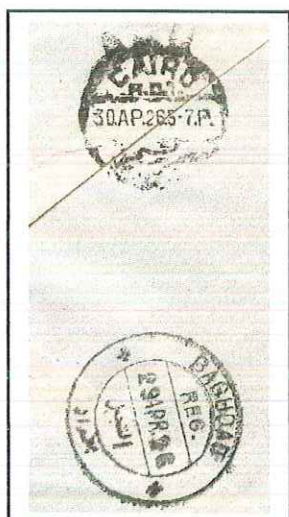


BAGHDAD REG. 29 APR 26

Correct onstage of 9 annas pre-paid, being 3 annas, plus 3 annas air mail fee and 3 annas registration fee.

Airmail label Mair type, IRQ-A-1b.

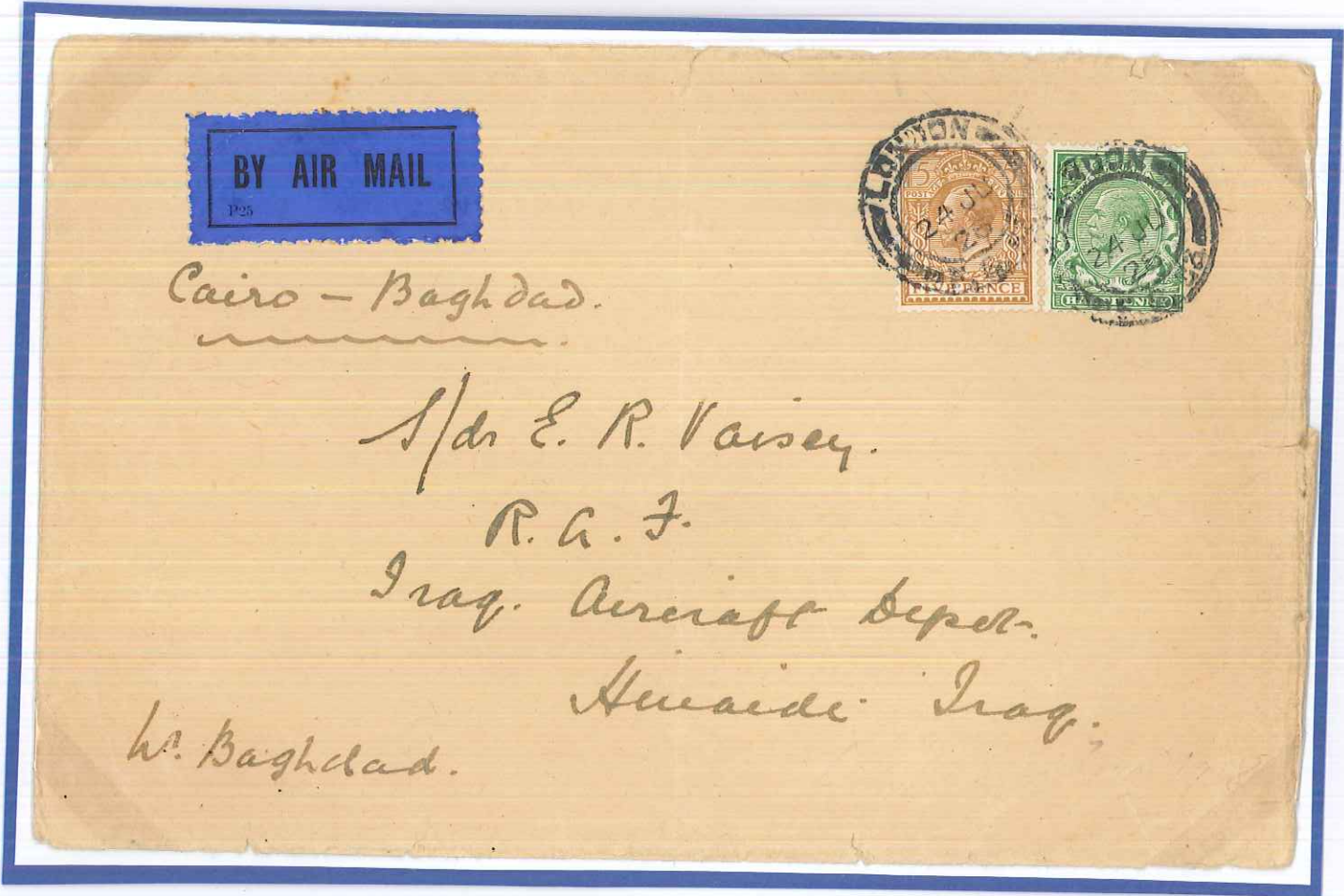
Total transit time of 2 days from posting in Iraq to receipt in Egypt.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping c.d.s. of Baghdad and Cairo.

Dispatch no 124 via Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 24 June 1926	Arrive Port Said 30 June 1926
Depart Cairo 2 July 1926	Arrive Baghdad 2 July 1926



LONDON 24 JU 26

Correct postage of 5½d per ounce applied , made up of 2½d postage per ounce plus 3d airmail fee per ounce.

Air mail label Mair type GBR-A-3b.

Total transit of 8 days from posting date to date of receipt at Hinaidi.



Reduced scan of reverse to show receiving c.d.s. of Baghdad Cantonment dated 2 JULY 26.

Dispatch no 129 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 30 September 1926

Depart Port Said 3 October 1926

Arrive Cairo 2 October 1926

Arrive London 9 October 1926



Magil 28 SEP. 26 7.45 AM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas surface postage plus 3 annas air mail fee.

Total transit time of 12 days from date of posting to arrival in London.

AIR MAIL
BAGHDAD-CAIRO.

Andrews book "The Royal Air Force Cairo – Baghdad Air Mail Service 1921 – 1927" states that there is a number of private unofficial cachets, framed and unframed applied to the mails.

The one shown above is the sixth unofficial, private jusqu'a routing cachet held in this exhibit.

Dispatch no 130 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 14 October 1926	Arrive Cairo 15 October 1926
Depart Port Said 16 October 1926	Arrive London 23 October 1926



BAGHDAD H.Q. (IRAQ) 1 OCT. 26 8.30 PM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied to red of cover, 3 annas surface letter rate plus 3 annas air fee.

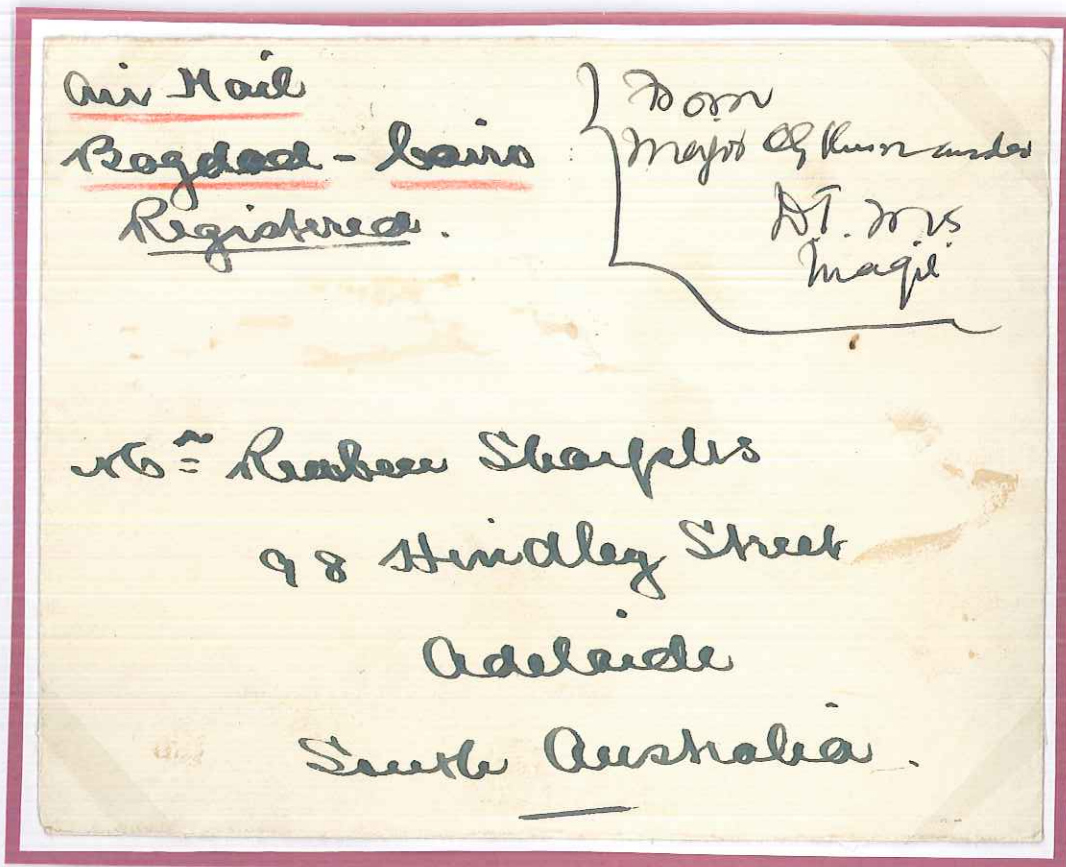
Transit time of 23 days from date of posting in Iraq.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show adhesives applied and the datestamp of Baghdad.

Dispatch no 131 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 28 October 1926	Arrive Cairo 29 October 1926
Depart Port Said 30 October 1926	Arrive London 6 November 1926



MAGIL REG. 25 OCT. 26

Correct postage applied to reverse of 9 annas total, 3 annas for surface postage per ounce (30 April 1926 to 13 December 1926). Plus 3 annas registration fee and 3 annas special air fee per ounce.

Transit time from date of posting to delivery, 35 days



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show backstamping and adhesives.

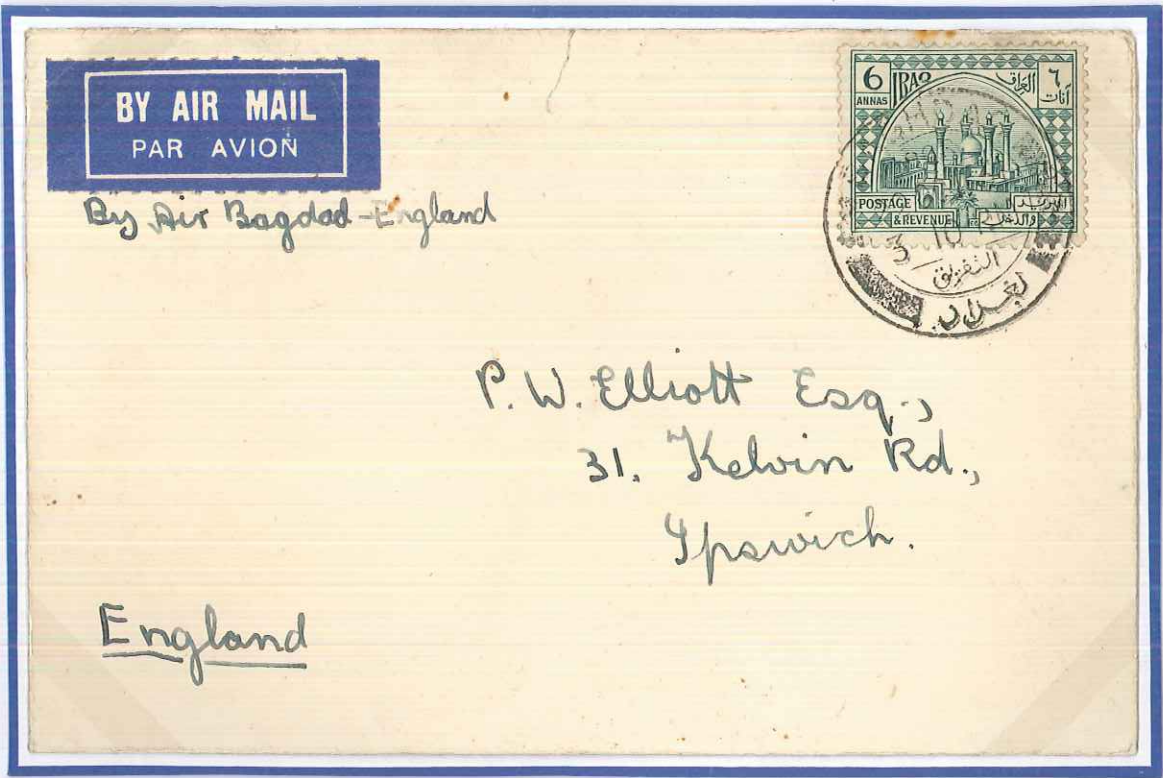
Circular datestamps:-

- Magil Reg, 25 Oct 26
- Basrah Reg, 25 Oct 26
- Baghdad Reg, 28 Oct 26
- Port Said 1 Nov 26
- Adelaide 27 Nov 26

Few covers recorded via this RAF service addressed to Australia or New Zealand. With the Iraqi Postal administration only accepting mail for these countries as from March 1926

Dispatch no 132 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 11 November 1926	Arrive Cairo 12 November 1926
Depart Port Said 13 November 1926	Arrive London 20 November 1926



BAGHDAD SOR. 29 OCT. 26 3.10PM

Correct postage of 6 annas applied, 3 annas surface letter rate plus 3 annas special air fee.

Letter endorsed on front in manuscript with **“By Air Bagdad – England”**.

Total transit time from date of posting to arrival in the United Kingdom on 20 November 1926, 23 days.

No backstamping in evidence to state date or time of receipt in the United Kingdom.

Letter was posted one day late to catch the previous air mail dispatch.

Dispatch no 133 via Baghdad – Cairo Air Service

Depart Baghdad 25 November 1926	Arrive Cairo 29 November 1926
Depart Port Said 30 November 1926	Arrive Livorno, Italy 6 December 1926



BAGHDAD REG. 24 NOV. 26

Correct postage of 9 annas applied, air fee 3 annas, postage 3 annas and registration fee 3 annas.
Bi-lingual air mail label Mair type IRQ-A-1b.
Total transit time of 14 days between posting in Baghdad to delivery in Italy.



Reduced colour scan of reverse to show adhesive stamps and backstamping applied at Baghdad, Cairo and on arrival in Livorno, Italy, c.d.s. dated 6 December 1926.

Final Dispatch no 137 via Royal Air Force Cairo – Baghdad Air Service

Depart London 23 December 1926	Arrive Port Said 30 December 1926
Depart Cairo 31 December 1926	Arrive Baghdad 1 January 1927



TORQUAY 22 DEC 1926 DEVON

Correct postage of 5½d applied, 2½d postage per ounce plus 3d air mail fee per ounce.

Airmail label Mair type GBR-A-2.

Total transit of 11 days from date of posting to receipt in Baghdad.

On arrival at Baghdad's Hinaidi airport in the late afternoon of 1 January 1927 the Royal Air Force concluded a remarkable and memorable episode in its life as a military service, transporting civilian and official correspondence for five years and three months on 137 east bound air mail flights between Cairo and Baghdad and 136 west bound flights between Baghdad and Cairo.

Henceforth all air mail between Iraq and Egypt and return would be carried by Imperial Airways aircraft departing Basra on Friday 7 January 1927 to Baghdad (overnight stop), Rutbah and Gaza (overnight stop) arriving at Cairo on Sunday morning. The return flight over the same route in reverse commenced on Wednesday 12 January 1927, arriving back in Basra on Friday.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS TAKES OVER THE AIR MAIL SERVICE FROM THE RAF, JANUARY 1927

After flying the "furrow" since October 1921 the RAF handed over its duties to Imperial Airways on 1 January 1927, with the airline flying their De Havilland DH 66 "Hercules" aircraft and adding Basra to the route from Cairo on a fortnightly service.



**PADDINGTON
5 JAN 1927**

Correct postage of
7½d. applied, 4½d. per
½ oz. plus air mail fee of
3d. per ½ oz.

**Letter flown on the first
service of Imperial
Airways flight E1,
departing Cairo on
12 January and arriving
at Basra on
15 January 1927.**

**Total transit time from
posting to receipt in
Calcutta 20 days.**



MA'QIL 6 JAN. 27 2.45 PM

Correct postage of 6 annas
applied, 3 annas postage plus
3 annas air mail fee per ounce.

6 annas postage stamp applied
to rear of letter and cancelled
with Ma'gil c.d.s. of
6 January 1927.

**Letter flown on the first air
service of Imperial Airways
W 1, departing Basra on
7 January and arriving at
Cairo on 9 January 1927.**

**Letter travelled from Cairo to
Alexandria by rail carriage
arriving on 10 January 1927.**

**Transit time of 4 days from
posting to receipt.**

Imperial Airways Basra – Cairo – Basra, Air Mail Service 1927



KARACHI
15 JAN. 27

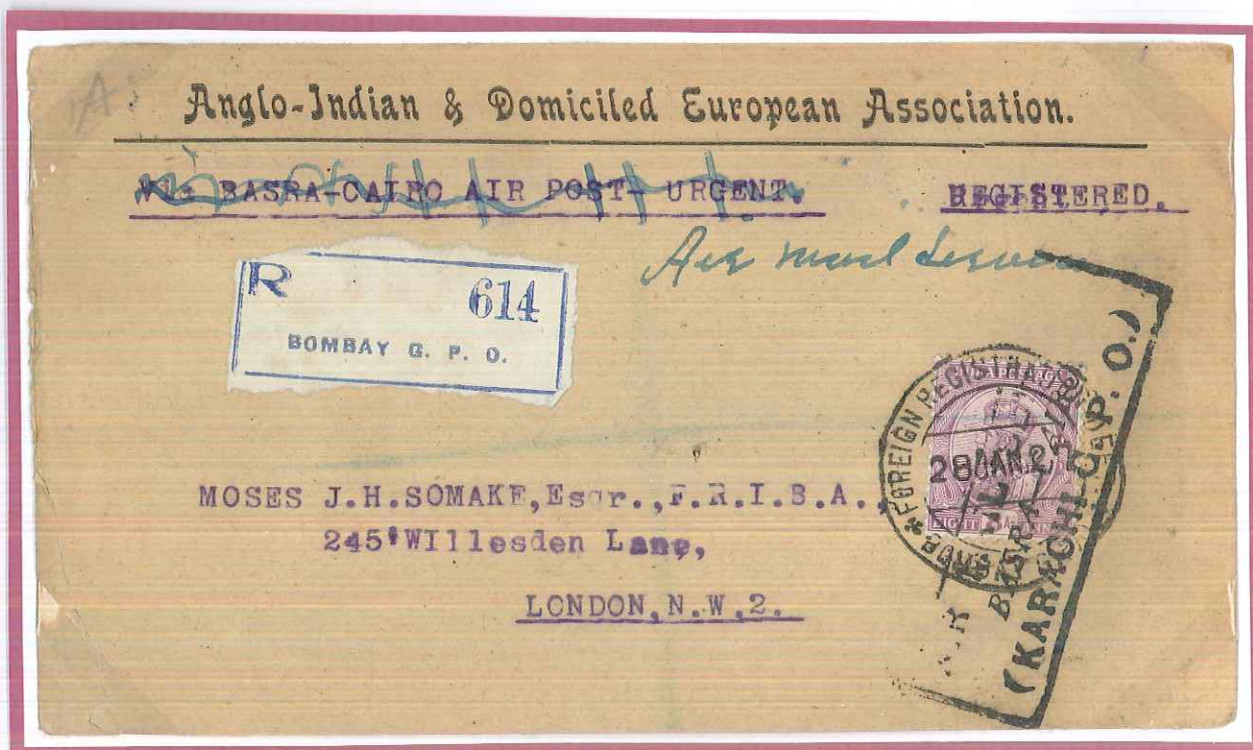
Correct postage of 6 annas applied per ounce, letter rate to non-Empire countries.

Letter conveyed on Imperial service W.2, Basra to Cairo departing on 21 January 1927.

Backstamped with Cairo c.d.s. 23 JAN.27.

AIR MAIL SERVICE
BASRA-CAIRO.
(KARACHI G. P. O.)

Three lined boxed jusqu'a cachet applied in red ink as from 15 January until 8 September 1927 black ink in error at Karachi on 12 February 1927.

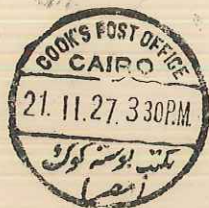


BOMBAY FOREIGN REGISTERED 28 JAN.27

Correct postage of 8 annas applied, 6 annas postage plus 2 annas registration fee.
Backstamped with BASRAH, REG, 18 FEB.27. REGISTERED, LONDON 26 FE 27, and REGISTERED, CRICKLEWOOD, 28 FE 27.

THOS. COOK & SON, LTD.

Air Mail Urgent - Cairo - Basra h. 1359



Mr A. Hales,

Imperial Bank of India

Post Box No 521,

8 Council House Street

Calcutta

India

**COOK'S POST
OFFICE
CAIRO
21. 11. 27**

Correct postage of
30 milliemes per
20 grams, all inclusive
air mail letter rate to
India.

Letter conveyed on
Imperial E.4. departed
Cairo 23 February
and Basra
25 February 1927.

Mails transshipped at
Basra to British India
contract mail steamer
to Calcutta on
16 March 1927.

Backstamped on
arrival at Calcutta
G.P.O.
16 March 1927.

THOS. COOK & SON, LTD.

Air Mail - Cairo - Basra h 1359



Mr A. Hales,

Imperial Bank of India

Post Box No. 521,

8 Council House Street

Calcutta

India

**COOK'S POST
OFFICE
CAIRO
8- 11. 27**

Correct postage of
30 milliemes per
20 grams, all inclusive
air mail letter rate to
India.

Letter conveyed on
Imperial E.5. departed
Cairo
9 March and Basra
11 March 1927.

Mails transshipped at
Basra to British India
contract mail steamer
to Calcutta on
21 March 1927.

Backstamped on
arrival at Calcutta
G.P.O.
21 March 1927.

Imperial Airways Changes From Fortnightly to Weekly Air Service 1927

As from early April 1927 Imperial Airways started the air service in both directions on a weekly basis. The first flight west bound (W 8) to Cairo from Basra departed on 16 April and arrived on the 17 April at Heliopolis Airport situated to the north-east of Cairo.

BASRAH-CAIRO.
AIR MAIL.



Flight Lieut. E. Bennett,
R.A.F. M.S.

ENGLAND

14, Portland Lane,

Canford, LONDON, S.E.6.

BASRAH
15 April 1927

Correct postage of 6 annas applied.

Total transit time from date of posting to receipt in London, 6 days.

Large two line cachet applied to the cover front, "**BASRAH = CAIRO. AIR MAIL.**" Another of the unofficial unframed handstruck cachets applied to the mails in Iraq.

Printed matter

A. K. Essajee,
28, Churchgate Street,
BOMBAY.

Via. **BASRA-CAIRO AIR MAIL SERVICE.**



To,

Messrs. HEERAMANICK.

126, Rue De Province,

PARIS,

FRANCE.

URGENT



BOMBAY G.P.O.
10 NOV 27

Correct postage of 3½ annas, ½ anna Printed Matter rate plus 3 annas air mail fee.

Imperial service
W.39 departed
Basra on
19 November,
arriving in Cairo on
20 November 1927.



Double circle "**BY, AIR**" cachet
in use as from 15 September
1927.