

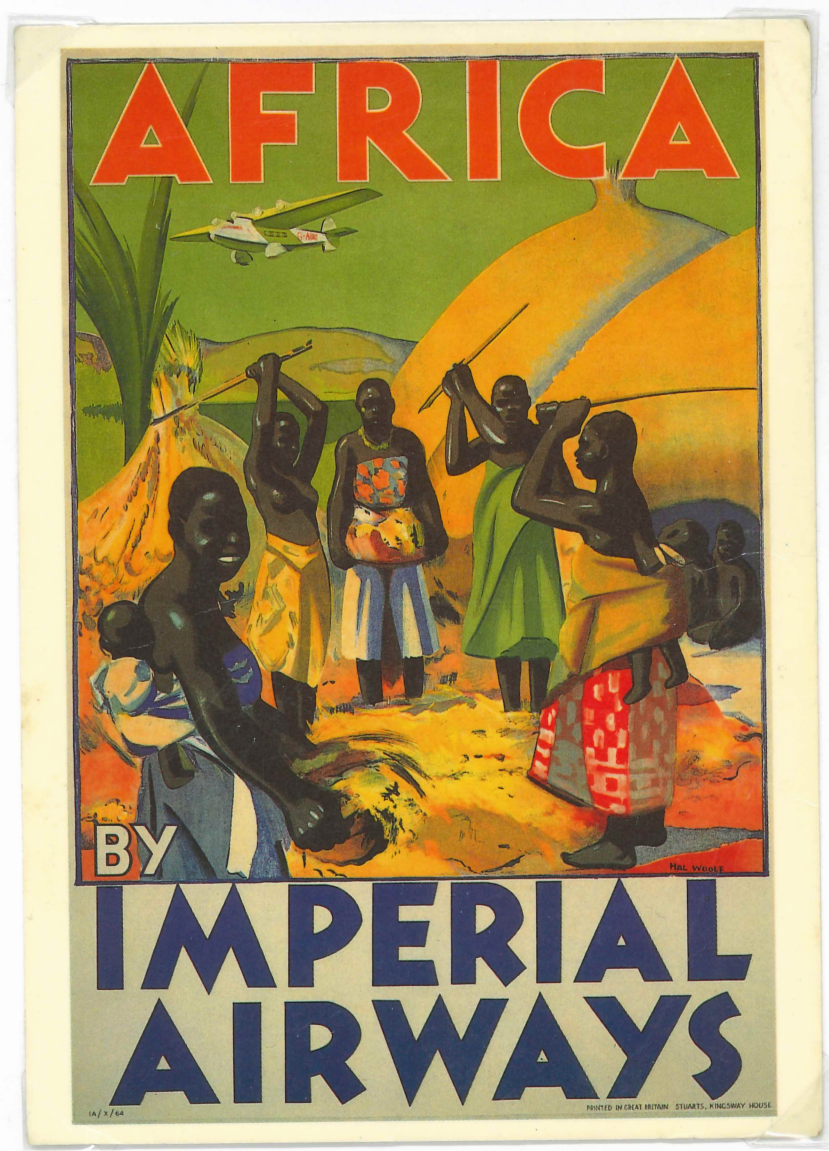
IMPERIAL AIRWAYS AIR MAIL SERVICE

CROYDON TO CAPE TOWN

Experimental " Christmas " Flight AS 41

Departed Croydon - 9th December 1931

Arrived Cape Town - 21st December 1931



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

An Imperial Airways cover for the First Air Mail between England and South Africa. Posted in Kisumu , Kenya . It joined the flight that departed Kisumu on 17th December 1931 and flown in the aircraft " City of Basra " Postage paid 55 cents East African with Kenya and Uganda duties . Backstamped in-transit , Johannesburg , Cape Town arrival and Cape Town Poste Rostante.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

The cover was posted at London FS Air Mail on 8th December 1931 for delivery to Mbeya , Tanganyika. Unclaimed at Mbeya and a " Undelivered for reason stated - Return to Sender " cachet applied. Back-stamped Mbeya 18th December. Correct postage of 7d paid.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at London Foreign Section for delivery to Dodoma , Tanganyika Territory . Arrived at Dodoma on the 18th December probably via Moshi in Kenya. Purple " Not Claimed/ Non-Reclame " cachet and manuscript "Retour " in red ink. On the reverse are transit post marks for Dodoma, 11th January 1932 , Dar es Salaam on 13th January and for Skelmanthorpe , Huddersfield on 15th February. Postage paid 7d.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at London FS Air Mail on 8th December 1931 to Mpika , Northern Rhodesia. Arrived at Mpika on 19th December. Postage of 9d paid with SG 445 and 446 duties.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

The cover was posted at London FS Air Mail on 8th December 1931 and departed on the flight to Cape Town AS41, It arrived at Broken Hill , Northern Rhodesia on 19th December. Postage paid 9d with a control strip (N30) of three off 3d SG 444 duties.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

A letter from Broken Hill , Northern Rhodesia to Cape Town . Posted on 17th December 1931 , it joined the " Christmas " flight and is back-stamped with an in-transit " Johannesburg " and arrival " Cape Town " postmarks dated 21st December. Postage paid 5d with Northern Rhodesian duties.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th
December 1931 AS41.

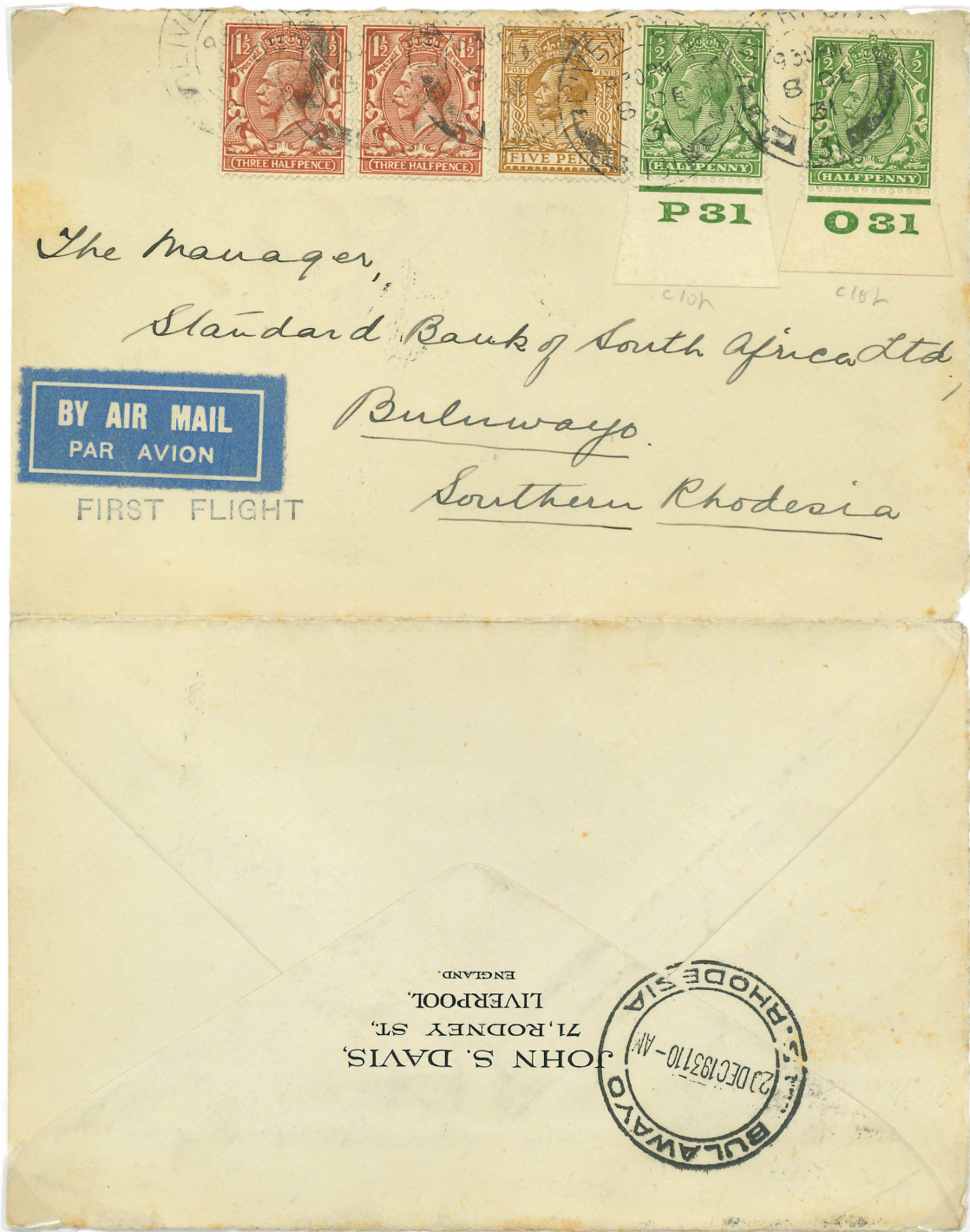
Flown from Salisbury to Bulawayo , Southern Rhodesia. Indistinct Salisbury
postmark , however, a clear arrival Bulawayo postmark dated 20th
December on reverse. " Experimental Flight " hand stamp . The postage paid
was 4d paid with four off one penny Southern Rhodesia duties.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th
December 1931 AS41.

Sent from Liverpool to join the " Christmas " flight for delivery to Bulawayo,
Southern Rhodesia. The postage of 9d being paid with a variety of duties.
Arrival postmark for Bulawayo on 20th December . Hand stamped " FIRST
FLIGHT "



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th
December 1931 AS41.

This letter , posted at Bulawayo on the 16th December 1931, joined flight
AS41 at Salisbury on 19th December for onward delivery to Cape Town.
Postage paid 5d with Southern Rhodesia duties. The cover has a
"Experimental Flight - Air Mail " cachet in black . In-transit and arrival
postmarks for Johannesburg and Cape Town dated 21st December on
reverse.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at Batson , a hamlet near Salcombe , Devon on 8th December 1931. Departed Croydon on flight AS41 on the flight to Cape Town. Addressed to Figtree Siding in Southern Rhodesia. It arrived at Salisbury on 19th December and at Francistown , Bechuanaland Protectorate on 22nd December. It reached its destination on 24th December. It was then returned to the sender, under separate cover , arriving at Batson on 16th February 1932. Figtree is named after a wild fig tree , which in the 19th Century , was where those wishing to enter the Matabele Kingdom were obliged to wait , by the tree , for permission to proceed further. It is situated 37 miles south west of Bulawayo on the main Bulawayo to Plumtree road.

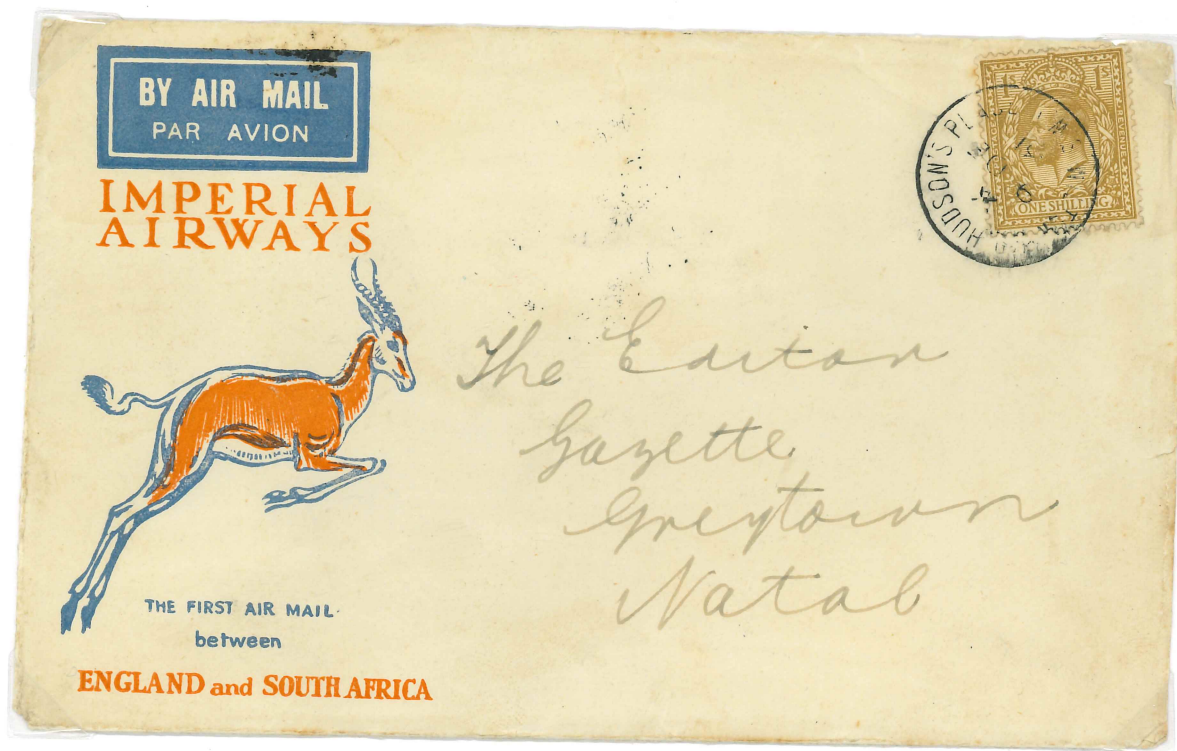
Back stamps for Batson, Salisbury. Francistown and Figtree on the reverse of the cover.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

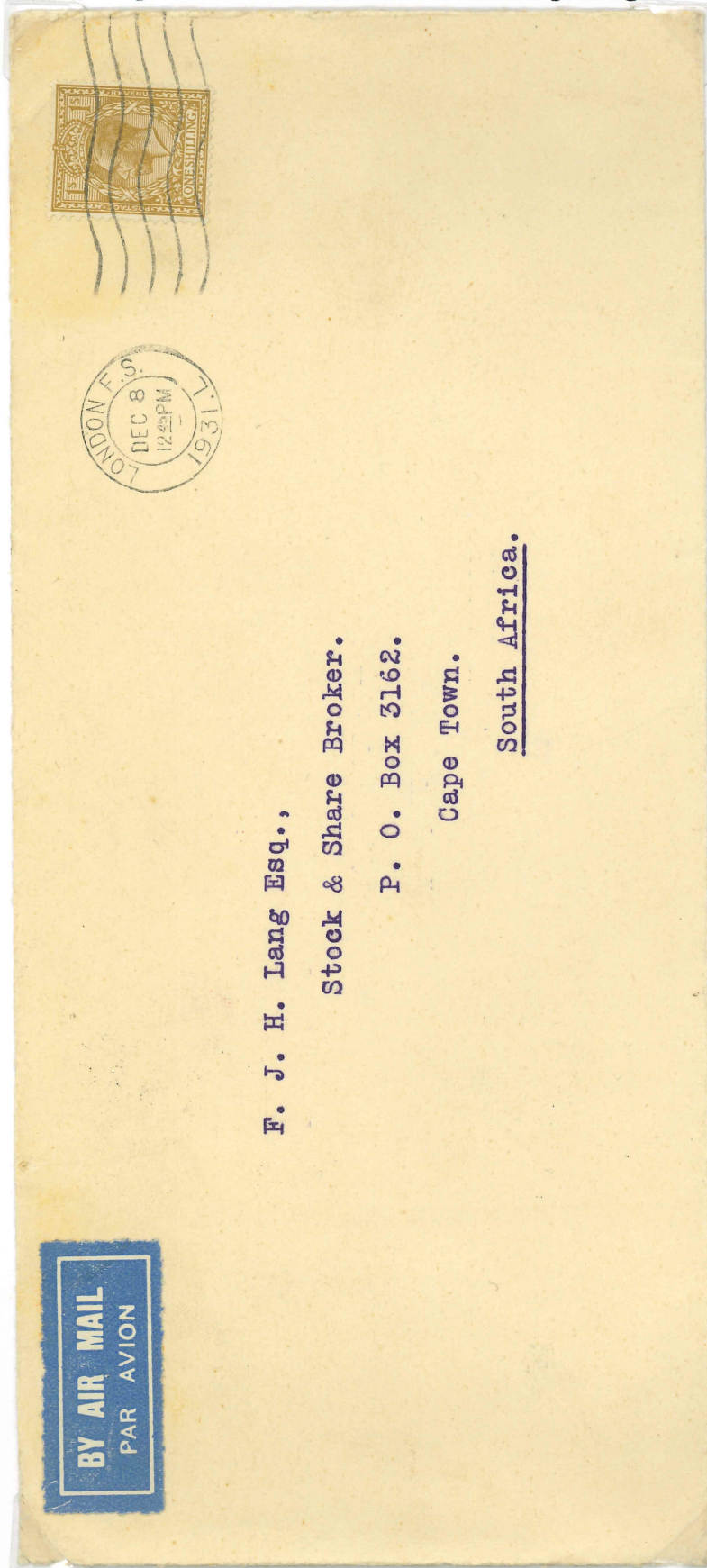
An Imperial Airways letter posted at Wilton Road Post Office , Hudsons Place, the sub-post office of Imperial Airways. Dated 9th December 1931, the letter contained a Christmas card to The Gazette at Greytown. Arrived at Johannesburg on 21st December and forwarded to Greytown , Natal .



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at London FS (Foreign Service) post office on 8th December. Arrived at Cape Town at 8.00pm on 21st December. Correct postage of 1/- paid.



F. J. H. Lang Esq.,

Stock & Share Broker.

P. O. Box 3162.

Cape Town.

South Africa.

Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS 41.

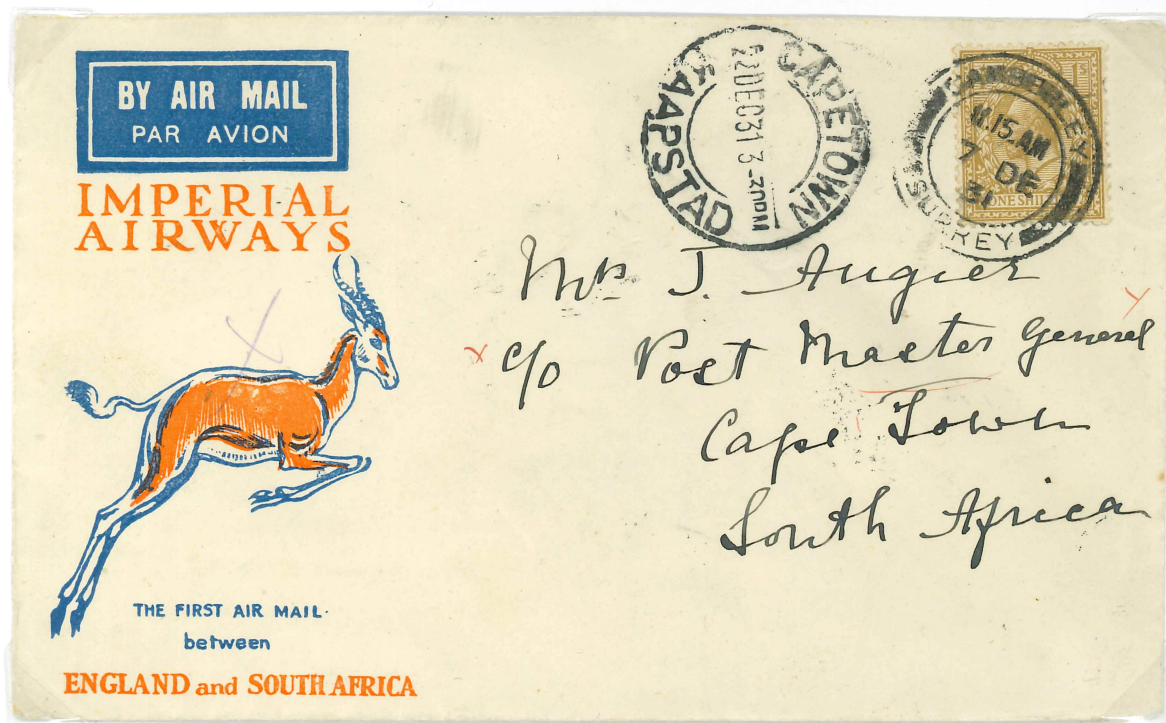
This flight was extended from Kisumu to Cape Town to position and test aircraft for the planned regular service to be launched in January 1932 . The flight departed on 9th December 1931 and arrived in Cape Town on 21st December . Large amounts of mail was carried both from England and from the various stops on route. This letter was posted in Bugle , Cornwall on 8th December , transit postmark for Johannesburg and arrival Cape Town cds on reverse. The 1/- postage paid with a nice variety of stamps .



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

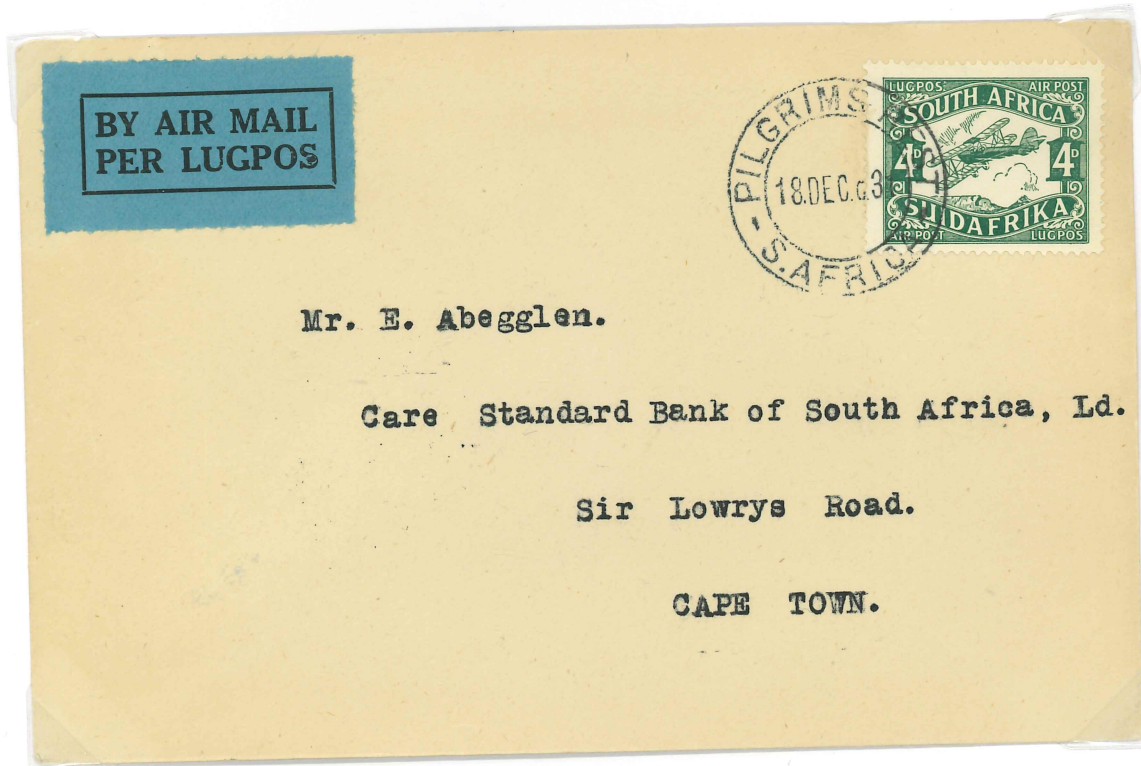
Posted at Camberley , Surrey on 7th December 1931. Arrived at Johannesburg at 3.30pm on 21st December (in-transit cds on reverse) and at Cape Town at 8.00pm on the same day (arrival cds on reverse) Correct postage of 1/- paid. Left Cape Town for delivery on 22nd December (see cds on the front)



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

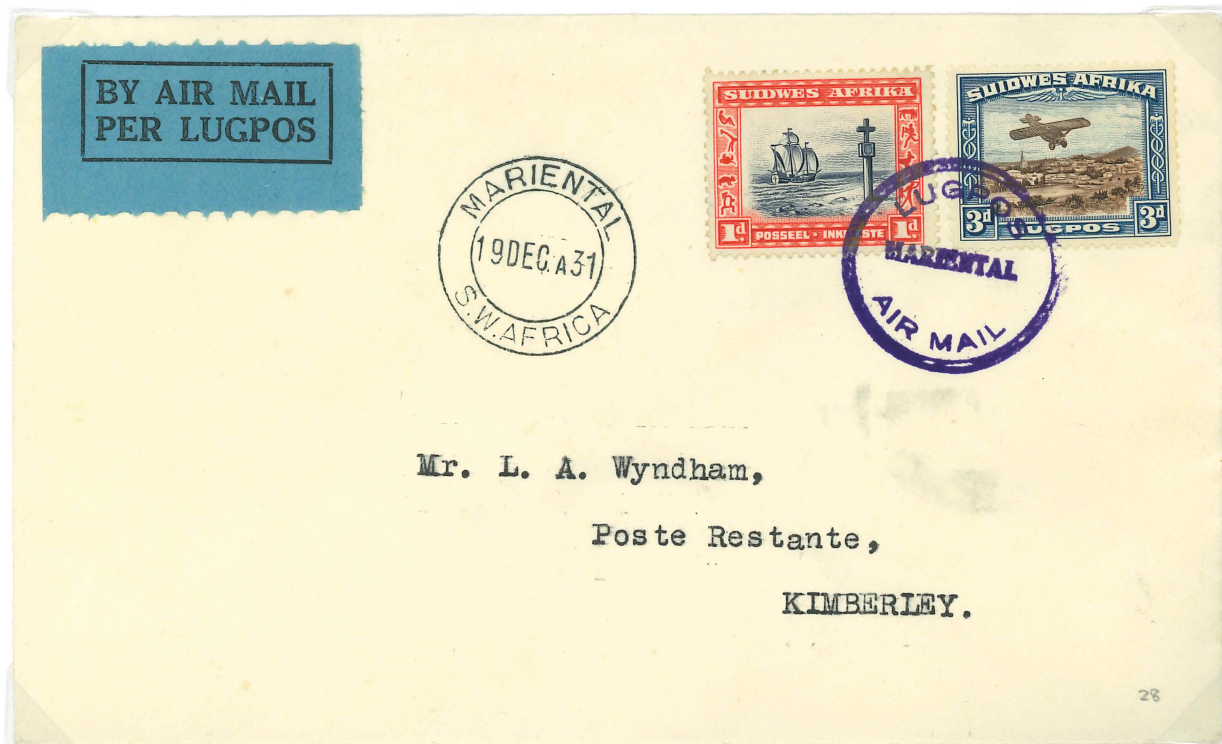
A cover, posted at Pilgrims Rest , Eastern Transvaal , on 18th December. Arrived at Johannesburg, on 21st December, where it met the flight AS 41 to Cape Town. The 4d postage paid with a SG 40 airmail stamp.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

A cover, posted at Mariental on 19th December , it was flown on the new feeder service to Kimberley . Arrival postmark for Kimberley, dated 20th December on reverse. Franked with 1d SG 75 and 3d SG 86 duties both tied to the cover with a circular air mail postmark in violet.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at Windhoek on 19th December , it was flown on the new feeder flight via Mariental and Keetmanshoop to Upington . Arrival Upington cds dated 20th December on reverse. The feeder flight continued on to Kimberley where it met flight AS 41 from Croydon to Cape Town.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

A cover, posted at Windhoek on 19th December , it was flown on the new feeder service to Upington . Arrival postmark for Upington , dated 20th December on reverse. Franked with 1d SG 75 and 3d SG 86 duties both tied to the cover with the special postmark for the new feeder service.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

A philatelic cover posted in Kimberley to Keetmanshoop on 14th December and left Kimberley on 20th December to join the " feeder " service returning to Windhoek via Keetmanshoop on 21st December (see postmark on reverse) Franked with a block of four 1925 1d air mails and a strip of six 1929 halfpenny definitives. Total postage paid 7d.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

An Imperial Airways cover for the First Air Mail between England and South Africa. Posted in Windhoek, South West Africa it was flown on the " feeder service " to Kimberley and then on to Cape Town. The pair of SWA 3d air mail stamps are cancelled with a special Windhoek postmark. Initially the cancel was to read " First Air Mail/ Eerste Lugpos " but it was then decided to use this for the first scheduled flight, so the words " First " and " Eerste " were removed.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at Windhoek on 19th December , it was flown on the new feeder flight to Kimberley where it met the flight AS 41 from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Arrival postmarks for Kimberley and Johannesburg on reverse. Postage paid 5d with both South West Africa and Union stamps.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

A registered cover, addressed to Durban, posted at Windhoek on 19th December, it was flown on the new feeder flight to Kimberley. In-transit postmark for Kimberley and an arrival postmark for Durban on reverse. Postage paid 1/2d with SWA overprinted duties SG 71 and a pair of SG 69.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted and registered in Kimberley to join the flight AS 41 on the Johannesburg to Cape Town leg. It was unclaimed at Cape Town Poste Restante and was backstamped at Cape Town " Returned L.O. " on 23rd February 1932. Postage and registration of 8d paid with a 4d SG 40 and a block of four SG O13 one penny " Officials "



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

Posted at Windhoek on 19th December , it was flown on the new feeder flight to Kimberley where it met the flight AS 41 from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Arrival postmark at Cape Town dated 21st December. Postage paid 5d paid with a 4d SWA SG 70 air mail duty and a pair of halfpenny officials SG O9 cancelled with the new airmail postmark for the Windhoek to Kimberley service.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

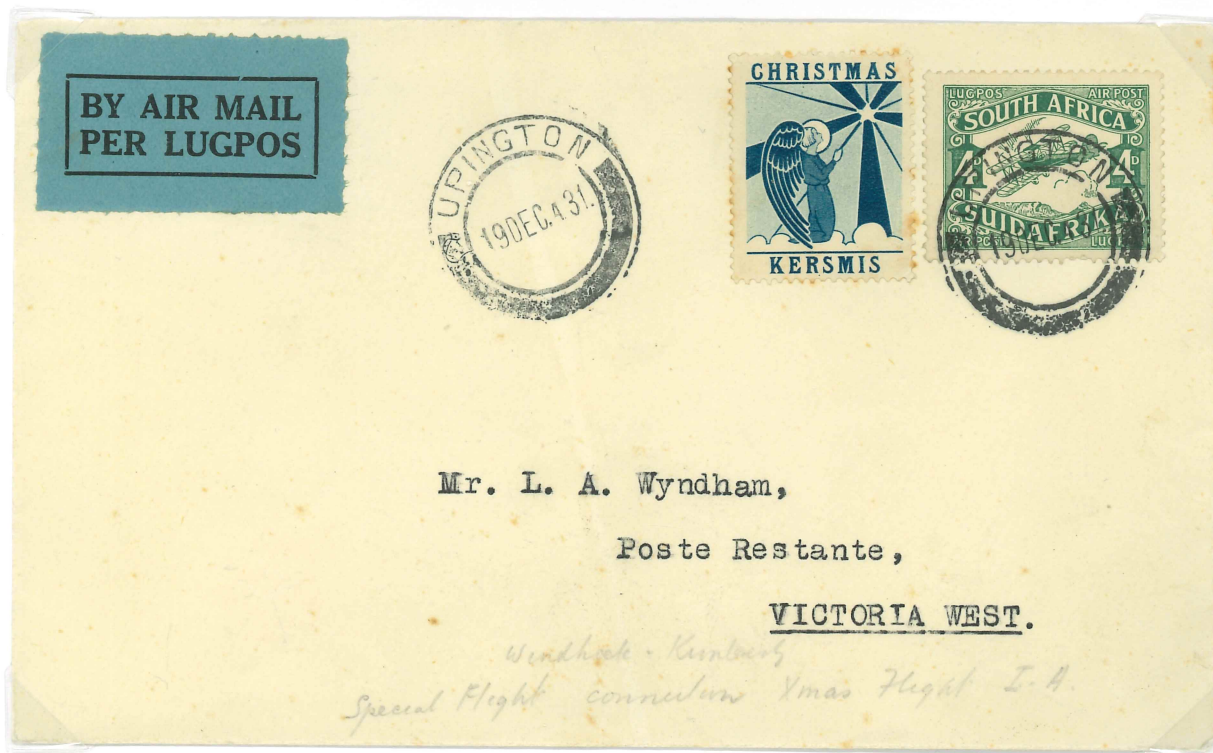
An Imperial Airways cover for the First Air Mail between England and South Africa. Posted in Keetmanshoop, South West Africa it was posted on 19th December to join a " feeder " service from Windhoek via Mariental and then to Upington and Kimberley in time to connect with AS 41 from Johannesburg to Cape Town. Clear postmarks for Keetmanshoop and Keetmanshoop Air Mail.



Imperial Airway Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental " Christmas " Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41.

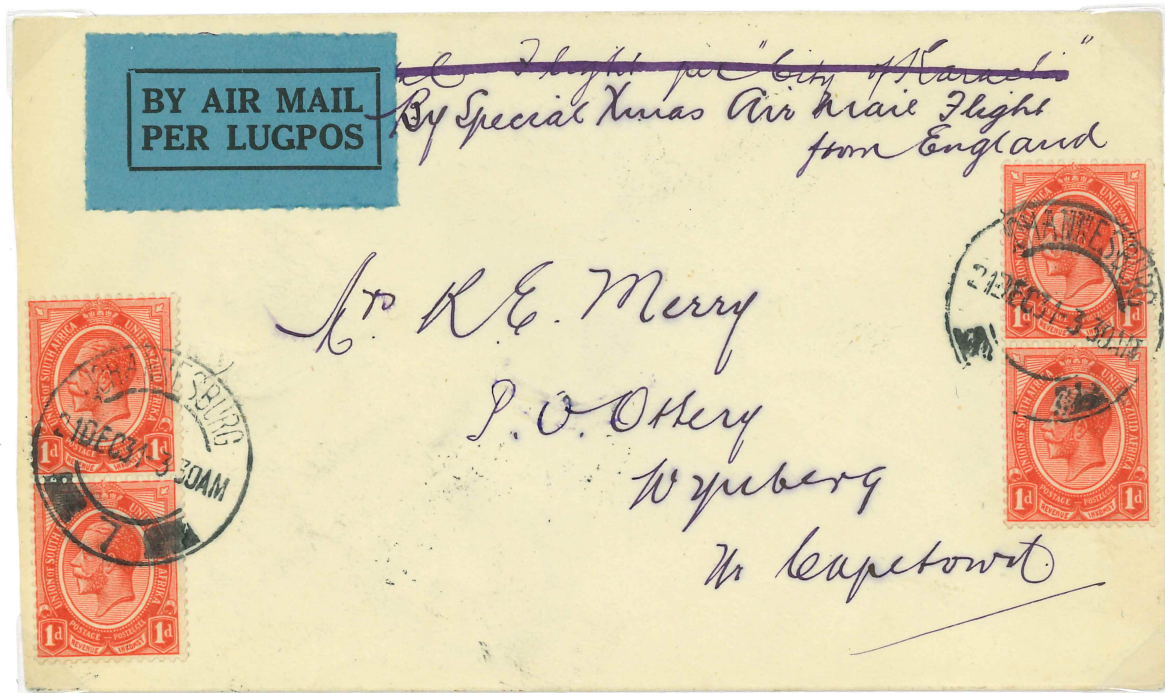
Posted in Upington on 19th December to join the " feeder " service from Windhoek to Kimberley where it met the flight AS 41 travelling from Johannesburg en-route to Victoria West and Cape Town. Victoria West arrival postmark for 21st December , on reverse. Stamped with a 4d airmail duty and a contemporary Christmas seal.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town

Experimental "Christmas" Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th
December 1931 AS41

Letter posted from Johannesburg on flight AS41 to the Cape Province.
Addressed to Wynberg, the letter was flown on the "City of Karachi".
Franked with four off King's Head penny stamps to make up the 4d airmail
postage rate. Backstamps for Cape Town and Ottery.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town

Experimental "Christmas" Flight Croydon to Cape Town 9th December 1931 AS41

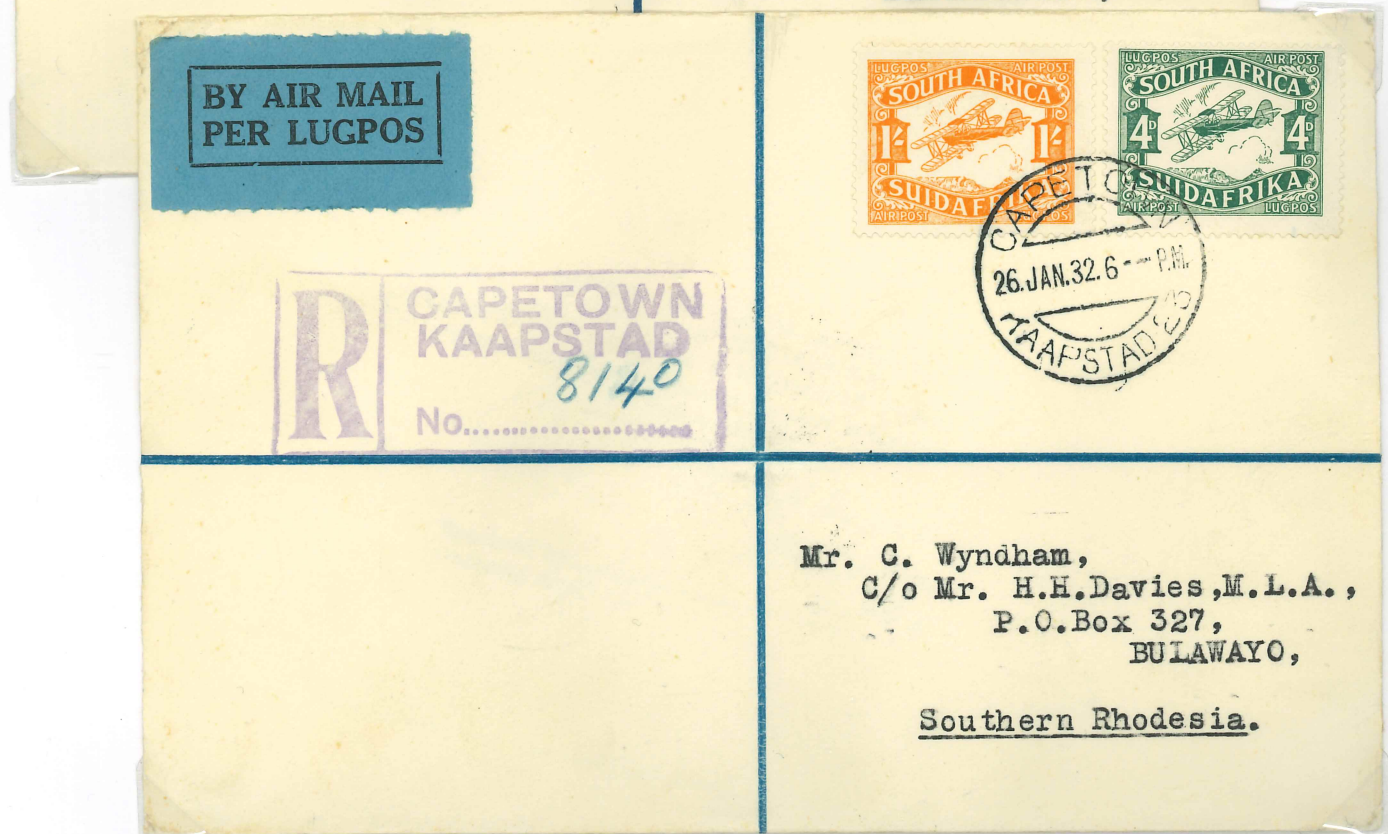
This letter was posted in Johannesburg on the 21st December 1931 to join the experimental flight from Croydon to Cape Town. At Cape Town, it would have been transferred to the Union Castle steamer to Great Britain. The cover is backstamped with a Cape Town arrival cds on 21st December 1931 and at Hull on the 12th January 1932. A tariff of 6d was paid, being 4d for the airmail and 2d for the postage for a British Empire letter.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

The following 10 registered covers, are all addressed to Mr. C. Wyndham and were posted at Cape Town on 26th January. Each cover has been franked with the 1929 airmail set SG 40/41. They were addressed to the ten Northbound stops after Johannesburg, namely, Pietersburg, Bulawayo, Salisbury, Mpika, Mbeya, Dodoma, Moshi, Nairobi, Kisumu and Kampala. Each envelope contains the relevant Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet.



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

The cover to Salisbury has been returned to Mr. Wyndham at the House of Assembly in Cape Town . Salisbury postmark " REGD " on reverse. The Mpika cover has been backstamped at Broken Hill on the 4th February as well as the arrival postmark for Mpika dated 6th February.



Air Mail Service between Croydon and

Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

is regularly sent on to Dodoma together with the
carries postmarks for Cape Town,
Tanganyika and Dodoma on the reverse. The Dodoma



Imperial Airways Air Mail Service between Croydon and
Cape Town.

First Flight Cape Town to Croydon 27th January 1932 AN 47.

Covers to Moshi in Tanganyika and Nairobi, Kenya.

