

# Chinese Martyrs of the Republic can Fly, Tread Water, and Ride the Rails!

中國郵票圖鑑



This exhibit identifies postal usage of the Peking and Hong Kong Martyr definitive prints (1932-42), issued during the rebellious years of the Republic of China (1928-45). These covers highlight the Kuomintang's efforts to maintain postal services during many volatile years between warlord controlled regimes operating prior to and during China's newly formed Republican Party.

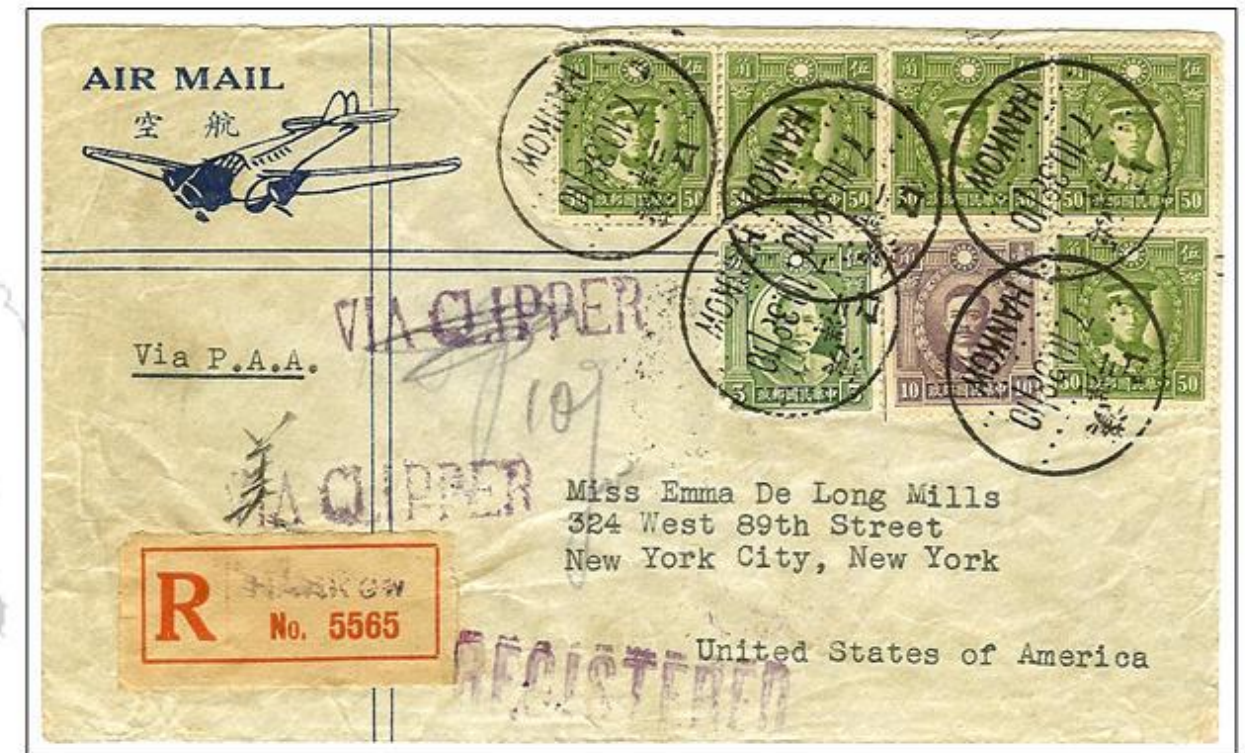
The Kuomintang was founded by Sun Yat-sen shortly after the Chinese Nationalist Revolution (1911-12) which unified China under KMT control. Later led by Chiang Kai-shek, it ruled much of China until its retreat to Taiwan in 1949, after defeat during the Chinese Civil War. The Republic of China was once synonymous with the KMT and known simply as Nationalist China.

# The Primary West to East Air Routes from the Republic of China to America

## Pan American Airlines (PAA) - Foreign Air Mail Route No. 14 (FAM14)



May 13, 1938, Hankow to Hong Kong to USA (domestic airmail rate 25¢, first 20 g + international airmail to USA via PAA FAM14 rate \$3.75, first 20 g, underpaid 15¢), received May 26



Oct. 7, 1938, Hankow (domestic air rate 25¢, first 20 g + international airmail registered rate 25¢ + airmail to USA via PAA FAM14 rate \$2.40, first 20 g) to USA, received Oct. 21

### China Clipper- Beginning of a New Era

The first mail plane, an M-130 known as the "China Clipper," took off from San Francisco on November 22, 1935. At an average speed of 115 miles per hour, and after stops in Hawaii, Midway and Wake it arrived at Sumay, Guam at 3:05 p.m. on November 27, 1935. The total flight time for the trip, which ended in Manila, was 59 hours and 48 minutes. Perhaps most famous out of the first crew who flew this route was Fred Noonan the navigator, who would later disappear somewhere in the Pacific with Amelia Earhart in 1937.



This letter was carried by the Chinese National Air Corporation (CNAC) via Hankow to Hong Kong, Transit postmarks for Hong Kong, Honolulu, and arrival postmark for New York are shown at right.



For Guam, November 27, 1935, marked the beginning of a new era of greater interconnectedness between Guam and the rest of the world. Passenger service began eleven months later on October 21, 1936. These historic flights put Guam on the map for many Americans. This was particularly true for the wealthy and celebrities, including Ernest Hemingway, who traveled across the Pacific and stopped at Guam on their way to Asia. Commencement of airline service in Guam in 1935 was a significant event and a tremendous advancement in global transportation. Air transportation to such places as Manila, Honolulu, San Francisco and Tokyo was provided on a weekly basis. Previously, it took a month or two for the delivery of services to these places.

The basic pattern for these flights was to fly all day and land in time for dinner and cocktails at the Pan Am Hotels that were constructed at each of the stops. On Guam, the Pam Am Hotel became a popular gathering place for the island's business and political leaders. Here island leaders would mingle with guests who were passing through.

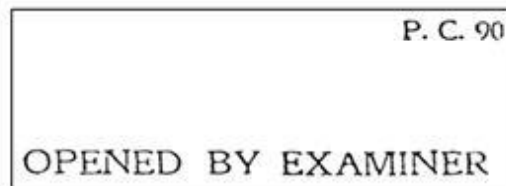
This route abruptly terminated on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Air routes between Rangoon (Burma) and Singapore by BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) and KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) was also severed. The only air route intact from China was through Burma until it fell to the Japanese in 1942.



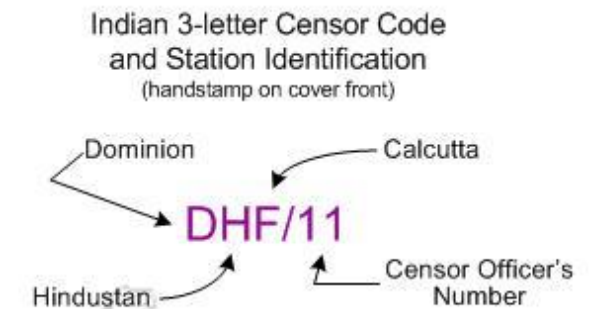
# The Primary East to West Air Routes from the Republic of China to America

## Pan American Airlines (PAA) - Foreign Air Mail Route N<sup>o</sup>. 22 (FAM22)

India Resealing Label Type 13A



Black on Buff applied with handstamp Code DHF (Calcutta Censor Station); recorded usage Oct. 1943 through June 1945. Research discovery: Resealing Label Type 13A usage for Mar. 1943 not previously recorded.



British forces in India devised a coded system where double letters were assigned to each sovereign Indian territory. The first two letters, "D" and "H", represented Dominion and Hindustan (once a popular name for India). The third letter identified the station, followed by a slash character and a number – the examiner who performed the task. The letter "F" represents the Calcutta Censor Station, opened in 1942, to deal specifically with mail in the Chinese language.

Registered Receipt Dated Handstamps

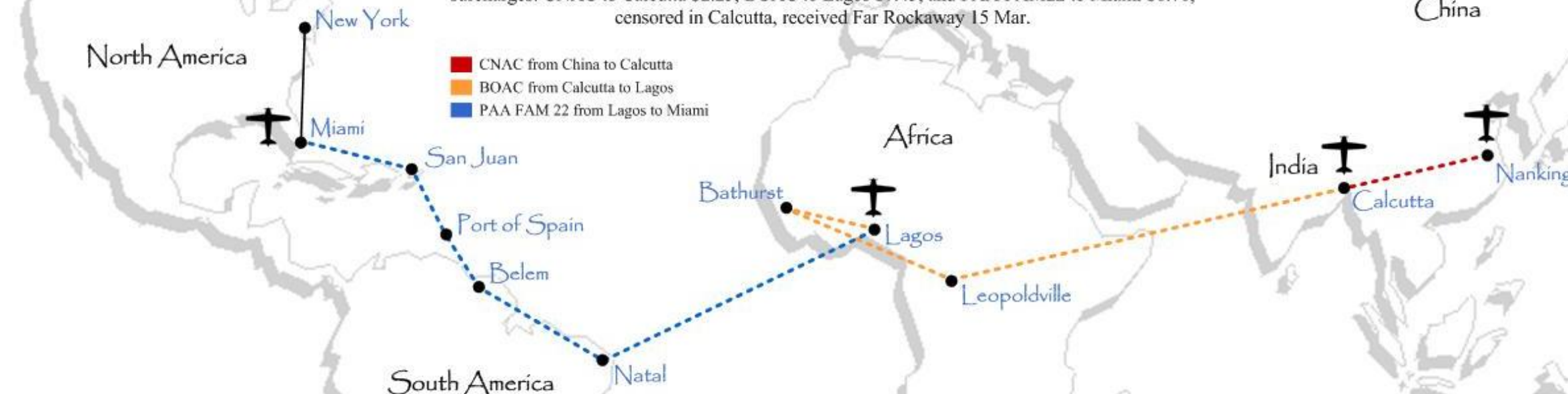


Mar. 1943, Nanking to New York, (international surface \$1.50, first 20 g + registration fee \$1.50 + airmail surcharges: CNAC to Calcutta \$2.25, BOAC to Lagos \$7.45, and PAA FAM22 to Miami \$8.70, censored in Calcutta, received Far Rockaway 15 Mar.

North America

- CNAC from China to Calcutta
- BOAC from Calcutta to Lagos
- PAA FAM 22 from Lagos to Miami

China

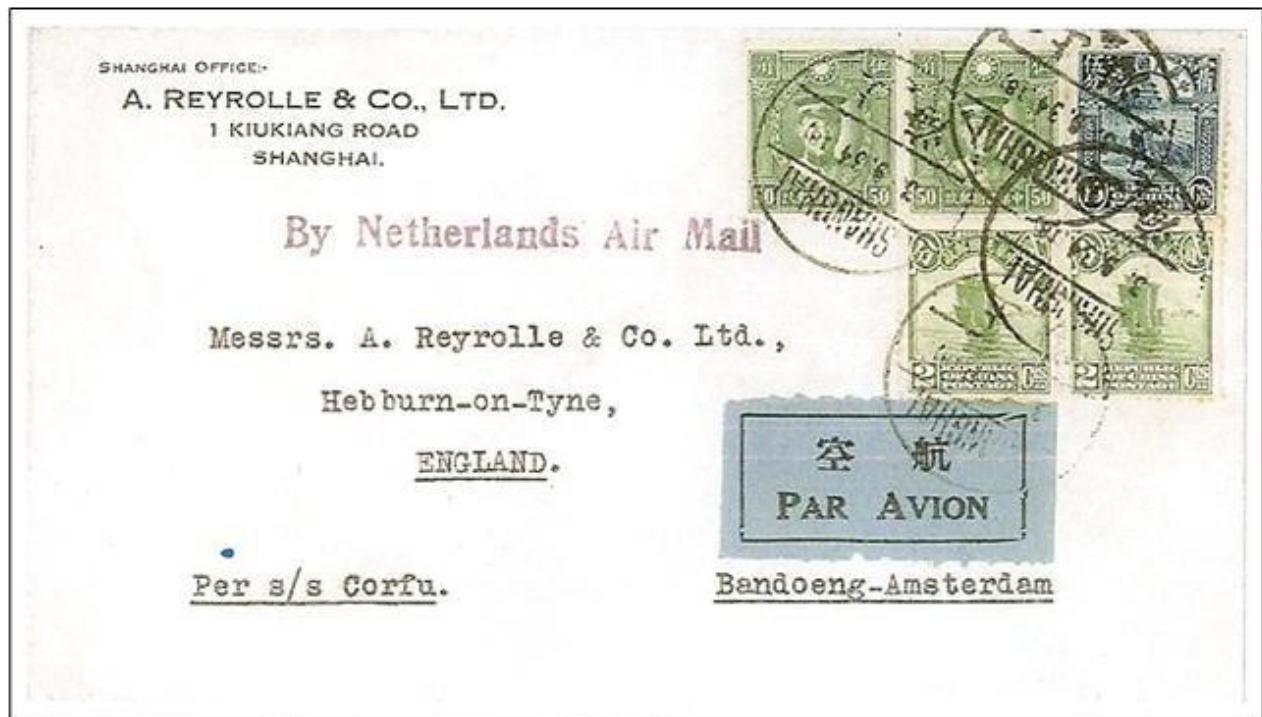


This exceptionally rare cover containing a pair of the 15c Hong Kong print definitive issues traveled from the Republic of China to America using three air carriers: China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC), British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), and Pan American Airlines (PAA). The CNAC received this cover from the Nanking post office and flew it to Calcutta (India) where it transferred to the BOAC's Horse-Shoe Route and West African Service via Leopoldville (Congo), then continued to Bathurst (Gambia) and Lagos (Nigeria), where it was forwarded to Pan American Airlines (PAA).

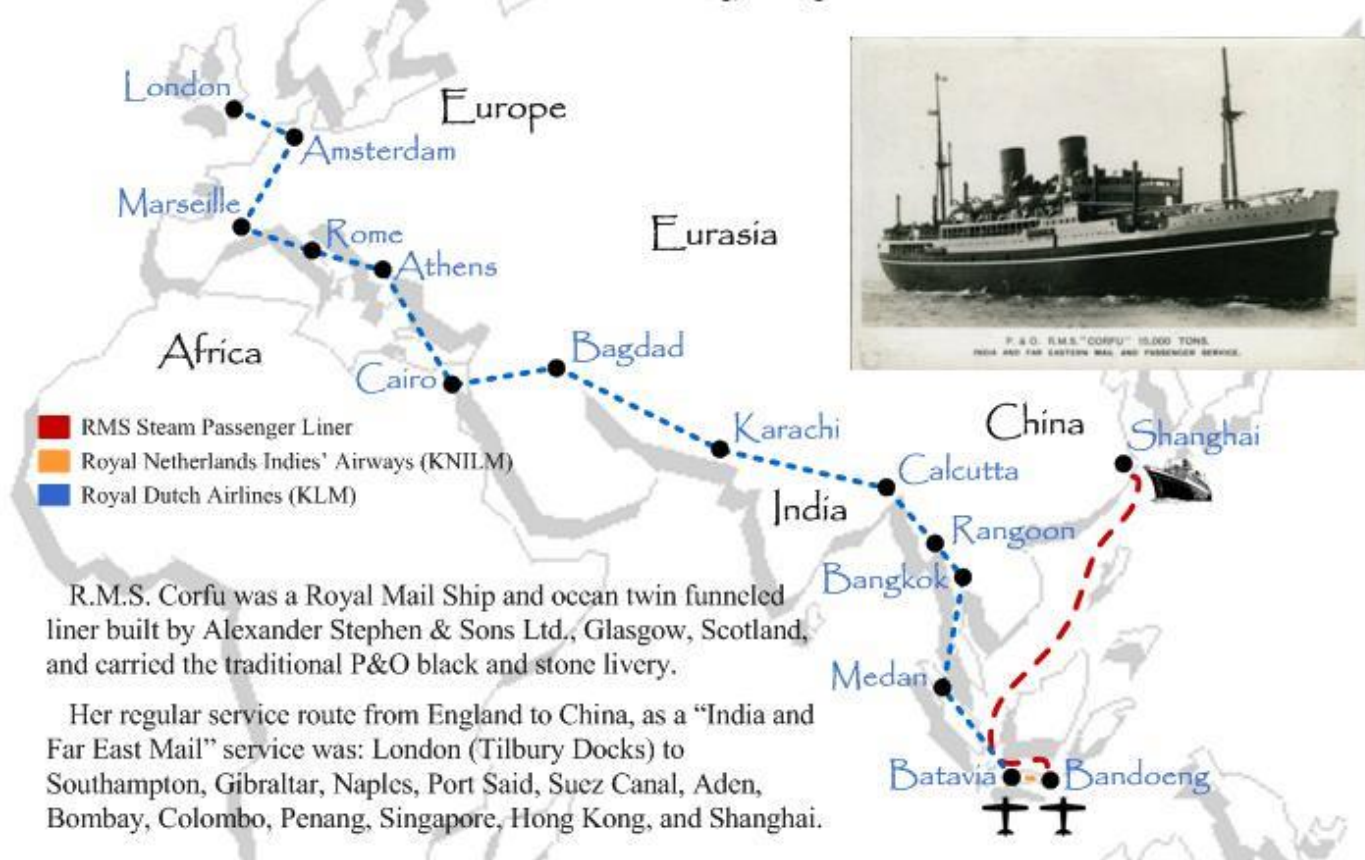
PanAm Foreign Air Mail Route 22 (FAM 22) West African Clipper Flying Boat Service flew from Lagos to Miami via Natal and Belem (Brazil), Port-of-Spain (Trinidad) and San Juan (Puerto Rico). The final leg of the cover's journey was Miami to New York. The cover was censored with PC 90 censor tape applied at Calcutta. The registration date stamp from Miami confirms the FAM 22 route. Postal rates applied from Nanking to New York for these air services was \$21.40.

The PAA FAM 22 air route opened 6 Dec. 1941, just one day prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. From Africa, the air route connected with BOAC flights to India, then with CNAC flights to China. At the time, China was an extremely important player in the war, as the Chinese theatre tied down over one million Japanese troops – the severance of this air route between the United States and China was forbidden. By Mar. 1943, Nanking was occupied by the Japanese. It is well known the Communists had an extensive network behind enemy lines. It also suggests the Nationalists also had special agents working within occupied areas.

# Foreign Air and Sea Routes from the Republic of China to Europe



Sept. 3, 1934, Shanghai (special surface rate and air surcharge \$1.19 by Dutch air service, first 20 g) to England



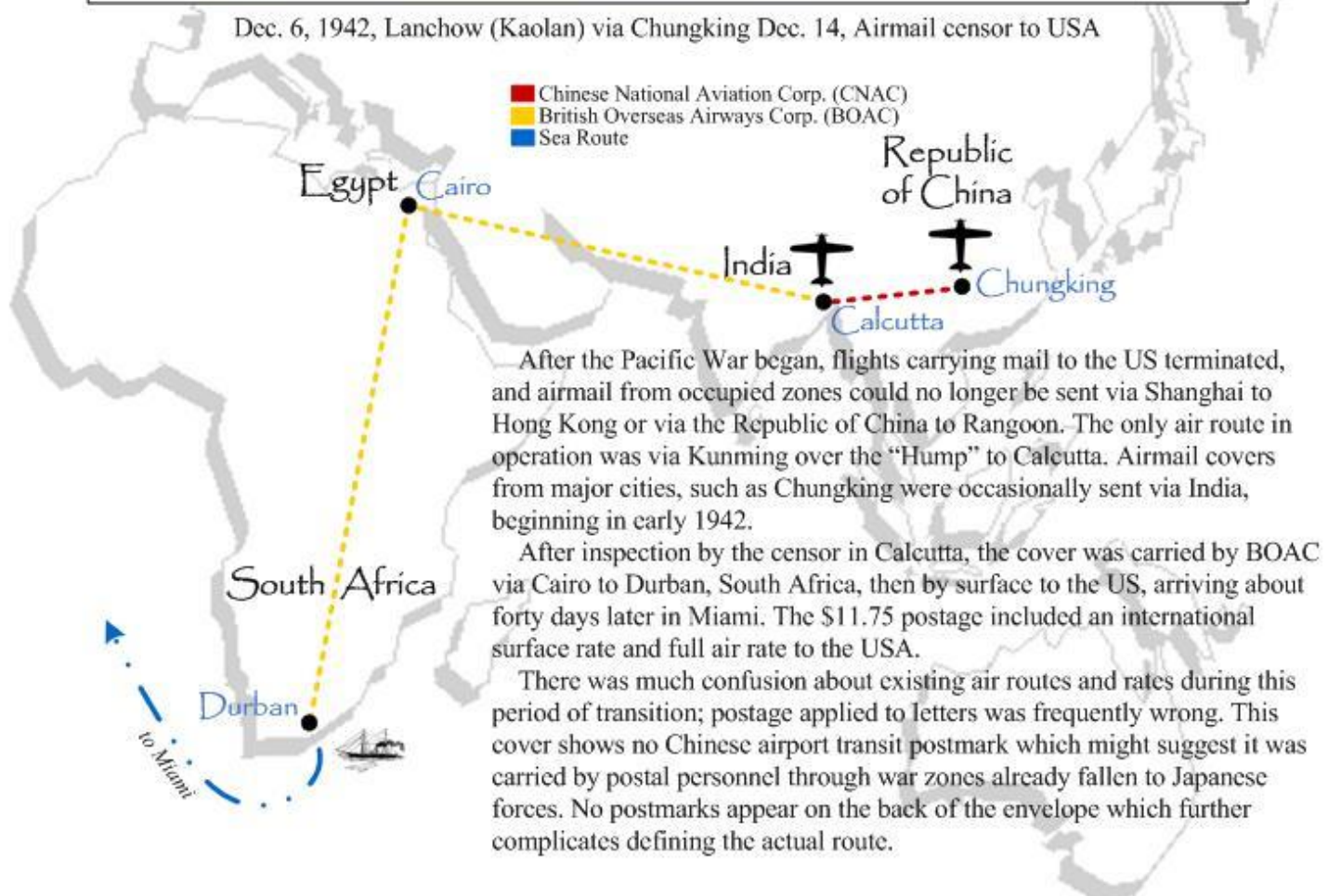
R.M.S. Corfu was a Royal Mail Ship and ocean twin funneled liner built by Alexander Stephen & Sons Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland, and carried the traditional P&O black and stone livery.

Her regular service route from England to China, as a "India and Far East Mail" service was: London (Tilbury Docks) to Southampton, Gibraltar, Naples, Port Said, Suez Canal, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

# Domestic Air from an Occupied Zone Flown to South Africa, then Surface to Miami



Dec. 6, 1942, Lanchow (Kaolan) via Chungking Dec. 14, Airmail censor to USA

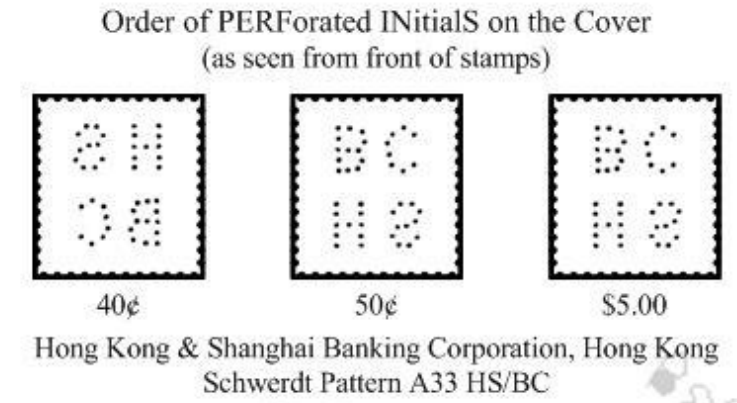


# Pam American's Two Ocean Air Route from the Republic of China to England

## Pan American Airlines (PAA) - Foreign Air Mail Route N<sup>o</sup>. 14/18 (FAM14/18)

HSBC (Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation) had an extensive network in China, and other countries throughout Asia until 1949 when the Communists came into power.

Most perfins were made using a hand-operated machine. To speed up the punching process, stamps were folded before punched, resulting in the patterns appearing in different positions as illustrated at right: normal, reversed, inverted, and inverted reversed.



Feb. 5, 1941, Shanghai, via USA to England (international surface rate 50¢, first 20 g + airmail to England via PAA FAM14/18 rate \$5.40, first 20 g) opened by censor on arrival with HSBC (Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank perfins)



When the Pacific War began, FAM14/18 from Hong Kong to England closed. In anticipation of war with Japan, the U.S. created alternate routes on Dec. 6, 1941, just one day before the war started.