

## French Airline service between Marseilles and Saigon (1933)

France operated the first regular airmail service to the Far East, with flights between Marseilles and Saigon. Airmail for Philippines went by ship from Manila to Hong Kong; by air on a branch line via Hanoi to Bangkok; and then on the main Air Orient weekly service. Philippines used this air service only for a few months, until KLM and later Imperial established regular air services via Singapore.

### The earliest commercial international airmail cover from the Philippines

This cover was carried on the first international flight for which the Philippines Post Office prepared a mail bag.



Manila 1 May 1933, to Calcutta

#### Markings

Manila 1 May, Registered.

Hong Kong 3 May.

Calcutta 15 May.

Calcutta was a port on the Air Orient route.

#### Rate

82c = 46c airmail to India +  
16c foreign letter + 20c registration.

Use of OFFICIAL stamps.