

# The Horseshoe Route through Africa

This is **the only cover** I have seen from the Philippines to **Europe** carried on the horseshoe route. It was in transit at Hong Kong, when Italy joined the War. Later mail from Philippines to Europe went via USA.

But this cover has so much more ...



## Manila 10 June 1940.

Postage 44c for letter up to 5g by air to Europe via HK.  
Ship to HK, green censor triangle.

## Italy joins war on 10 June.

Flights from Asia and Australia could no longer fly over the Mediterranean. Imperial flights were suspended.

## Horseshoe Route.

Flights resumed on 23 June, carrying this cover from HK to Bangkok. Carried from Bangkok (24 June) to Durban (1 July) on first flight on the Horseshoe Route from Sydney to Durban.

## South Africa to London.

By Union-Castle ship Winchester Castle from Cape Town (5 July) to the Clyde (22 July). Censored in Britain, probably at Liverpool. Reached London on 24 July 1940, where red jusqu'a bars applied.

## To German-occupied France.

Most of France, including Paris and Bordeaux, was occupied by Germany. Most likely routing was by ship to neutral Lisbon, and by rail to Frankfurt where opened, and stamped in red by censor.

## Free French zone.

It could not be delivered, and was sent to the part of France (round Marseilles and Toulouse) not occupied by Germany. Two strikes of "Retour a l'envoyeur ..." for mail to be returned.

## Sent to New York.

On reverse NY date-stamp of 10 (or 18) Nov 1941. "RETURN TO SENDER / SERVICE SUSPENDED" in larger font at lower right, applied in NY to mail returned from France.

## Japan enters War.

While the letter was in San Francisco waiting for a ship to Manila, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and parts of Asia. San Francisco applied the marks "REBUTS" and "RETURN TO SENDER / SERVICE SUSPENDED" in smaller font at top left.



Reduced scan of reverse