

Mail to Europe sent across the Pacific in World War II (1939-41)

With the outbreak of the war, the alternative route to Europe was by the Clipper to USA. This route was more frequently used from mid-1940 when Italy entered the War blocking the traditional westbound route from the Philippines. Airmail from Philippines stopped immediately on the day in December 1941 when Japan attacked various places including the Philippines and Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

A very early Two-Oceans Cover

This service began in Sept 1939. I have not seen any other Philippines wartime cover by this route before 1940.



Manila 18 Sept 1939, to Zurich, Switzerland

Rate

1P 72c

1P for airmail postage across the Pacific to USA, and within USA.

60c for airmail postage across the Atlantic to Europe.

12c for letter rate to a foreign country.

Route

Originally docketed to go "via K.L.M." Dutch airline via Singapore. Sender changed this advice by endorsing "via USA".

Manila to San Francisco by Pan-Am FAM 14.

San Francisco to New York by air.

New York to Lisbon by Pan-Am FAM 18.