



FIGURE 297: Cover of 10 November 1930 at São Paulo ... 20 November 1930 in Australia via Saigon back stopped Marseilles, France 25 November 1930, Melbourne 20 December 1930. Transit time 41 days. Backstamped 'Air France' São Paulo indicates carrier by Air France to Marseilles. Collection: M. Green.

Route by sea to Australia from Saigon

The covers, (Figures 297 and 298), provide no indication of the route taken by ship from Saigon to Australia. One possible route was via Colombo to link with the English mail boat service to Perth.

A letter from Saigon to Australia in March 1933 was endorsed "to be carried on the Burns Philp vessel Naptania" which sailed through the islands north of Australia and called at Darwin.

Another letter from Paris cancelled 25 May 1932 is backstamped Perth, Western Australia. It is possible this item was carried to Colombo, Ceylon where it joined the P&O/Orient mail steamer service to Perth.

Few such covers exist making research difficult. This, however, is an area for further research.

FIGURE 196: Map showing the southern extension from Geraldton to Perth.



1924 - February

QANTAS ordered aircraft specifically designed for their scheduled services

QANTAS ordered the DH50A, (Figure 197), which was an aircraft specifically designed for their commercial operations. It featured an enclosed cabin which could accommodate four passengers and an increased payload.



FIGURE 242: This cover carried by Matthews Aviation proving the flight across Bass Strait occurred - 24 March 1922. Collection: M Green.



FIGURE 243: Savenders - Roe Windhover (L) and Catty Serk (R) of Matthews Aviation at Melbourne's Essendon Airport in 1922.¹⁰

1930

Aerodrome development in Australia

Western Junction near Launceston, Tasmania was established. The aerodrome site at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, Queensland was abandoned in favour of a site at Archerfield.¹⁰

1931 - January

New England Airways (NEA) established

The airline was established by George Robinson who was managing director of the New England Motor Company which was a major truck and bus operator along the north coast of New South Wales

1920 - 12 May

Croydon Airport replaced Hounslow¹⁰

1920 - 12 May

A monthly shipping service between England and Australia established

This service commenced with the sailing of *Maidera* from London on 12 May 1920.



FIGURE 114: Cover of 7 May 1920 endorsed via London and carried by air between Perth and London. Early use of the first airmail etiquette issued by France.



FLYING BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA THE BEGINNING : 1918 - 1933

1918 - October

The first flight between England and Australia in 1919 demonstrated that it was possible to fly such distances.

Reginald Lloyd¹⁰ proposed an air service between England and Australia¹⁰

Lloyd, whose father had been a member of the Upper House in the New South Wales Parliament, was confident that he could establish an air service between England and Australia which could cover the distance in 150 hours flying time, i.e., arriving within one week of departure. His aim was to fly the distance in 6½ days.

Lloyd believed that it was not the design of aircraft which was preventing such a flight but the establishment of a suitable route with the necessary landing fields and facilities. He further believed that no aircraft could fly the full distance. It would be necessary, therefore, to use relays of aircraft.

Any route established must be the shortest possible, subject to geographical and climatic conditions and with road access for transport of passengers, fuel and spare parts.

Heading Photo: Vickers Vimy with crew - the first to fly between England and Australia.

¹⁰ In London during WW1 Lloyd had been attached to HQ Division Special Constabulary which rendered services during the air raids. He was among those selected to guard Buckingham Palace. He had wide business experience across the world. He died in Sydney in 1963.



FIGURE 122: Front (top) and back of cover intended for air service via Karachi/London but sent by sea because of the suspension of the service to Australia. Collection: Gregson.

1930 - 6 September

Alternate services on the Adelaide/Perth air service

There was an alteration to the schedule in 1930. From 6 September the weekly mail plane departed Adelaide on a Saturday, instead of a Sunday, arriving at Perth on a Sunday.