

# *Zeppelin – the Norway connection*

The scope of this exhibit is to show the postal connections between the Zeppelin airships and Norway.

Graf (Count) Ferdinand von Zeppelin, a cavalry general of the German armed forces, constructed a rigid balloon as the world had never seen it before, **the Zeppelin**. On July 3, 1900, the first Zeppelin airship lifted off the ground, and many Zeppelins were to follow. He constructed his airships primarily for military use, and most of them were employed by the German forces during WW I. However, it was civil aviation which made them famous, and they will be remembered for mail and passenger flights.

**Postal historical significance – rapid mail transport across the Atlantic:** The business model for the commercial Zeppelin flights was to reduce the time required for transportation of passengers and mail. Airplanes could not yet cross the Atlantic Ocean, and the Zeppelins beat the mail transport by ship between Europe and America by several days.

**Treatment:** The zeppelin items are presented in a chronological sequence within each main section. The presentation of the items is part of the treatment; firstly, a general description of the flight, then the philatelic item, followed by analysis and description of the treatment of the mail.

## **Early Flights, Demonstration Flights 1912-1932**

41 p

LZ 10 “*Schwaben*” was the first successful commercial zeppelin, operating 1911-1912. During World War I, the German army and navy employed many zeppelins. LZ 127 “*Graf Zeppelin*” was launched in 1928 and became the most famous of all airships. The zeppelin airships made many demonstration and publicity flights in Europe, flights to North and South America, the Arctic, the Middle East; and even one flight around the world.

LZ 127 “*Graf Zeppelin*” visited Norway on two occasions only, both in July of 1930. During the flight to the Arctic (**the Spitsbergen flight**), mail was dropped over Hammerfest in northern Norway. Mail was also dropped over Bergen on the west coast of Norway during the flight to the North (**the “Nordland” flight to Iceland**).

## **Flights to South America 1932-1936**

66 p

It was not until early 1932 that Norway Post entered into an agreement with Deutsche Reichspost, and mail franked with Norwegian stamps could be sent to South America by LZ 127 “*Graf Zeppelin*”. LZ 127 “*Graf Zeppelin*” departed Germany every two weeks, cutting in half the time to Rio by the fastest steamships. The reduced time of transmission of passengers and mail across the Atlantic Ocean enabled a more efficient correspondence and gave business opportunities.

## **Flights to North America 1936**

16 p

LZ 129 “*Hindenburg*”, the world’s largest aircraft ever to fly, was primarily built for regular transatlantic crossings between Germany and the United States of America, carrying mail and up to 50 passengers with both comfort and speed.

## **End of an Era 1936-1939 – from triumph to disaster**

4 p

LZ 129 “*Hindenburg*” triumphantly flew over the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, watched by spectators in the Olympic stadium and crowds of up to 3 million in the city.

The tragic destruction of “*Hindenburg*” on May 6, 1937 in Lakehurst, N.J. marked the demise of the Zeppelins, and the era of transcontinental passenger zeppelin travel came to an end.

Hindenburg’s sister ship LZ 130 “*Graf Zeppelin II*” was launched in 1938; she made a few test flights, but never entered the commercial mail and passenger service for which she was built.

**Main sources:**      Sieger: *Zeppelinpost Spezial-Katalog* (22<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2001)  
                         Michel: *Zeppelin- und Flugpost-Spezial 2017/2018*  
                         John Duggan: *Airships in the Arctic* (2006)



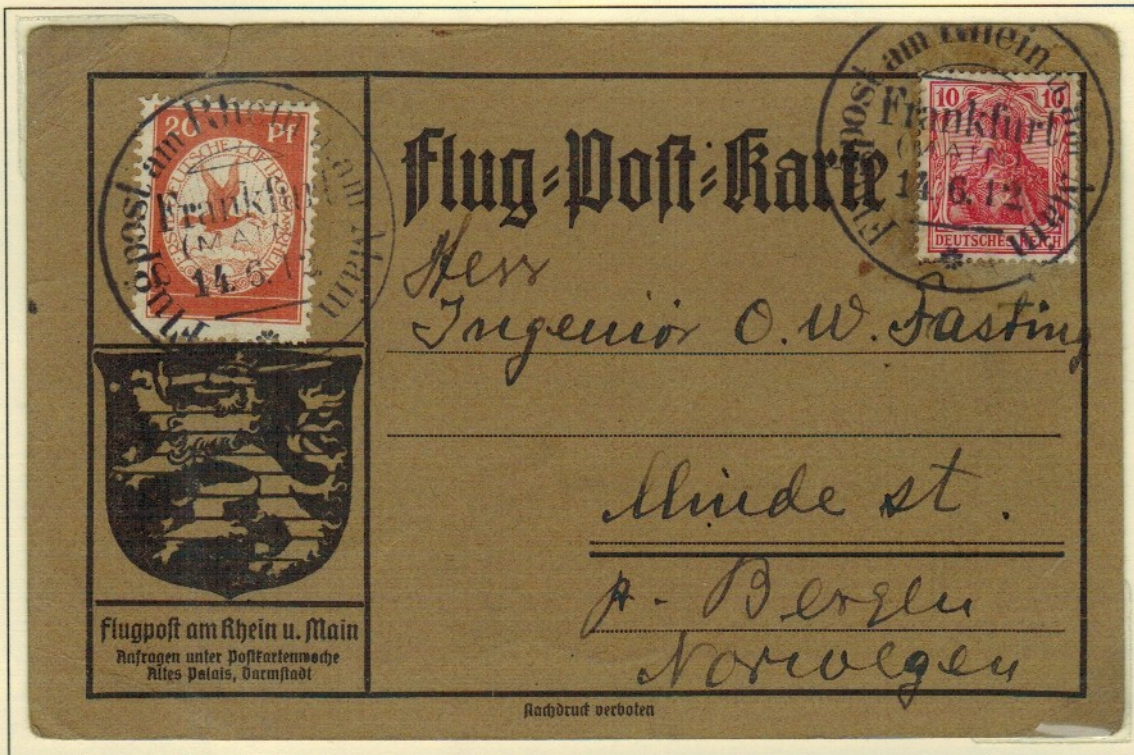
# Early Flights, Demonstration flights 1912-1939

## "Schwaben" – Flights at Rhine and Main

10 – 23 June, 1912

"Schwaben", the LZ 10, was the first successful commercial zeppelin; in operation for only one year from 26 June 1911 until she caught fire on 28 June 1912.

10 - 23 June 1912 – airmails at the rivers Rhine and Main. For this event – which included a postcard week – special cards, special airmail stamps and postmarks were used. Mail was carried by the airship "Schwaben" and the airplane "Gelber Hund" (Yellow Dog), and there were flights between Darmstadt, Frankfurt am Main, Mainz, Offenbach and Worms. Due to the many flights and the combination of airship and airplane transportation, it cannot be ascertained by which means and for which stretch the items were airborne.



Rhine/Main postcard with 20 Pf airmail stamp and 10 Pf Reichspost stamp, from **Frankfurt am Main** to Bergen, Norway. Postmarked "Flugpost am Rhein und Main / Frankfurt (MAIN) 14. 6. 12".

The message in Norwegian on reverse reads: "The new method of mail transportation".



Rhine/Main postcard with 10 Pf airmail stamp and 10 Pf Reichspost stamp, sent from **Darmstadt** to Stavanger, Norway. Postmarked "Flugpost am Rhein und Main / Darmstadt 17. 6. 12".



"Schwaben" – Flights at Rhine and Main  
 "LZ 9" – Flight at Rhine / Düsseldorf to Cologne

10 – 23 June, 1912  
 20 – 24 April, 1913



Rhine/Main airmail postcard with 20 Pf airmail stamp and 10 Pf Reichspost stamp, from Offenbach to Christiania, Norway. Postmarked "Flugpost am Rhein und Main / Frankfurt (MAIN) 14. 6. 12".

The LZ 9 Military airship "Replacing Z. II." was in operation from 1 November 1911 until 1 August 1914 when it was decommissioned and broken up for scrap. Although military, the airship was occasionally used for civilian flights.

The Reich Post Office granted the Patriotic Women's Association in Düsseldorf permission to deliver airmail on 22 April 1913 on the occasion of a private trip of the LZ 9 for the benefit of the Düsseldorf orphans. The women's association sold airmail stamps for 10 Pf. and air postcards for 20 Pf. The military airship came from Cologne to pick up the mail in Düsseldorf, and the mail bags were transported by the airship around 50 km from Düsseldorf to Cologne.



Rhine airmail postcard with 10 Pf airmail stamp and 2x 5 Pf Reichspost stamps and addressed to Christiania, Norway.

Postmark:  
 "Luftpost am Rhein / Düsseldorf 20. 4. 13".

In accordance with the postal instructions, the airmail stamp should not be postmarked.





Navy Airship L20 (LZ59) participated in a mission from Germany to the north-east of England. Due to lack of fuel she could not return to Germany and set course for neutral Norway where she crash-landed on 3 May 1916 in Hafsfjord near Stavanger. The entire crew of 18 survived. Six of the crew were released shortly after, and the remaining 12 were transferred to Hommelvik near Trondheim where they were interned on-board the German auxiliary cruiser “Berlin” until the end of the war.



Prisoner-of-war postcard to Hannover, Germany. German Navy postmark “KAIS. DEUTSCHE MARINE-SCHIFFSPOST No 88 8 12 17” and German navy censorship marking “MARINE SCHIFFSPOST No 88 BRIEF-ÜBERWACHUNG”. Norwegian censorship marking “KONTROLLERT”. The sender was Ober-Anwärter Erich Reuter, a member of the L20 crew, interned on-board the German auxiliary cruiser “Berlin”.



**"Graf Zeppelin" – her very first America Flight**

**11 October – 1 November, 1928**



Although the LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" had passed rigorous tests, she was nonetheless an experimental ship, and at the time, the largest airship ever to have flown. Yet only on her seventh flight, she was heading across the Atlantic with a full complement of twenty passengers.

The airship left Friedrichshafen, Germany on 11 October 1928. En route, she negotiated severe storms in the Atlantic Ocean, which caused damage to the cotton fabric covering the port horizontal stabilizing fin. This was repaired over the ocean, and she triumphantly circled New York City before landing at Lakehurst, N.J. on 15 October.

She returned to Germany two weeks later, leaving Lakehurst, N.J. on 29 October and landed safely in Friedrichshafen on 1 November, 1928.

Cover sent from "NEW YORK, N.Y. OCT 27, 1928" to Oslo, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on her very first flight from America to Europe. Special flight cachet in purple "First flight air mail / via Graf Zeppelin / United States - Germany / Oct 28 1928". On reverse postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 1.11.28" and "OSLO 3 XI 28".

\$1.05 correct postage for this flight: \$1 zeppelin fee plus 5c regular postage for foreign letters.



ROSS & ROWE, INC.

25 BEAVER STREET

NEW YORK

VEGETABLE OILS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS

MAXWELL W. ROSS, PRESIDENT  
F. W. BROOKER, VICE-PRESIDENT  
J. EDWARD ROWE, SECY & TREAS.

MEMBER  
N. Y. PRODUCE EXCHANGE  
TELEPHONE  
HANOVER 0797

CABLE ADDRESS  
"ROSROW"

CODES  
BENTLEYS  
ACME  
UNIVERSAL TRADE  
PRIVATE

October 27, 1928

Messrs. Christian Muller & Co.  
Postbox 210  
Oslo  
Norway

Gentlemen:

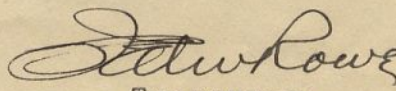
We are taking this unique opportunity of forwarding you via Graf Zeppelin, the first air mail across the Atlantic from west to east, our cordial greetings; and to express to you our appreciation for your excellent cooperation in the conduct of our business.

We hope that this trip of the Zeppelin is only a fore-runner of an established service, and that, as the time of transmission of letters is reduced, our relations will likewise be brought more closely together and become more firmly cemented.

Assuring you of our high regard, we are

Yours very truly,

ROSS & ROWE, Inc.

  
Treasurer.

JER:GB



"Graf Zeppelin" performed in 1929 a flight to the Orient, with main mail drop at Er Ramle (Ramla) in today's Israel. Cover sent from "HORTEN 1 II 29" to Cairo, Egypt. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1929 flight to the Orient, starting from Friedrichshafen on 25 March, and mail drop at Er Ramle. Special rubber-stamped flight cachet in red-purple.



In order to send Norwegian mail by zeppelin prior to 1932, the zeppelin mail fee had to be paid by German stamps. Airmail Norway-Egypt was available from 1925, and 100 øre postage in Norwegian currency matches the rate for air mail letter 20-40 g to Egypt; 50 øre letter postage rate (30 øre for the first 20 g plus 20 øre for the next 20 g) and 25 + 25 øre air mail fee. Additional German franking representing the zeppelin surcharge has fallen off, the stamp was postmarked "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN BODENSEE LUFTPOST 24 MAR 29". On reverse transit postmarks "BERLIN C -3.2.29", "MÜNCHEN -4.2.29" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -5.2.29". Arrival postmark "CAIRO 28 MAR 29".

**The only recorded zeppelin cover with Norwegian franking prior to 1932.**



**"Graf Zeppelin" – Mediterranean Ocean Flight**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Around-the-World Flight**

**23 – 25 April, 1929**  
**7 August – 4 September, 1929**



In April 1929, "Graf Zeppelin" conducted a trip to the Mediterranean Ocean with drop of mail over Sevilla, Spain.

Postcard to Fåberg, Norway, posted on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 22.4.1929" during the flight to the Mediterranean, special flight cachet in red.

On reverse machine cancel "SEVILLA (40) 23 ABR 29" and on front receiving postmark "FÅBERG 30 IV 29".

1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin mail rate for postcards to any destination.

In August 1929, "Graf Zeppelin" departed for a complete circumnavigation of the globe. The growing popularity of the "giant of the air" made it easy for Zeppelin company chief Dr. Hugo Eckener to find sponsors. One of these was the American press tycoon William Randolph Hearst, who requested the tour to officially start from the United States.

Starting from Lakehurst, NJ on 8 August, "Graf Zeppelin" flew across the Atlantic back to Friedrichshafen for fuel before continuing across vast Siberia to another stop in Tokyo.

From Japan, the "Graf Zeppelin" continued across the Pacific to San Francisco, before heading south to stop at Los Angeles. This was the first ever nonstop flight of any aircraft across the Pacific Ocean. The ship continued across the U.S.A., over Chicago and back to Lakehurst on 29 Aug.



Postcard from "NEW YORK, ADK STA AUG 6 1929" to Fredrikstad, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the flight around the world from Lakehurst NJ on 7 Aug. (violet circular special flight cachet), and returned to Lakehurst on 29 Aug. (green "LAKEHURST, N.J. AUG 29 1929" postmark). Postcard rate Lakehurst to Lakehurst was \$1.75 zeppelin rate + 3c card rate, total \$1.78 (2c overpaid). On completion of the cruise at Lakehurst, mail was forwarded onward to destination by the ordinary means, and it required no additional fees for this forwarding.

The entire voyage took 21 days, 5 hrs, 31 min., and the dirigible travelled 49,618 km, with an average speed of almost 100 km/h.



# "Graf Zeppelin" – Around-the-World Flight

7 August – 4 September, 1929

This flight was partly sponsored by American newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst who insisted that the flight begin and end in America. The flight received massive coverage in the world's press.



Left: Cover from "NEW YORK, STA. R AUG 6 1929" to Fredrikstad, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the flight around the world from Lakehurst NJ on 7 Aug. (violet circular special flight cachet), and returned to Lakehurst on 29 Aug. (green postmark "LAKEHURST, N.J. AUG 29 1929"). The letter rate Lakehurst to Lakehurst was \$3.50 zeppelin rate plus 5c letter rate, total rate \$3.55 correct franking (\$1.40 additional postage on reverse). On completion of the cruise at Lakehurst, mail was forwarded onward to destination by the ordinary means, and it required no additional fees for this forwarding. Arrival postmark "BERGEN 10 IX 29" on reverse.



Above: Postcard from "LARCHMONT, NJ AUG 30 1929" to Bergen, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight to Germany after the flight around the world, from Lakehurst, NJ on 1 September. Transit postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 4 9 29" on reverse and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED -6 IX 29" (Sweden -Norway railway tpo.). 60c correct postcard rate from Aug 15, 1929 to April 4, 1930.



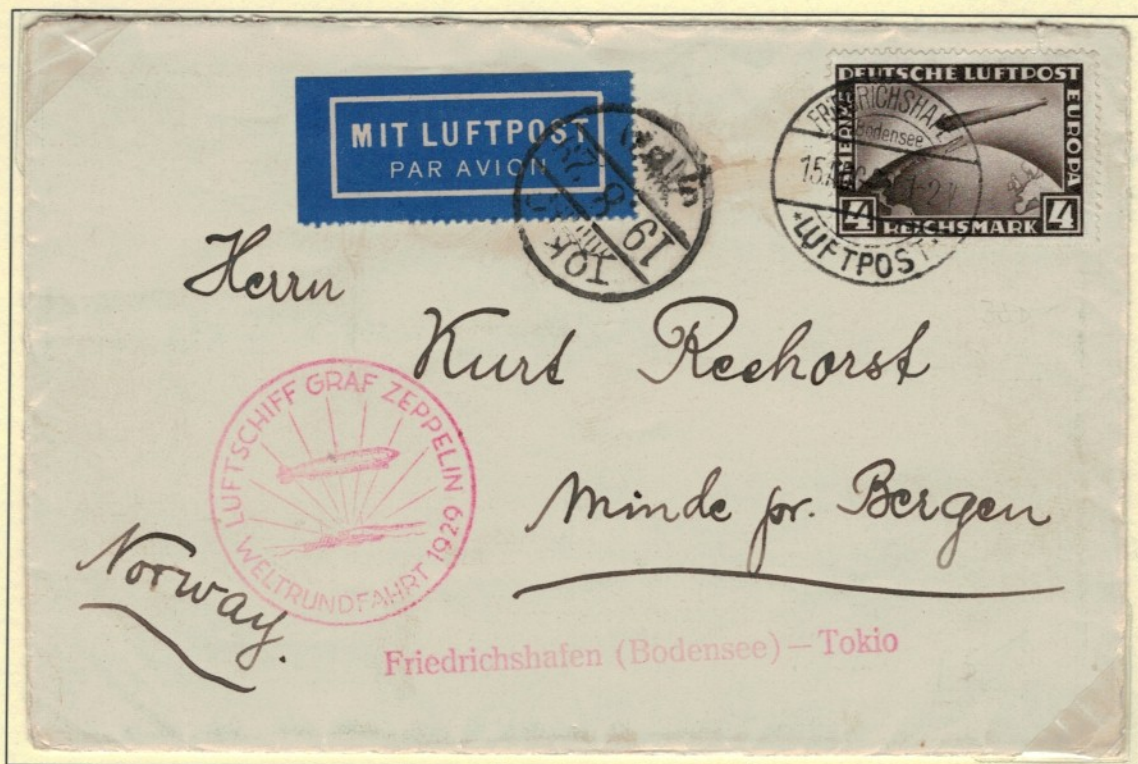
# "Graf Zeppelin" – Around the World Flight

7 August – 4 September, 1929

This flight was partly sponsored by American newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst who insisted that the flight begin and end in America. The flight received massive coverage in the world's press.



Letter from "NEW YORK, NY AUG 6 1929" to Drøbak, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the flight around the world, from Lakehurst, NJ on 7 August. Transit postmarks on reverse "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 10 8 29", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED II 12 VIII 29" (Sweden -Norway railway tpo.), "OSLO 13 VIII 29" and received "DRØBAK 13 VIII 29". 105c correct letter rate from Aug 15, 1929 to April 4, 1930.



Letter to Minde pr Bergen, Norway, mailed from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 15 AUG 29". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the flight around the world from Friedrichshafen 15 Aug. (special flight cachets in red), and dropped in Tokyo, Japan 19 August, postmark "TOKYO 19 8 29". 4 RM all-inclusive zeppelin mail rate for letters from Germany to any destination and flown Friederichshafen-Tokyo, valid for this flight only.





Postcard from U.S.A. to Oslo, Norway, mailed from "NEW YORK N.Y MAY 31 1930", and flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight from Lakehurst on 3 June. Special flight cachets in red and violet. The violet cachet (type II) was used only on mail from Lakehurst. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 6.6.30". 65c correct postcard rate.



Letter from U.S.A. to Drammen, Norway, mailed from "BROOKLYN N.Y JUN 1 1930", and flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight from Lakehurst on 3 June. Special flight cachets in red and violet. The violet cachet (type II) was used only on mail from Lakehurst. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 6.6.30". The rate (postage plus fee for the air dispatch) was \$1.30. The rate included addresses in any European country. Senders did not always understand the rates. Sometimes you had to add the regular rates and other times it was included. This sender added the surface rate and that is why it is 5c overpaid.



**"Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to South America**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to Switzerland**

**18 May – 6 June, 1930**  
**4 July, 1930**

"Graf Zeppelin" undertook a successful tour to South America in May, 1930. The flight route was Friedrichshafen-Sevilla-Recife-Rio de Janeiro-Recife-Lakehurst-Sevilla-Friedrichshafen. After this trip it was decided to open the first regular transatlantic airship line, traveling mainly between Germany and Brazil.



Cover from Brazil to Drammen, Norway, mailed from "RIO DE JANEIRO 24 MAI 1930", and flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight from Rio on 25 May. Special flight cachet type I in violet. Transit postmarks "RECIFE 28 MAI 30", "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 6.6.30", "OSLO -9 VI 30" and receiving postmark "DRAMMEN 10 VI 30" on reverse.



The Underwood, Elliot-Fisher, Sundstrom Company, a U.S. manufacturer of accounting machines, chartered the "Graf Zeppelin" for a flight to Switzerland on 4 July, 1930. Mail was dropped over St. Gallen. Postcard to Oslo, Norway, with signatures of three passengers, posted onboard. Transit postmark "ST. GALLEN -4.VII.30".



# LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" flies to Norway



LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" visited Norway on two occasions, both in July, 1930.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> Nordland flight, the flight to the Arctic (Friedrichshafen – Spitsbergen – Friedrichshafen), two mail bags were dropped over Hammerfest on 10 July, containing in total approximately 800 covers and 2,500 postcards.

Mail drop for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nordland flight, the flight to the North (Friedrichshafen – Iceland – Friedrichshafen) was planned over Trossö, but was changed to Bergen due to the weather conditions. Two mail bags were dropped over Bergen on 16 July, containing a total of 658 covers and 1,812 postcards.

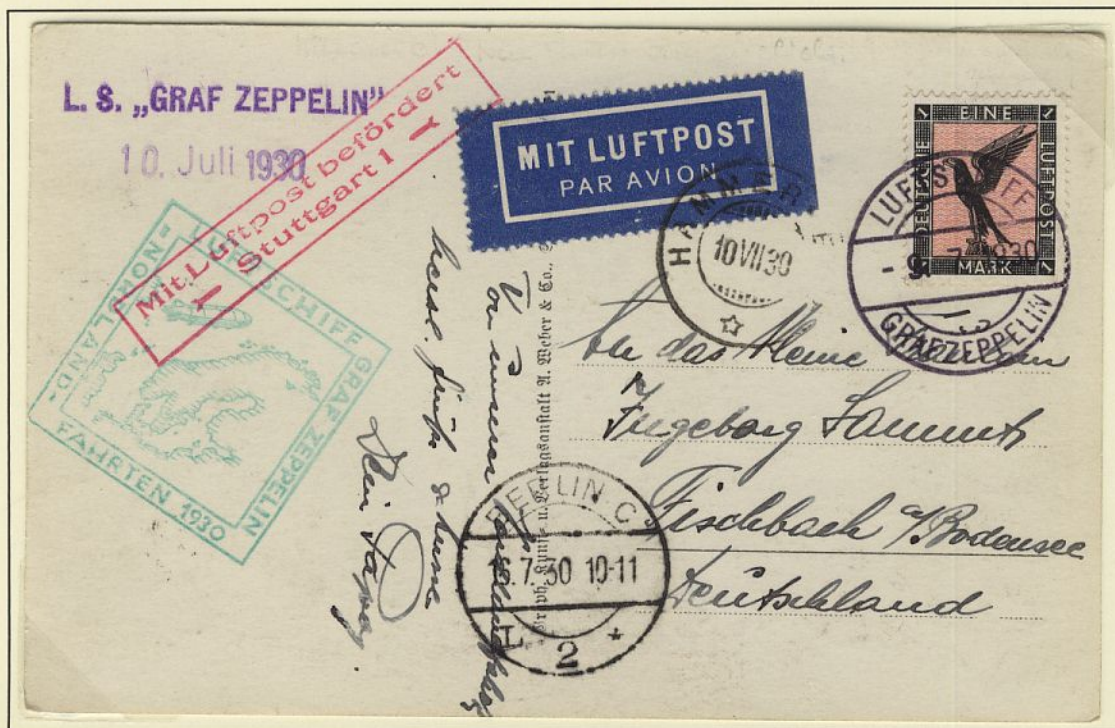
German all-inclusive postage rates (except special services) for zeppelin mail posted within Europe were 100 Rpf (1 RM) for postcards and 200 Rpf (2 RM) for regular letters, valid from 11 April, 1930 to 6 June, 1932.

A special flight cachet was used, in green for the first flight and blue for the second flight.

Flight to the Arctic

Posted on board

9-11 July, 1930



Postcard written by a zeppelin crew member, Bordingenieur (Flight Engineer) Albert Sammt, to his daughter. Posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on its northbound flight. Dropped over Hammerfest, postmark "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". Transit postmark "BERLIN C 16.VII.30" and Stuttgart air mail cachet. 1 RM all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.





"Graf Zeppelin" carried 20 passengers, and this 1<sup>st</sup> Nordland flight was chartered by the Swiss Automobile Club. Postcard to Bern, Switzerland, **written by one of the Swiss passengers** and posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on her northbound flight. Dropped over Hammerfest, postmark "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". The all-inclusive postage rate for postcards was 1 RM to all destinations.



Cover sent to Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A., posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on her northbound flight, and dropped over Hammerfest. Postmarked on reverse "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". 2 RM all-inclusive rate for covers to all destinations.





Postcard to Reykjavik, Iceland from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -8.7.30". Dropped over Hammerfest and postmarked "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". Sent from Norway to Iceland by regular surface mail. Arrival postmark "REYKJAVIK 20.VII.30". 1 RM all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.



Cover sent from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -8.7.30" to Spitsbergen, dropped over Hammerfest and forwarded to Spitsbergen by ship. Backstamped "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". The all-inclusive postage rate for covers was 2 RM to all destinations, thus 4 RM for double weight.





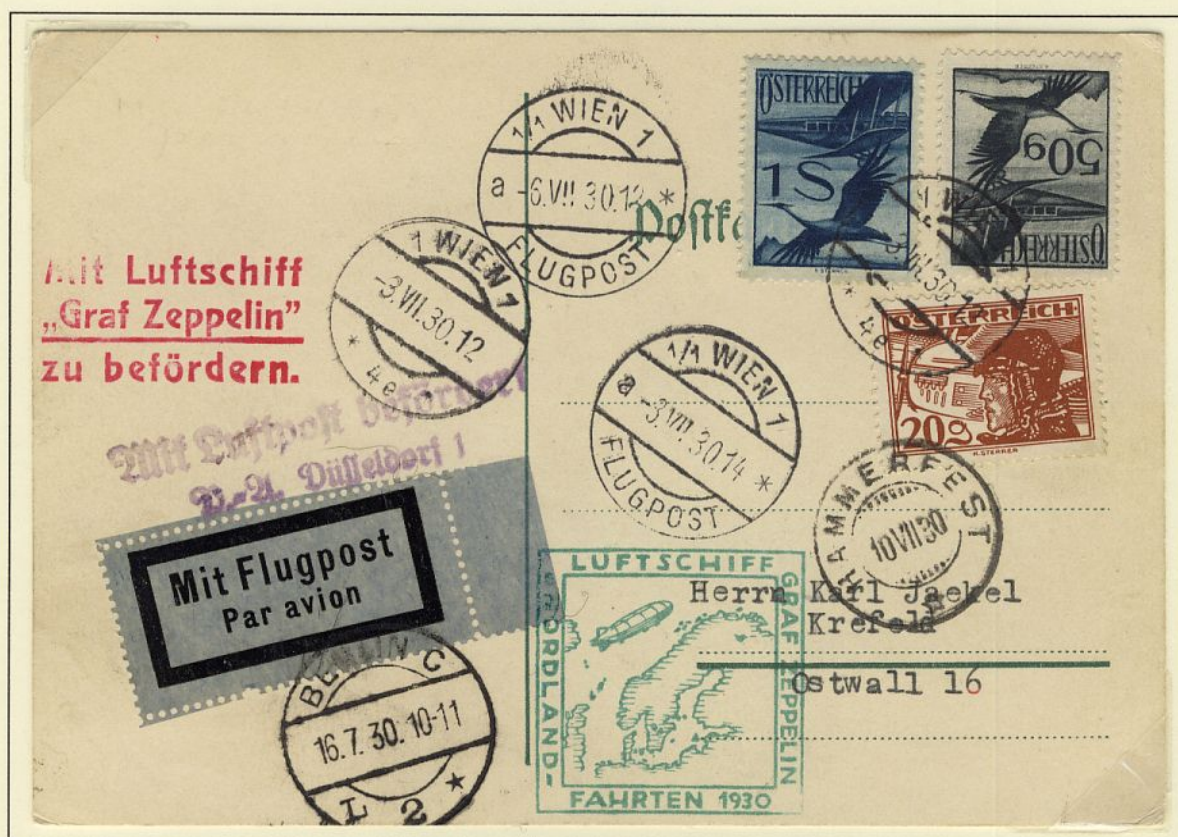
Postcard with combined German and Scadta franking, addressed to Colombia, South America. The card is franked with 1 RM and postmarked on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN -9. 7. 30". 1 RM was the regular postage rate to all destinations. However, a 10 centavos Scadta stamp is affixed and postmarked "CALI 19. VIII. 1930", paying the Colombian air mail fee. The card was dropped over Hammerfest, and it is postmarked "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30".  
**The only recorded postal item from this flight with Scadta and German combined franking.**



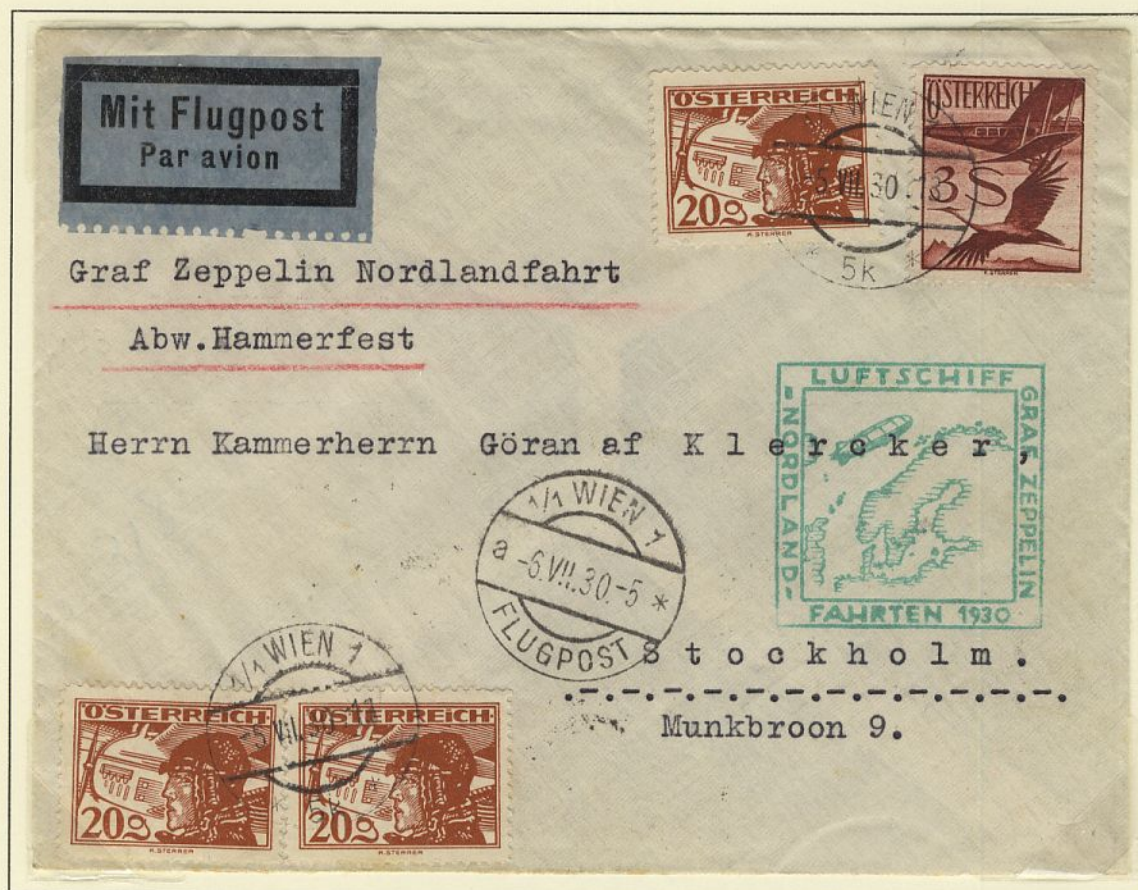
Postcard with combined Swiss and German franking, addressed to Switzerland. The card is mailed from Zürich, where the 0.40 Fr Swiss postage stamps are postmarked "ZÜRICH FLUGPLATZ -5 VII 30". This postage was insufficient for paying the air mail fee (1.40 Fr was the correct all-inclusive postage rate), and instead a 1 RM German postage stamp paid for the zeppelin transport and was cancelled on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN -9. 7. 30" on her northbound flight. The card was dropped over Hammerfest, postmarked "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30" and forwarded to Switzerland by surface mail.

**The only recorded postcard with Swiss and German combined franking.**





Postcard postmarked "WIEN -3.VII.30" and "-6.VII.30", addressed to Krefeld, Germany. 1.70 Schilling postcard rate to all destinations. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". Transit postmark "BERLIN C 16. 7. 30".



Cover sent from "WIEN -5.VIII.30" by air mail "WIEN -6.VII.30", and addressed to Stockholm, Sweden at the 3.60 Schilling cover rate. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on reverse "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". A total of 221 postcards and letters with Austrian franking were sent on this flight.

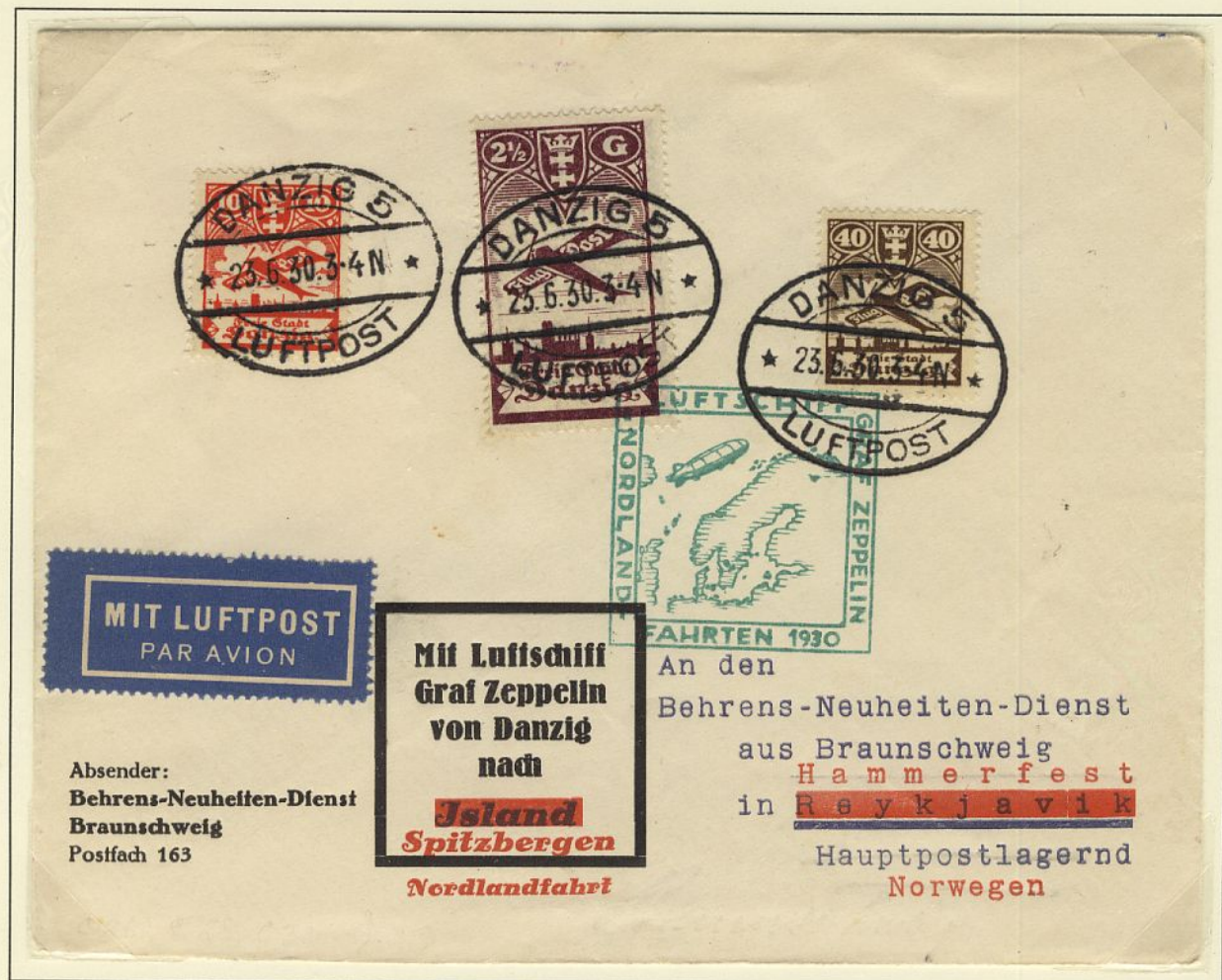




Postcard sent from  
“DANZIG -7.7.30”  
to Oslo, Norway.

1.50 Gulden all-  
inclusive postage  
rate for postcards  
to all destinations.

Dropped over  
Hammerfest and  
postmarked  
“HAMMERFEST  
10 VII 30”.



Cover sent from “DANZIG 23.6.30” to Hammerfest, Norway.

3 Gulden all-inclusive letter postage rate to all destinations.

Dropped over Hammerfest and backstamped “HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30”.



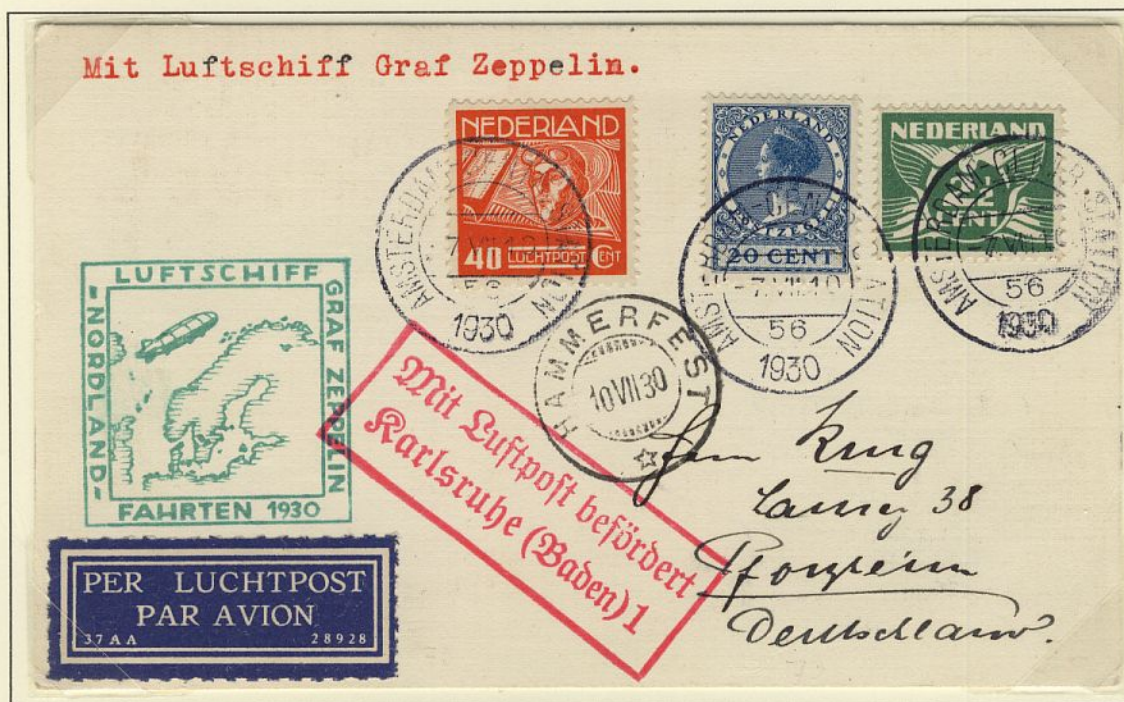


Postcard sent from "TRIESENBERG -5.VII.30" to Hammerfest, Norway. 1.40 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 12 VIII 30" – **incorrect date** – note that the mail drop took place on 10 July.



Prior to 1931, mail from Luxembourg for dispatch by 'Graf Zeppelin' could only be sent with additional German franking for the Zeppelin mail fee. Postcard sent from "LUXEMBOURG VILLE III -2.7.30" to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". Arrival postmark "ROTTERDAM 17.VII.30". The Luxembourgian postage rate was 80c for regular foreign postcards. The German all-inclusive zeppelin rate was 1 RM for postcards to all destinations.





Postcard from "AMSTERDAM CENTR.STATION -7 VII 1930" to Germany. 7½c postage for postcards plus 55c zeppelin fee to all destinations, total 62½c correct postage. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30". On the return air mail via Karlsruhe (Baden).

Only 6 postcards from the Netherlands were carried on this flight.



Cover sent from "ROTTERDAM -4 VII 1930", addressed to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. 12½c postage for covers plus 110c zeppelin fee to all destinations, total 122½c, i.e. 5c overfranked. Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30".

Only 2 covers from the Netherlands were carried on this flight.





Postcard sent from "SAARBRÜCKEN -7.7.30" to Völklingen, Saar.

7 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.

Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30".

On the return air mail via "BERLIN 16.7.30" and Saarbrücken.

75 postcards from Saar were carried on this flight.



Cover sent from "SAARBRÜCKEN -7.7.30" to Pforzheim, Germany.

12.5 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations.

Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on reverse "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30".

On the return air mail via Karlsruhe (Baden).

31 covers from Saar were carried on this flight.





Postcard sent from "ROMANSHORN - 7.VII.30" to Willmanstrand, Finland.

1.40 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.

Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST P.P. 10 VII 30".



Cover sent from "ROMANSHORN - 8.VII.30" to Hammerfest, Norway.

2.80 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.

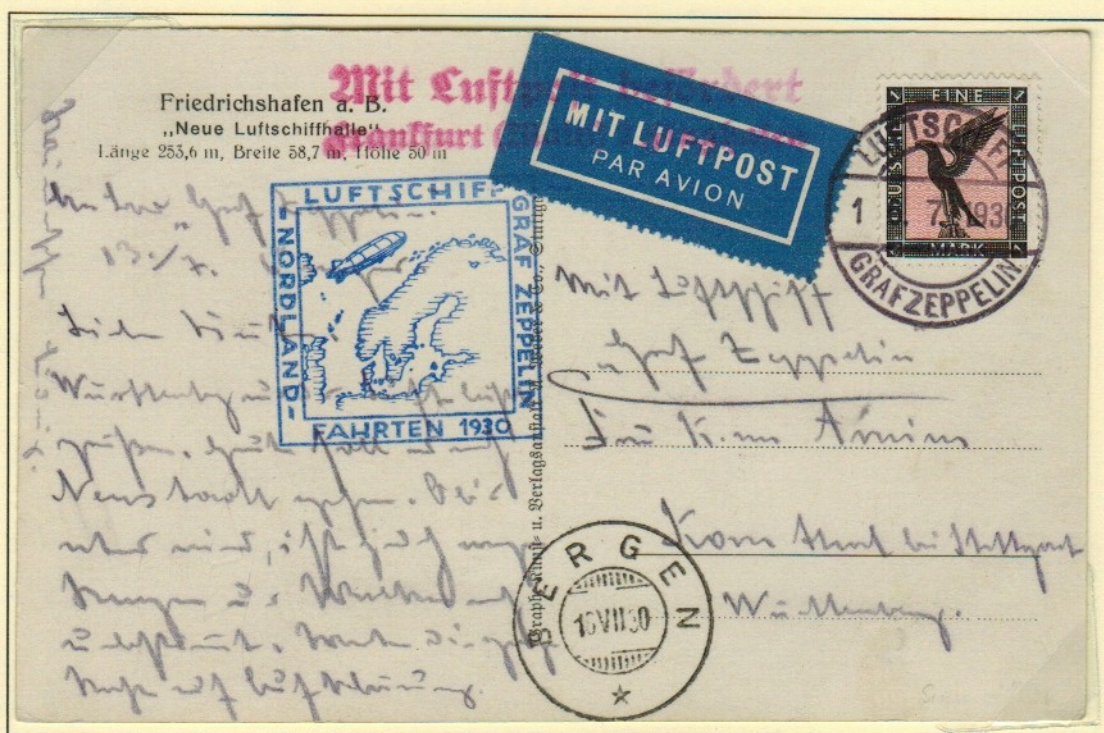
Dropped over Hammerfest, and postmarked on front "HAMMERFEST 10 VII 30".



This flight was advertised as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nordland flight, and mail drop was planned over Tromsø. As it turned out, mail was dropped over Bergen, and the course was set for Iceland due to the weather conditions. Two mail bags were dropped over Bergen on 16 July, containing a total of 658 covers and 1,812 postcards.



Postcard written by crew member Steuermann (Helmsman) Kurt Schönherr and addressed to a colleague at the airship workshop in Friedrichshafen. Posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on her northbound flight, and dropped over Bergen. Postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30". 1 RM all-inclusive rate for postcards to all destinations.



Postcard written by passenger Ainim and addressed to a family member in Württemberg. Posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on her northbound flight, and dropped over Bergen. Postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30". Air mail via Frankfurt (red cachet). 1 RM all-inclusive rate for postcards to all destinations.



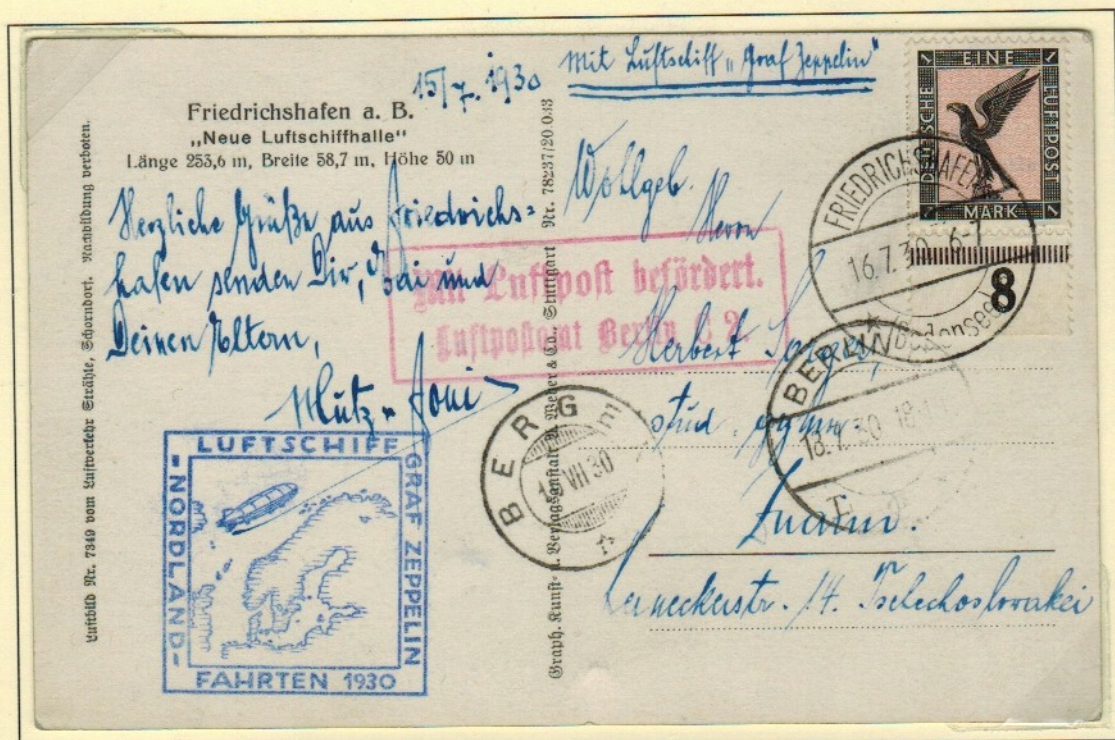


U.S. postal card posted on board and sent to Friedrichshafen, Germany. Dropped over Bergen and postmarked "BERGEN 16 VII 30". Transit "LÜBECK-TRAVEMÜNDE FLUGHAFEN 18.7.30". 1 RM all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations. The franking value of the U.S. postal card was not necessary.



U.S. postal stationery envelope posted on board and sent to Lexington, N.C., U.S.A. Backstamps "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and "FOREIGN SECTION / G.P.O. N.Y.". 2 RM all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations. The franking value of the U.S. postal envelope was not necessary.





Postcard to Czechoslovakia, sent from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 16.7.30", and dropped over Bergen. Transit postmarks "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and "BERLIN 18.7.30". 1 RM all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations. Only 26 mail items addressed to Czechoslovakia were carried on this flight.



Cover to Oslo, Norway, sent from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 16.7.30", and dropped over Bergen. Transit postmark "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and receiving postmark "OSLO 1 TUR 18 VII 30" on reverse. 2 RM all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations.





Postcard from "INNSBRUCK 20.VII.30" to Innsbruck, Austria. 10 Groschen postcard rate, and German 1 RM franking for the zeppelin air mail surcharge. This franking is highly unusual, because Austrian franking could pay for the zeppelin surcharge. Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30". Air mail via Breslau (Wroclaw), Poland and Munich, Germany.

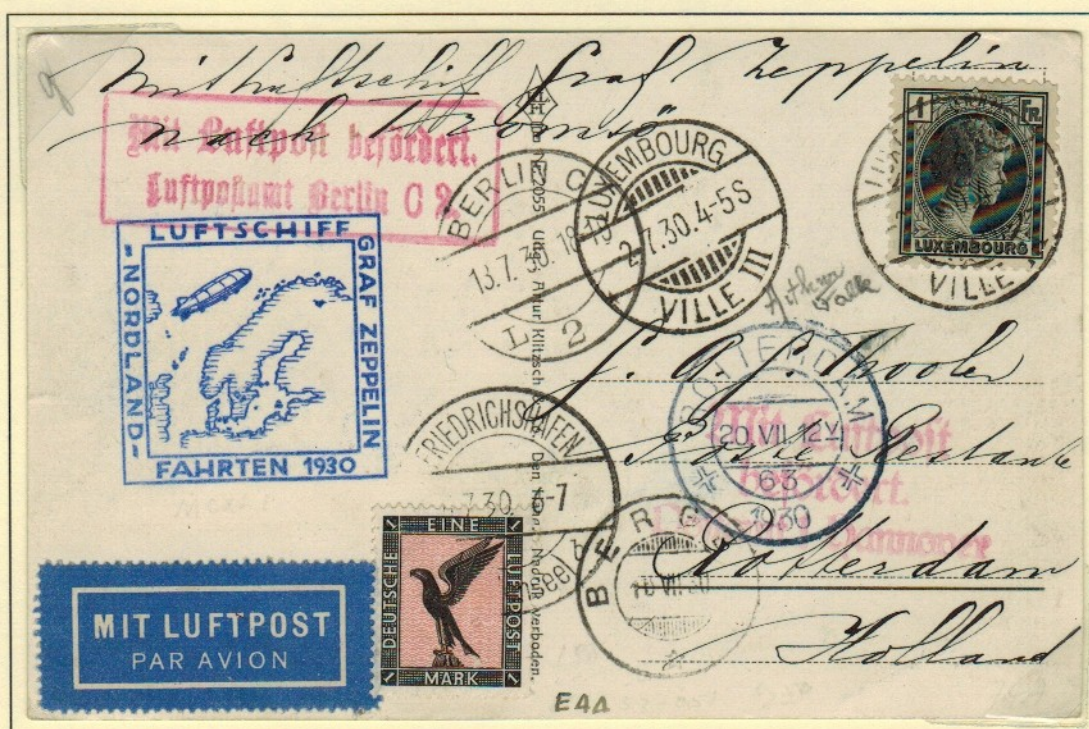


Postcard from "WIEN 10.VII.30" to Stammersdorf, Austria. 1 Groschen overpaid for the 1.70 Schilling all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations. Air mail via "WIEN FLUGPOST 13.VII.30". Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and "WIEN 20.VII.20".





Postcard sent from "BUDAPEST 930 JUL -6" to Oslo, Norway. 20 filler postcard rate, 50 filler air mail surcharge and 1 pengő zeppelin surcharge, total 1.70 pengő postage rate. 2 filler overfranked. Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".



Prior to 1931, mail from Luxembourg for dispatch by 'Graf Zeppelin' could only be sent with additional German franking for the Zeppelin mail fee. Postcard sent from "LUXEMBOURG VILLE III -2.7.30" to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30". Arrival postmark "ROTTERDAM 20.VII.30". The Luxembourgian postage rate was 80c for regular foreign postcards. The German all-inclusive zeppelin rate was 1 RM for postcards to all destinations.





Postcard sent from "TRIESENBERG 15.VII.30" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

1.40 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards.

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".

Surface mail across the Atlantic Ocean, "FOREIGN SECTION G.P.O. N.Y" on reverse.



Cover sent from "TRIESENBERG 14.VII.30" to Hedingen, Switzerland.

5 Rappen underfranked, the all-inclusive postage rate for letters was 2.80 Fr.

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".

Air mail via "LÜBECK 18.7.30" and Frankfurt am Main.

Receiving postmark "HEDINGEN 19 VII 30" on reverse.





Postcard from "AMSTERDAM 12.VII.1930" to Tromsø, Norway. 7½ cents base rate for postcards 1928-1946 and 55 cents zeppelin surcharge in Europe 1929-1931, total 62½ cents. Dropped over Bergen. Transit postmark "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and received "TROMSÖ 22 VII 30". A total of 165 covers and 172 postcards with Dutch franking were carried on this flight.



Cover from "AMSTERDAM 12.VII.1930" to Tromsø, Norway. 12½ cents base rate for letters 1928-1946 and 110 cents zeppelin surcharge in Europe 1929-1931, total 122½ cents. Dropped over Bergen. Backstamps "BERGEN 16 VII 30" and "TROMSÖ 22 VII 30".





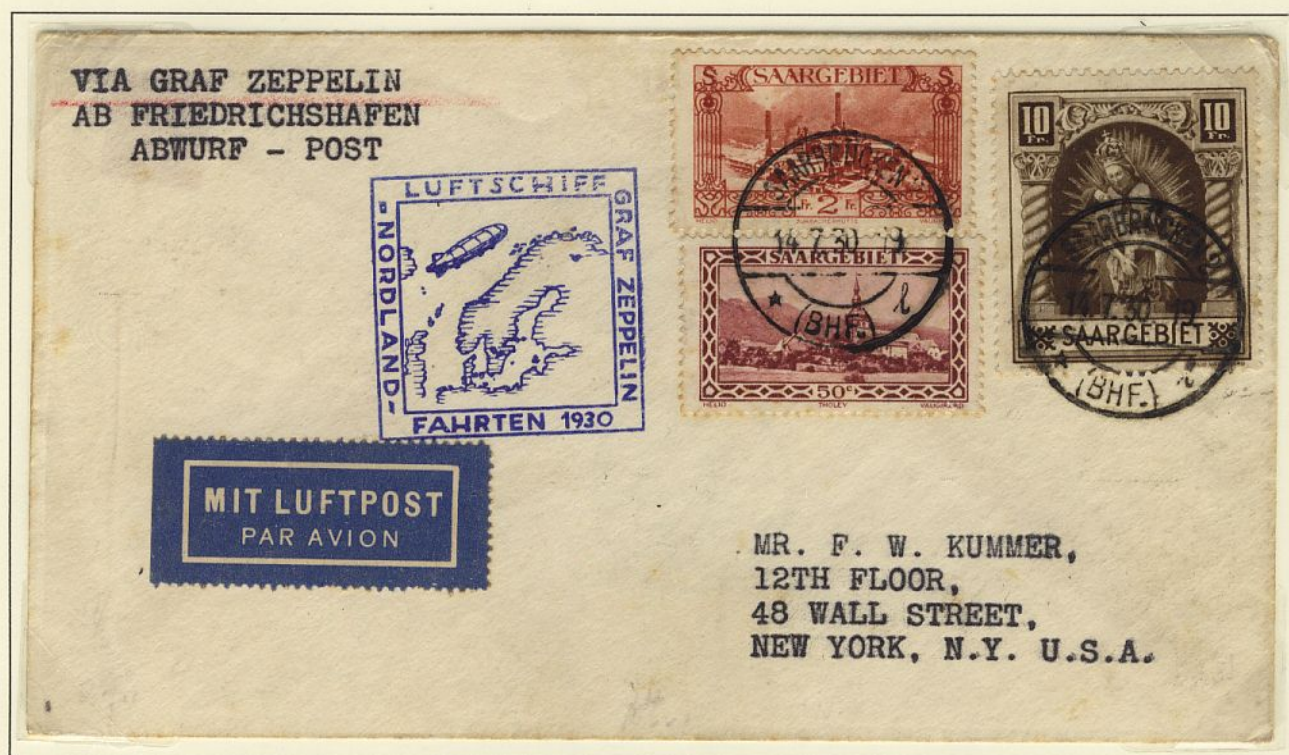
Postcard from "SAARBRÜCKEN -8.7.30" to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

7 Frs all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations (4.50 Frs on picture side).

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".

Transit postmark "BERLIN C 18.7.30" and receiving postmark "ROTTERDAM 20.VII.1930".

Only 24 mail items addressed to the Netherlands were carried on this flight.



Cover from "SAARBRÜCKEN 14.7.30" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

12 ½ Frs all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations.

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on reverse "BERGEN 16 VII 30".

Transit postmark "FOREIGN SECTION/ G.P.O. N.Y.".





Cover from "ROMANSHORN 14.VII.30" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

2.80 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations.

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".

On reverse receiving postmark "FOREIGN SECTION, G.P.O., N.Y."



Postcard from "ROMANSHORN 15.VII.30" to Basel, Switzerland.

1.40 Fr all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.

By air mail via Lübeck and Frankfurt (Main) to Friedrichshafen.

Dropped over Bergen, and postmarked on front "BERGEN 16 VII 30".





Cover from "HAMBURG 20.6.30" to Tromsø, Norway. Flown by LZ127 "Graf Zeppelin" from Berlin 22 June to Friedrichshafen, and then onwards to Bergen on 16 July. Dropped over Bergen, with transit postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 16.7.30" and "BERGEN 16 VII 30". 2 RM postage for each Zeppelin flight, total 4 RM all-inclusive postage rate for covers to all destinations. **The only recorded two-flight mail item carried on this flight.**



Postcard to Friedrichshafen, Germany, written by Airship Captain H.C. Flemming and addressed to himself. Posted on board the Graf Zeppelin on her southbound return flight. Receiving postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 18 7 30". 1 RM all-inclusive postage rate for postcards to all destinations.



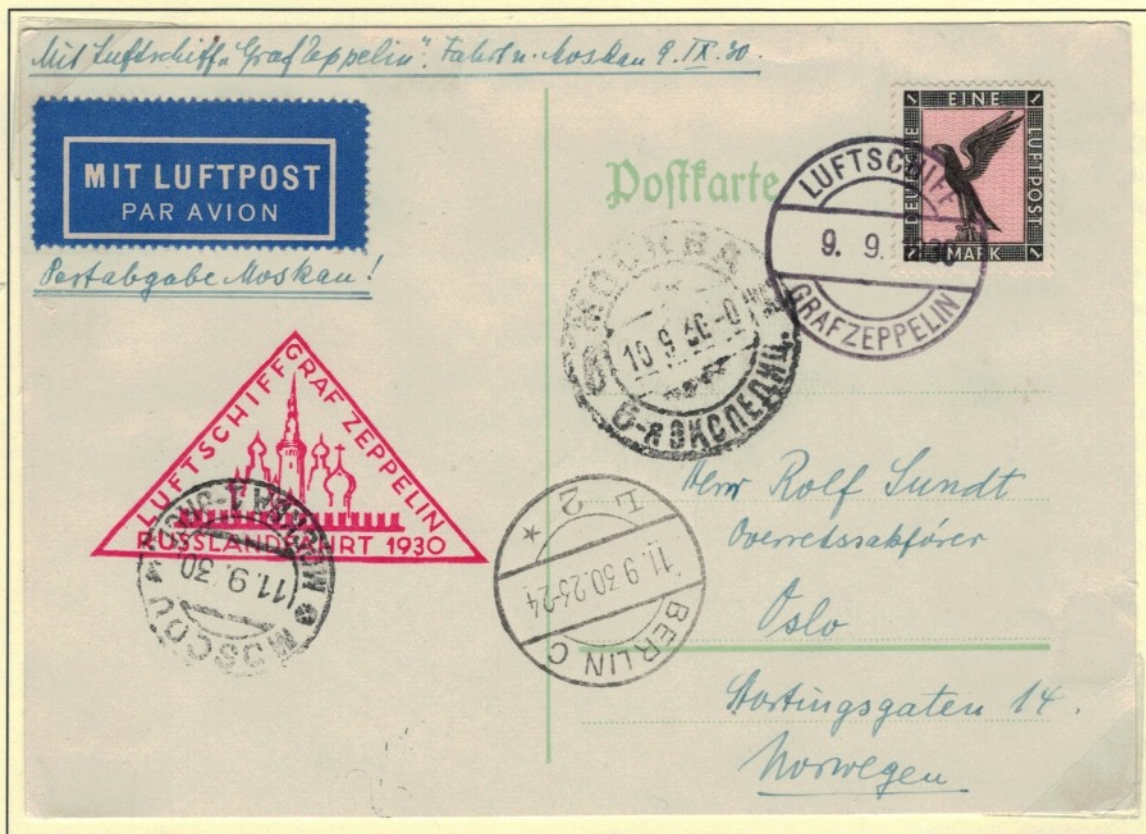
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Russia Flight**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Baltic Sea Flight**

**9 – 11 September, 1930**  
**23 – 25 September, 1930**

The 1930 Russia Sea flight was from Friedrichshafen with landing in Moscow.

Postcard posted on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 9. 9. 1930" and addressed to Oslo. Special flight cachet in red. Transit postmarks "MOSCOW 10.9.30" and "BERLIN C 11.9.30".

1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin postcard rate to any destination in Europe, 11.4.1930-6.6.1932.



The 1930 Baltic Sea flight was from Friedrichshafen with landing in Berlin, and a long round-trip with mail drops in Riga (Latvia), Tallin (Estonia), Helsinki (Finland) and Stockholm (Sweden). In Helsinki the mail from Germany was let down on a rope, and mail from Finland was taken on board.



Postcard to Oslo, posted on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 23. 9. 1930" on the Baltic Sea flight from Friedrichshafen to Helsinki. Special flight cachet in green and transit postmark "HELSINKI 24.IX.30". The air mail label was crossed over in Helsinki, and onwards to Oslo via surface mail. 1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin postcard rate to any destination in Europe, 11.4.1930-6.6.1932.



The 1930 Baltic Sea flight was from Friedrichshafen with landing in Berlin, and a long round trip with mail drops in Riga (Latvia), Tallin (Estonia), Helsinki (Finland) and Stockholm (Sweden). In Helsinki the mail was let down on a rope, and mail from Finland was taken on board. The Finnish Zeppelin postage stamp was valid for postage on one day only, 24 September 1930. The postage rates were 10 M for postcards and 20 M for letters.



Letter to Skien, mailed from "HELSINKI 24.IX.30". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the Baltic Sea flight from Helsinki to Friedrichshafen, despite the manuscript annotation "Mit Graf Zeppelin nach Schweden". Special flight cachet in violet, transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 25.9.30" and receiving postmark "SKIEN 28 IX 30".



Postcard to Stockholm, Sweden, **franked with Norwegian stamps**, mailed from "HELSINKI 24.IX.30". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the Baltic Sea flight from Helsinki to Friedrichshafen. The special flight cachet is missing, but apparently flown as shown on the transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 25.9.30". Receiving postmark "TOCKHOLM LUFTPOST 29 9. 30.". The Norwegian franking seems to have been approved, and no postage due markings are present.



"Graf Zeppelin" – Baltic Sea Flight  
 "Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to the Netherlands

23 – 25 September, 1930  
 11 November, 1930



Postcard to Oslo, mailed from "HELSINKI 24.IX.30". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the Baltic Sea flight from Helsinki to Friedrichshafen. Special flight cachet in violet, transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 25.9.30" and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED I 27 IX 30" (railway Sweden-Norway). 10M postcard rate for transport by zeppelin and onwards by surface mail.

On November 11, 1930, "Graf Zeppelin" performed a flight to the Netherlands, with mail drop at Venlo.

Postcard sent from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 10.11.30" to Oslo, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1930 flight to the Netherlands, from Friedrichshafen on 11 November. Special flight cachet in violet, and special Venlo receiving cachet also in violet. Transit postmark "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED I 13 X 30". 1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin postcard rate to any destination in Europe, valid from 11.4.1930 to 6.6.1932.





**"Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to Hungary**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to Pomerania**

**28 – 30 March, 1931**  
**3 – 4 May, 1931**

In March 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" performed a flight to Hungary, with landing in Budapest.



Letter from "BUDAPEST 931MAR.24" to Stavanger, Norway. Flown on board "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 return flight from Hungary which started from Budapest on 29 March. Special flight cachet in green. Transit postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 30 3 31", "BERLIN 31.3.31", "MALMÖ 31.3.31" and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED -1 IV 31".

In May 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" performed a flight to Pomerania (Pommern), with landing in Stettin.



Postcard to Oslo, Norway, posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 flight to Pomerania, from Friedrichshafen on 3 May. Special flight cachet in green. Transit postmarks "STETTIN FLUGPLATZ -3.5.31", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED B -5 V 31".

1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin postcard rate to any destination in Europe, valid 11.4.1930-6.6.1932.



**"Graf Zeppelin" – Flight to Egypt**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Baltic Area Flight**

**9 – 13 April, 1931**  
**12 – 15 May, 1931**

In April 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" performed a flight to Egypt, with landing in Cairo.



Letter to Hønefoss, Norway, postmarked "CAIRE GRAF ZEPPELIN -9 APR 31", flown on the return flight from Cairo on 11 April. Egypt had issued special zeppelin airmail stamps and postmarks for this flight. Arrival "HØNEFOSS 16 IV 31".

In 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" performed a flight in the Baltic area, with landings at Berlin and Lübeck.

Postcard to Norway, from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 12.5.31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the Baltic Area flight from Friedrichshafen 12 May. Dropped in Copenhagen 14 May, "KØBENHAVN LUFTPOST 14.5.31".

1 RM all-inclusive zeppelin postcard rate to all destinations in Europe, valid 11.4.1930-6.6.1932.





7-8 June, 1931  
30 June-3 July, 1931



Mail carried from Germany was dropped at Reykjavik, and Icelandic mail was hoisted on board. Iceland had issued three overprinted stamps on the occasion.



M/S    Norsk- Islandsk Handelskompani,

Grönland 13,

O s l o.

Pr. "Graf Zeppelin".





Registered postcard (registration label on picture side of the postcard) postmarked "REYKJAVIK 30 VI 31" and addressed to Bergen, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Iceland Flight, special triangular flight cachet in green. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 3 7 31". 1 kr postcard rate and 30 öre registration fee to all destinations.



Registered letter postmarked "REYKJAVIK 30 VI 31" and addressed to Fredrikstad, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Iceland Flight, special triangular flight cachet in green. On reverse transit postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 3 7 31" and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED -5 VII 31" (railway post office Sweden-Norway). 2 kr letter rate per 5 grammes and 30 öre registration fee to all destinations.





Postcard to Oslo, Norway, posted on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 1.7.1931" on the 1931 Iceland Flight, special triangular flight cachet in green. Dropped in Reykjavik, and transit postmark "REYKJAVIK -1 VII 31". 1 RM postcard rate to all destinations.



Letter postmarked "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 30. 6. 31" and addressed to Oslo, Norway. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Iceland Flight, special triangular flight cachet in green. Dropped in Reykjavik, transit postmark "REYKJAVIK -1.VII.31". 2 RM letter rate to all destinations.



"Graf Zeppelin" – Austria Flight  
 "Graf Zeppelin" – Polar Flight

12 – 13 July, 1931  
 24 – 31 July, 1931

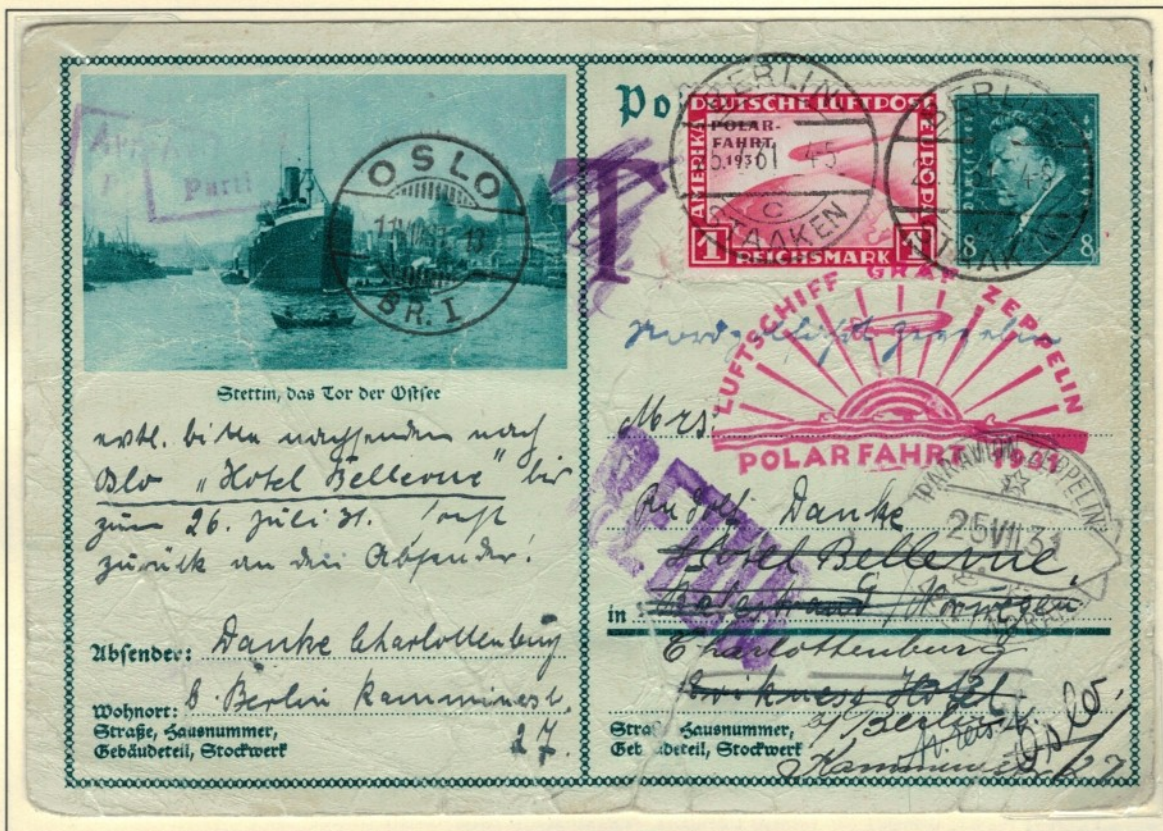
In July 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" made a flight to Austria, with landing in Vienna.



Letter from "KLAGENFURT 9 VII 31", and special Austrian zeppelin postmark "WIEN 12 VII 31".

Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight from Austria, from Vienna 13 July. On reverse "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 13 7 31" and "DRAMMEN 15 7 31". Addressed to Drammen, Norway and re-directed to Rødtangen. 3.60 Schilling letter rate to all destinations.

In July 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" made an historic trip to Franz Josef Land, the northernmost point she ever reached.

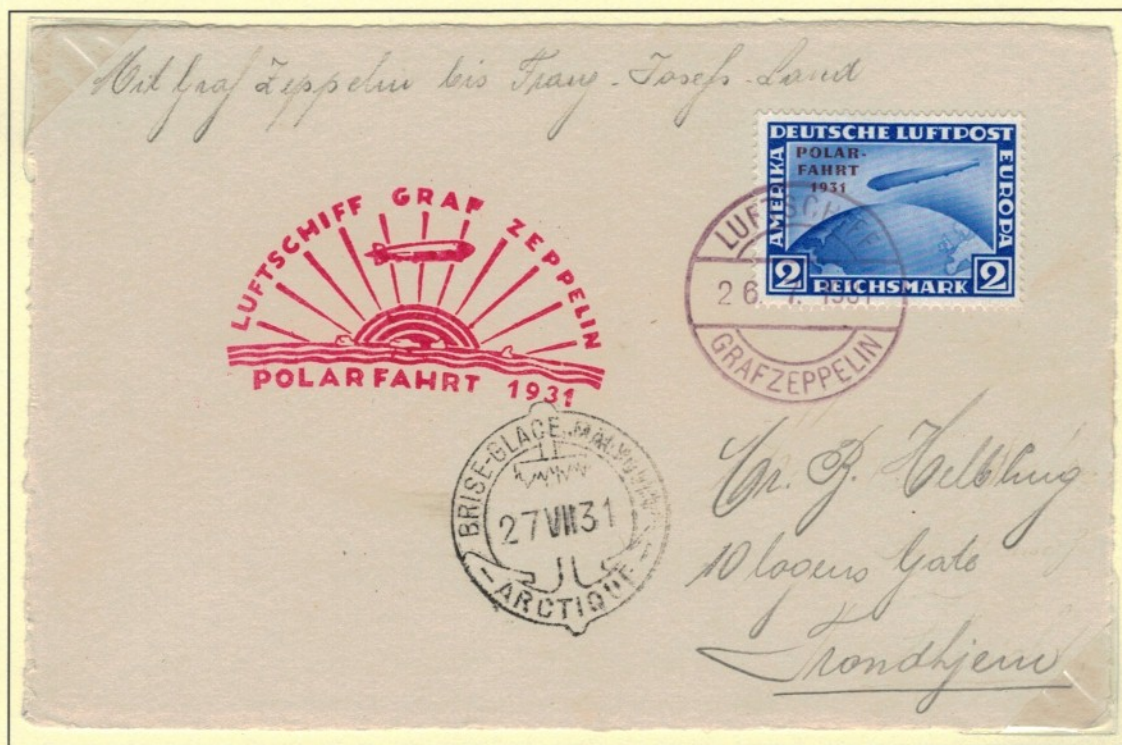


Up-rated postal card to Balestrand, Norway mailed at "BERLIN STAAKEN 25 VII 31" and red crescent special flight cachet. Flown to Leningrad (special postmark in black), the first leg of the 1931 Polar Flight by "Graf Zeppelin". Re-directed to Oslo, Norway and returned to the sender at Charlottenburg near Berlin. 1 RM postcard rate to Leningrad.



In 1931, "Graf Zeppelin" made an historic exchange of mails with the Russian icebreaker "Malygin" at Quiet Bay on Hooker Island, Franz Josef Land. Following the exchange of mails, "Graf Zeppelin" undertook an extensive aerial survey and mapping of Franz Josef Land. During this flight the "Graf Zeppelin" reached her northernmost point, Rudolf Island, approximately 500 nautical miles from the North Pole.

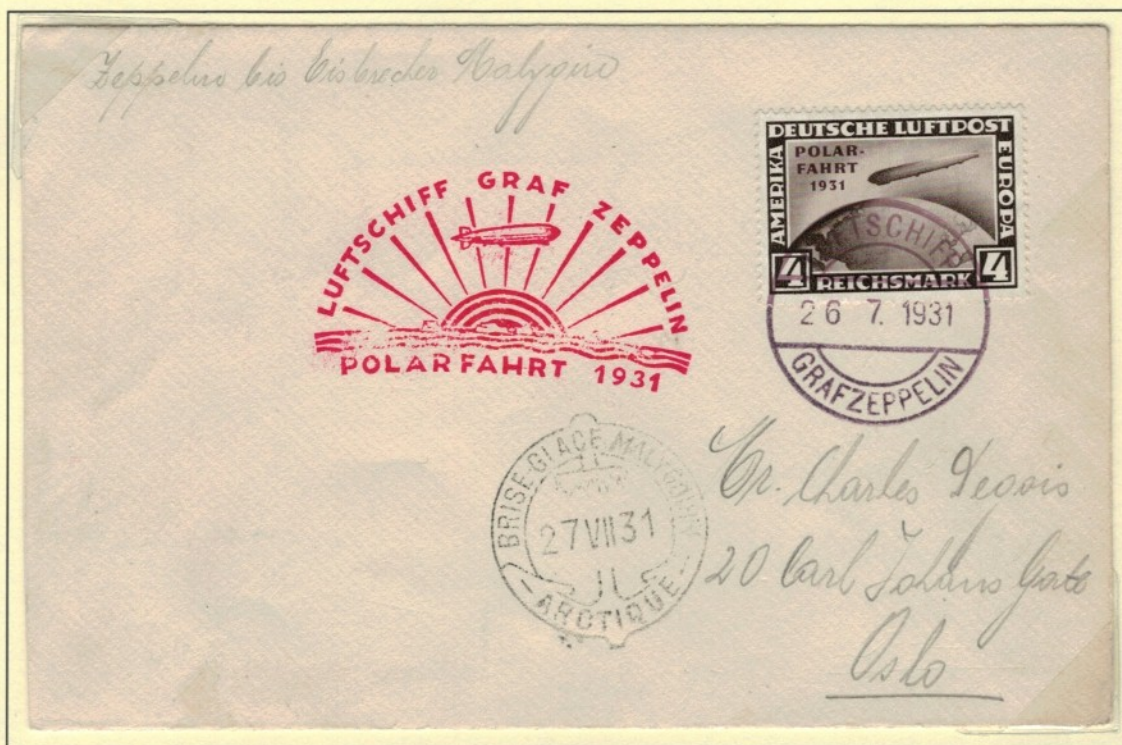
Original plans called for a meeting at the North Pole between Wilkins-Ellsworth's sub-marine "Nautilus" and "Graf Zeppelin", but mechanical problems with the submarine prevented the rendezvous from taking place.



Postcard posted on board "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 26. 7. 31" and addressed to Trondheim, Norway. Transferred to "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". 2 RM correct postage for postcards to "Malygin".

Germany had issued three special postage stamps for this flight, 1M, 2M and 4M.

"Malygin" arrived back at Archangel on 20 August, and the mails picked up from the "Graf Zeppelin" was fed into the normal Soviet postal system. The letters reached Norway one month after the transfer from the airship, postmark on reverse "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED III 27 VIII 31".



Letter to Oslo, Norway posted on board "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight "LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN 26. 7. 1931" and red crescent special flight cachet. Transferred to "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". 4 RM correct postage for postcards to "Malygin".





Postcard sent from "BERLIN - STAAKEN 25.7.31" to Bergen, Norway. Dispatched in Leningrad: "PAR AVION ZEPPELIN LENINGRAD 25 VII 31", arrival "BERGEN 30.7.31".  
1 RM correct postage for postcards to Leningrad.



Letter to Longyearbyen, Spitz-bergen from "BERLIN STAAKEN 25. 7. 31". By "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight, from Friedrichshafen on 24 July and transferred to "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". Attempted sent as registered mail, but "Einschreiben" has been crossed over. 4 RM correct postage for letters to "Malygin".





Postcard addressed to Oslo, Norway from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 24.7.31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight, from Friedrichshafen 24 July. Red crescent special flight cachet. Transferred to the ice-breaker "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". 2 RM correct postage for postcards to "Malygin".



Letter to Norway from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 24.7.31" (below). Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight, from Friedrichshafen on 24 July, transferred to the ice-breaker "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". 4 RM correct postage for letters to "Malygin".





Letter to Norway from "SALZBURG 22.VII.31", Austria (above) and from "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 24.7.31" (below). Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight, from Friedrichshafen on 24 July, transferred to the ice-breaker "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". 20 Groschen overpaid for the 3.40 Schilling postage for postcards to "Malygin"

"Malygin" arrived back at Archangel on 20 August, and the mails picked up from the "Graf Zeppelin" was fed into the normal Soviet postal system. The letters reached Norway one month after the transfer from the airship, postmark on reverse "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED III 27 VIII 31".



Postcard to Norway, uncanceled postage stamps; the card is dated Saarbrücken 22/7.1931. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 24.7.31" (below). Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the 1931 Polar Flight, from Friedrichshafen on 24 July, transferred to the ice-breaker "Malygin" "BRISE-GLACE-MALYGUIN 27 VII 31". By regular surface mail from Archangel, Soviet Union to Oslo. 14 francs correct postage for postcards to "Malygin".



**"Graf Zeppelin" – First Flight to South America**  
**"Graf Zeppelin" – Second Flight to South America**

**29 August -7 September, 1931**  
**18 – 28 September, 1931**

"Graf Zeppelin" performed three flights to South America in fall 1931, to demonstrate the airship as a reliable means of trans-Atlantic aero transport for passengers and mail.



Postcard to Norway, postmarked "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 29.8.31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the First Flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 29 August. Special flight cachet in green. Transit postmark "PERNAMUCO -4 IX 31". 2 RM all-inclusive zeppelin mail rate for postcards to all destinations.



Cover from Brazil to Oslo, Norway, postmarked "RIO DE JANEIRO 23 IX 31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight of the Second Flight to South America, from Recife 25 September. Special flight cachet in black applied in Recife. 400 Reis letter postage and 2\$500 zeppelin surcharge. On reverse transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 28 9 31", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 30 IX 31" and receiving postmark "OSLO 1TUR-1.10.31".



"Graf Zeppelin" – Second Flight to South America  
 "Graf Zeppelin" – Third Flight to South America

18 – 28 September, 1931  
 17 – 28 October, 1931



Cover from Brazil to Trondheim, Norway, postmarked "RIO DE JANEIRO 23 IX 31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight of the Second Flight to South America, from Recife 25 September. Special flight cachet in blue applied in Recife. 400 Reis letter postage and 2\$500 zeppelin surcharge. On reverse transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 28 9 31", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 30 IX 31" and receiving postmark "TRONDHEIM 2TUR-1.10.31".



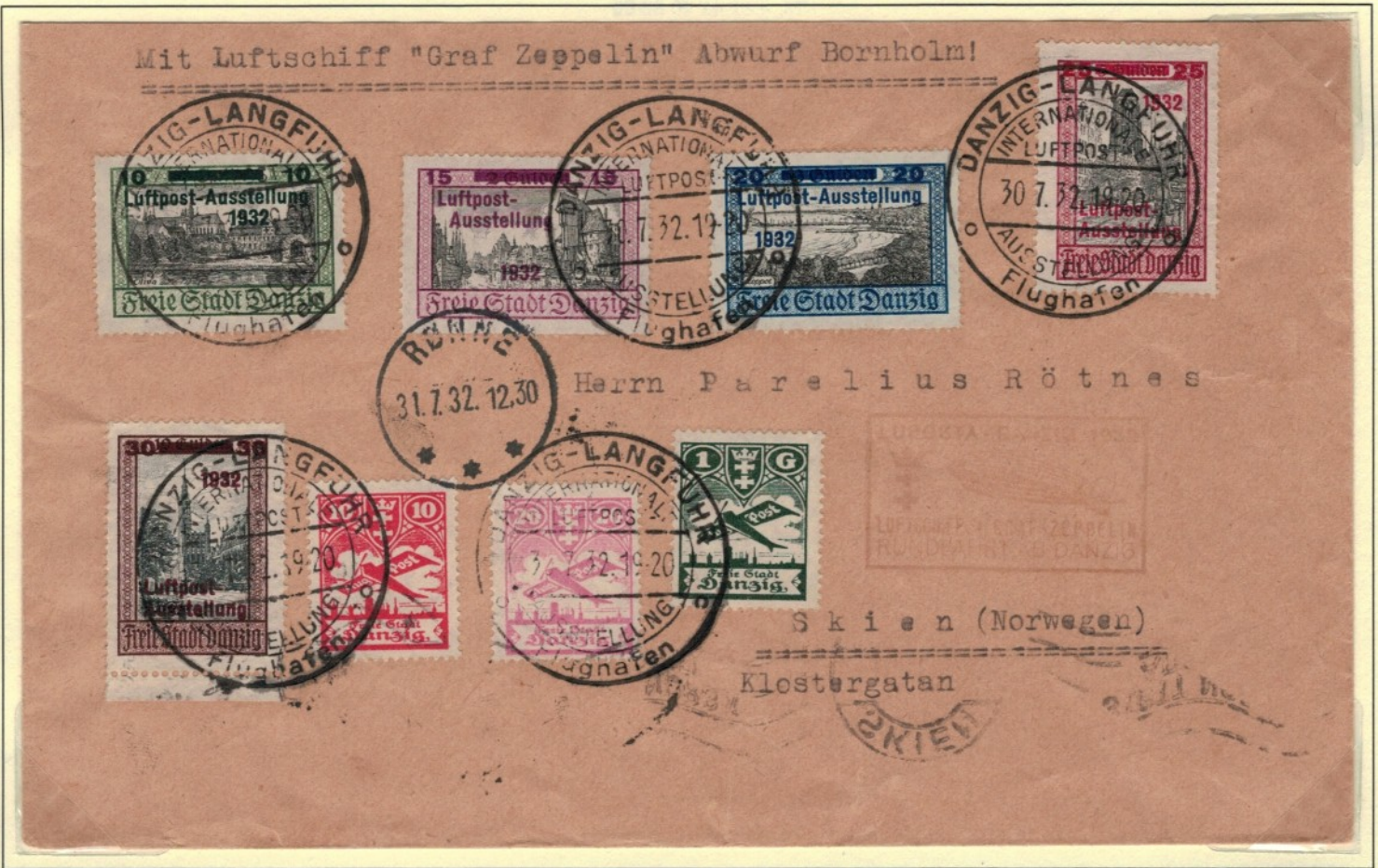
Cover from Brazil to Norway, postmarked "RIO DE JANEIRO 22 OUT 31". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the return flight of the Third Flight to South America, from Recife 24 October. Special flight cachet in black applied in Recife. 400 Reis letter postage and 2\$500 zeppelin surcharge. On reverse transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 28 10 31" and receiving postmark "BERGEN 2TUR 31.10.31".



# “Graf Zeppelin” – Flight to Lupošta, Danzig

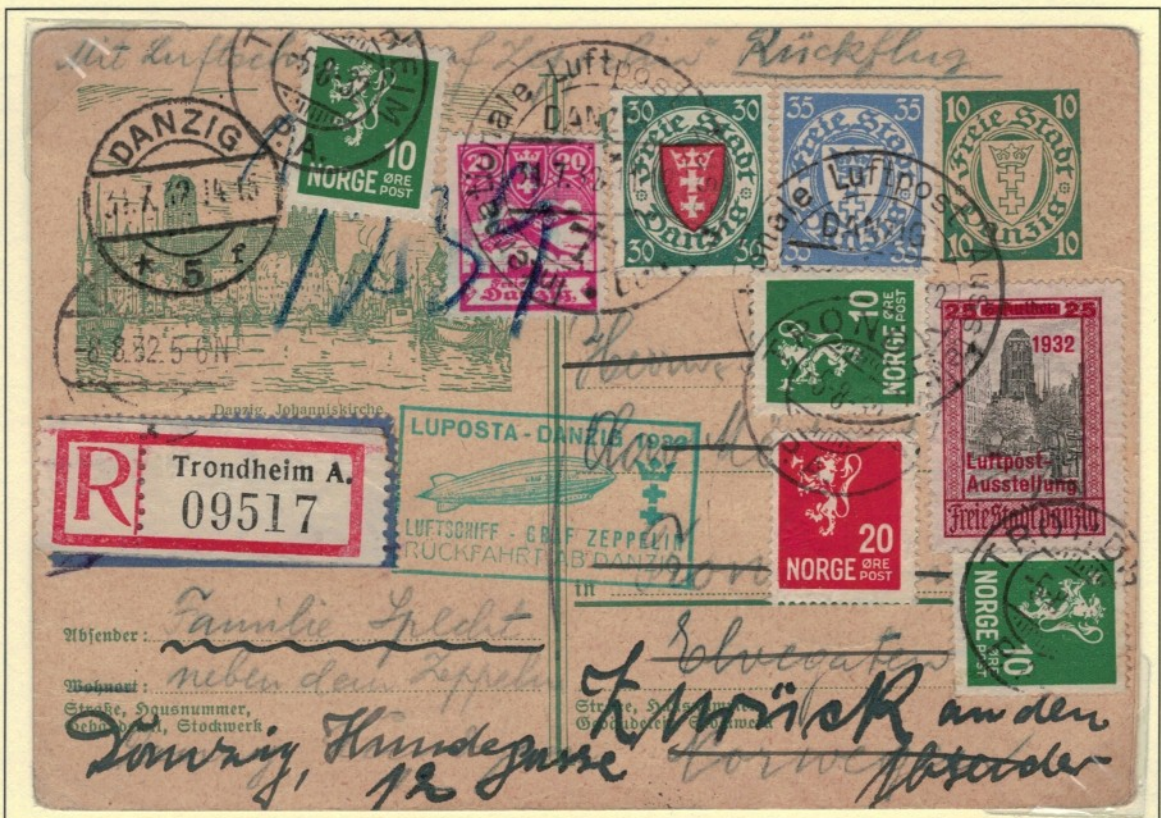
30 July – 1 August, 1932

In 1932, LZ 127 “Graf Zeppelin” flew from Friedrichshafen to the LUPOSTA International Air Mail Exhibition in Danzig. After landing in Danzig a round trip was made over Sweden and Denmark, with mail drop over Rönne on the Bornholm island in the the Baltic Sea, and return to Friedrichshafen after a second landing in Danzig.



Letter from “Internationale Luftpost Ausstellung DANZIG 30.7.32” to Norway with special flight cachet “LUPOSTA - DANZIG 1932 RUNDFAHRT AB DANZIG”. Dropped Rönne 31.7.32 and received Skien 3.VIII.32 (on reverse).

Reg. postcard to Norway from “Internationale Luftpost Ausstellung DANZIG 31.7.32”, with air mail label and Danzig reg.label underneath the Trondheim label. Flown on the return flight with green special flight cachet “LUPOSTA - DANZIG 1932 RÜCKFAHRT AB DANZIG” and transit postmark “FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 1.8.32” on reverse. 1.20 Gulden postage (1G all-inclusive rate for postcards plus 0.20G registration fee). Returned from “TRONDHEIM -5-8-32” and received “DANZIG -8 8 32”, 20 öre postcard rate to Europe and 30 öre registration fee.





# Flights to South America 1932-1937

## Zeppelin mail fees from Norway to South America

LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" started in 1932 scheduled commercial airship service to South America. The standard airship route was between Friedrichshafen, Germany and Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. From 1932 onwards, Norwegian air mail could be sent by Zeppelin to several countries in South America, and the Norwegian Postal Circular No. 7 of 22 March, 1932 gave details for sending such mail. The air mail fee included both the Zeppelin route and the connecting route(s). The air mail fees (öre) were:

		from 20.3.32	from 1.1.35	from 1.5.37
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru (via New York from 1935 onwards), Uruguay	Letter per 5 grams	200	260	230
	Printed matter per 5 g	50	60	60
	Postcard	200	260	230
The regular Norwegian postage rates were to be paid in addition to the air mail fees. The rates remained unchanged from 1927 to 1946: Letter 30 öre per first 20 grams and 20 öre per additional 20 grams. Postcard 20 öre. Printed matter 7 öre per 50 grams. Registration fee 30 öre. Express fee (special delivery) 60 öre.				

## First South America Flight 1932

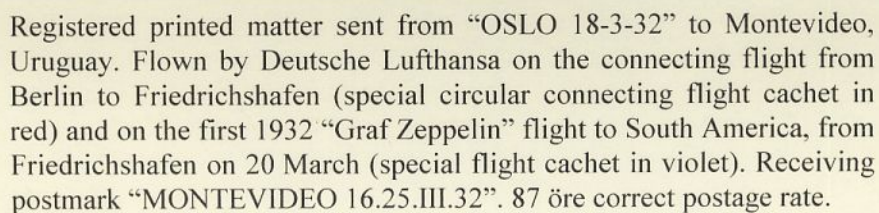
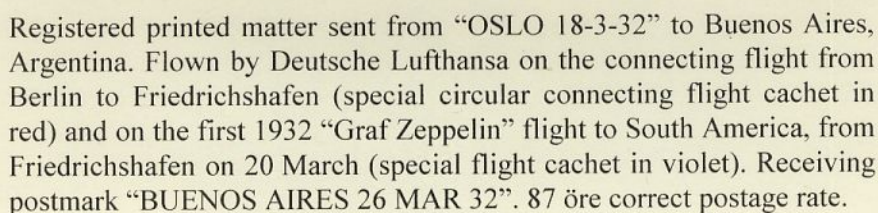
20 – 29 March, 1932

LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" performed nine trips to South America in 1936.



Registered postcard sent from "OSLO 18 III 32" to Concepcion, Chile. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special circular connecting flight cachet in red). Flown on the first 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 20 March (special flight cachet in violet). On reverse transit postmark "SANTIAGO CHILE 28 MAR 32" and receiving postmark "CONCEPCION 29 MAR 32". 2.50 kr correct postage rate.

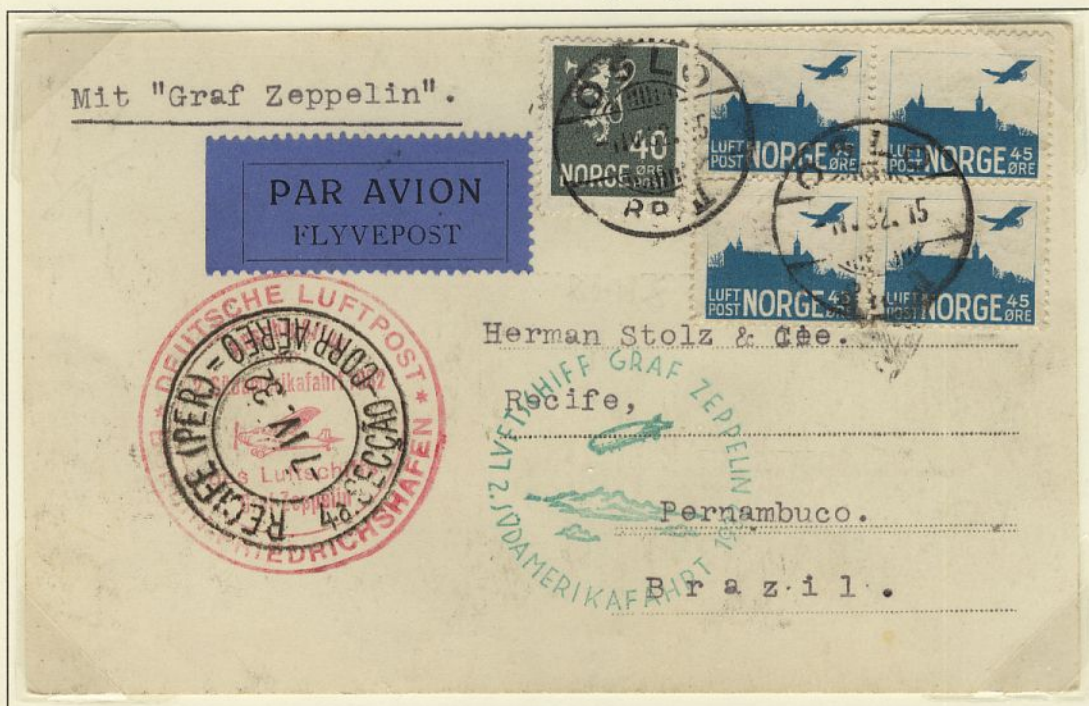








Letter sent from "OSLO -1 IV 32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the second 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in green), from Friedrichshafen 5 April. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES ABR 10 1932" on reverse. Weight 7g, 4.30 kr correct postage rate for letters 5-10g.



Postcard sent from "OSLO -1 IV 32" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the second 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in green), from Friedrichshafen 5 April. Arrival postmark "RECIFE (PER.) -7 IV. 32". 2.20 kr correct postage rate.



Letter from "OSLO -1 IV 32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular cachet in red), and on the second 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in green), from Friedrichshafen on 5 April. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES ABR 10 1932" on reverse. Weight 7g, 4.30 kr correct postage rate for letters 5-10g.



Registered letter sent from "CURITYBA -5 IV 32" to Norway. Flown on the second 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America, from Recife 9 April. Transit postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 13. 4. 32", "BERLIN C 13.4.32", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 14 IV 32" on reverse.

Weight 3 grammes, 100 Reis underpaid for the 5\$500 rate: 700 Reis postage for letters up to 20g, 3\$500 zeppelin airmail fee to 5g, and 1\$400 registration fee, valid 1932-1933.





Letter sent from "OSLO 15 IV 32" to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the third 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 18 April. Arrival postmark "S. PAULO 21 IV 32" on reverse. 2.30 kr correct rate.



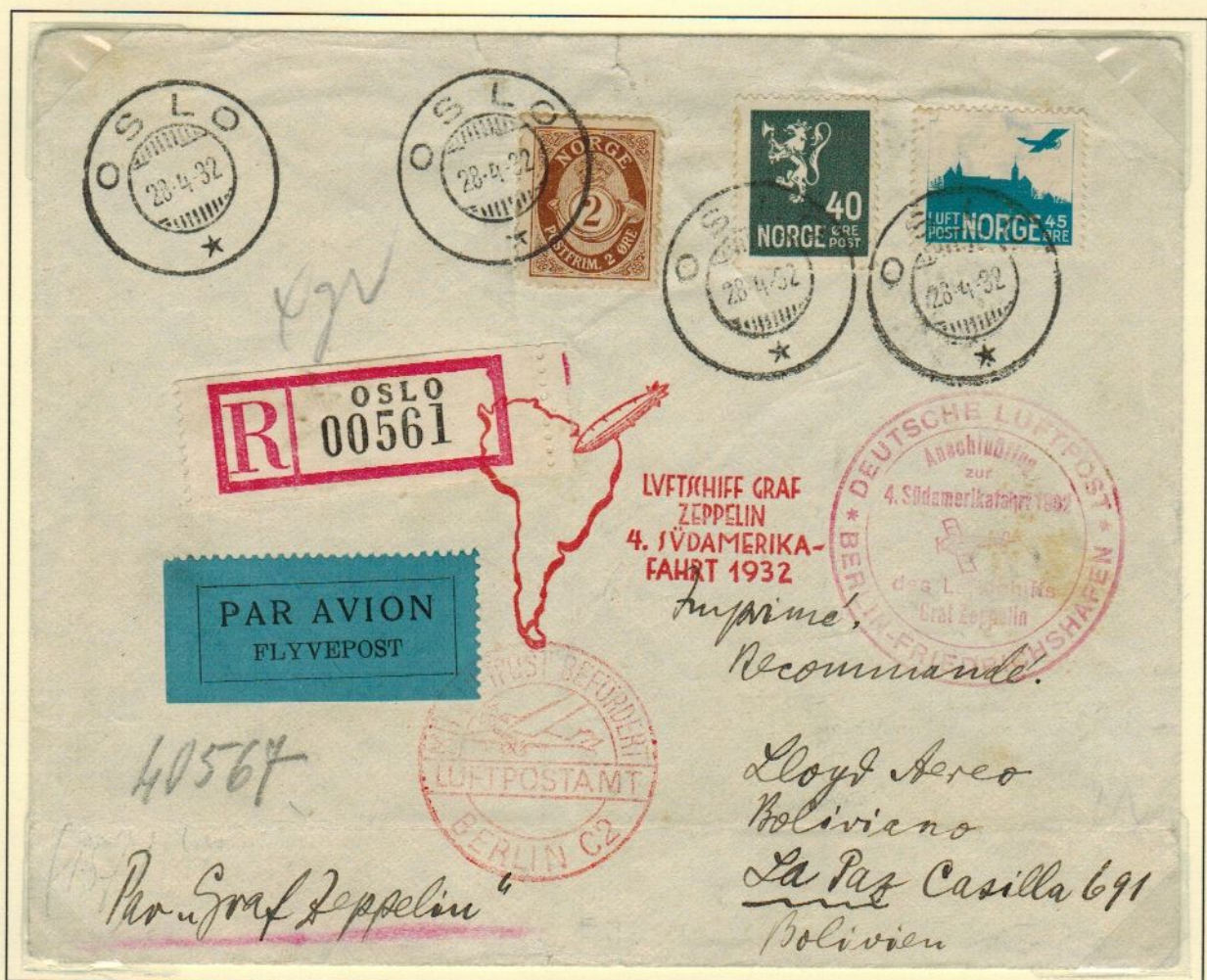
Postcard sent from "TRONDHEIM 13.4.32" to La Paz, Bolivia. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the third 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 18 April. Arrival postmark "LA PAZ 10 MAYO 32" on reverse. Underfranked 20 öre, correct rate was 20 öre foreign postcard rate and 2 kr air mail fee. "T 33½c" in blue pencil, but no trace that the postage due was paid.



# Fourth South America Flight 1932

2 - 12 May, 1932

Letter sent from "OSLO SOLLI 29 IV 32" to São Paulo, Brazil. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the fourth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 2 May. Arrival postmark "S. PAULO BRASIL -6 V. 32". 2.30 kr correct postage rate for letter to 5g.



Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 28-4-32" to La Paz, Bolivia. Air mail to Berlin, flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the fourth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 2 May. Arrival postmark on reverse "LA PAZ 10 MAYO 1932". 87 öre correct rate.





Registered 8g printed matter from "OSLO 13 IV 32" to **Bogota, Columbia**. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the fourth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 2 May. Transit postmarks "PERNAMBUCO 5 V 32", "NEW YORK 6-7-1932" and "NEW YORK 6-8-1932". SCADTA (Columbia) air mail label crossed over, and surface mail to "BOGOTA 28. JUN. 1932". 137 öre correct rate for registered printed matter 5-10 g.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 16 IV 32" to **Asuncion, Paraguay**. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the fourth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichshafen 2 May. Arrival postmark "AERO POSTAL PARAGUAY 11 MAY 32". 57 öre correct printed matter postage rate.

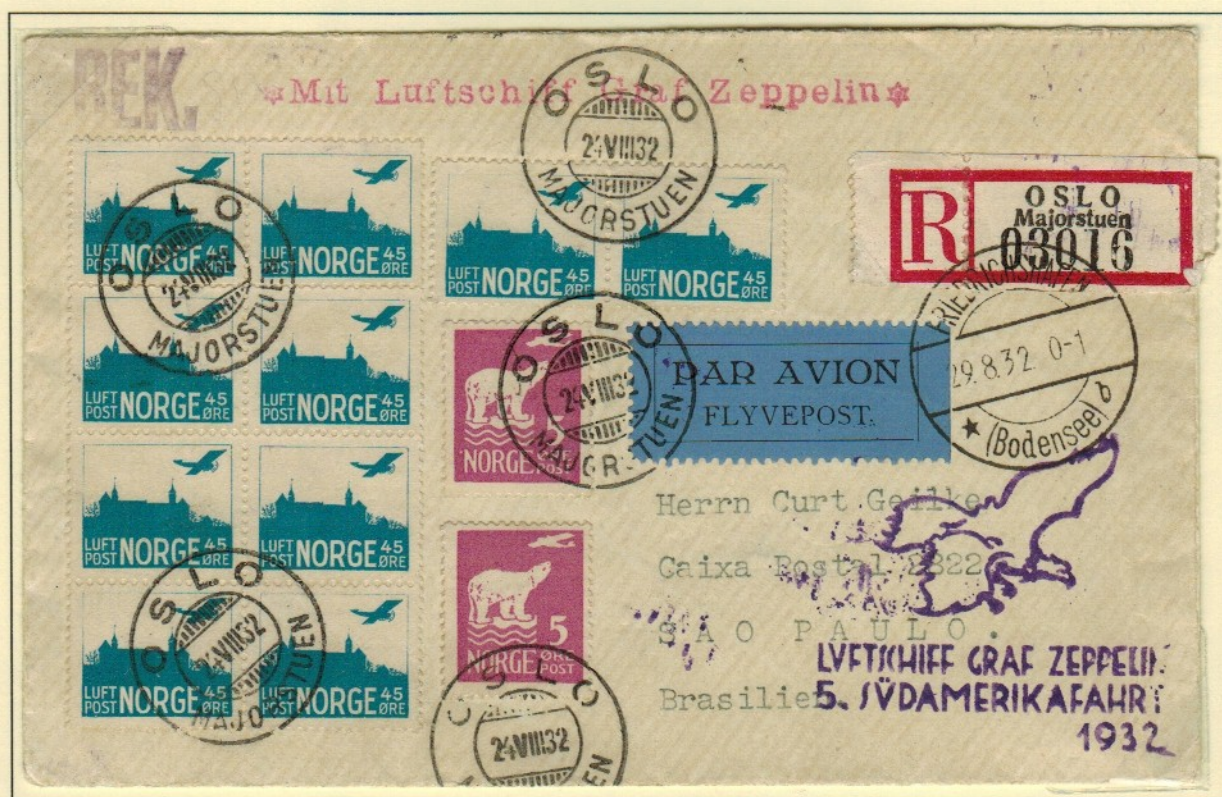




Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 26-8-32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

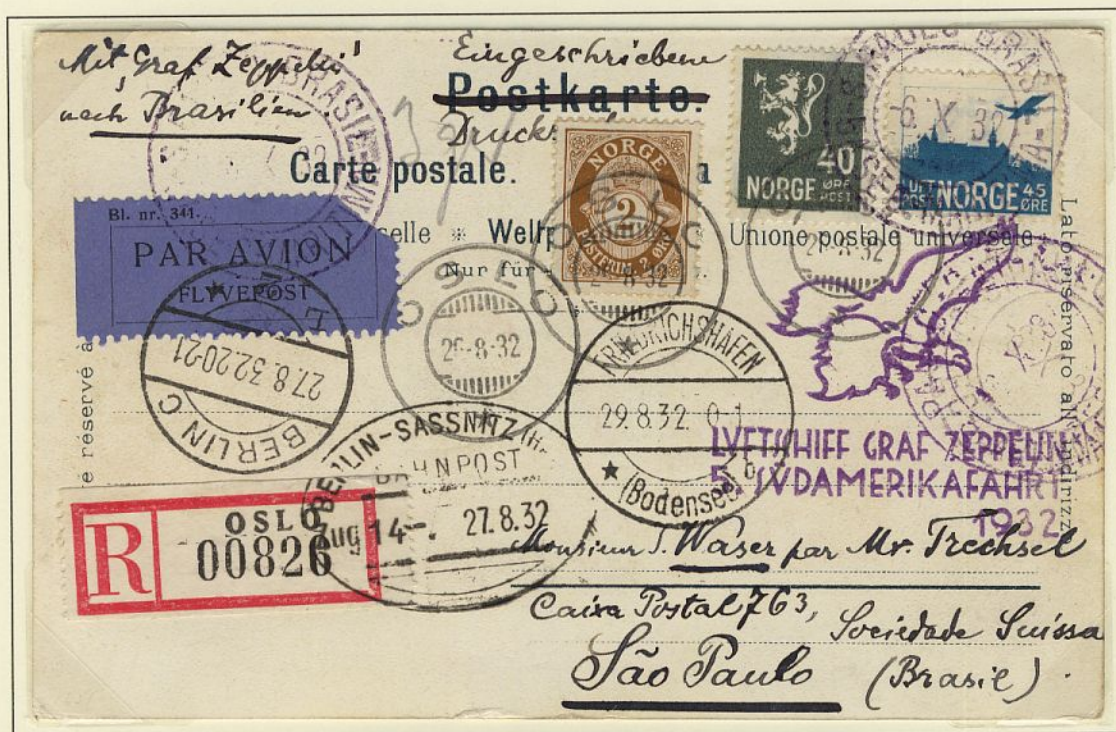
Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 27.8.32", "BERLIN C 27.8.32" (reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 29.8.32". Flown on the fifth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in violet), from Friedrichshafen 29 August. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES -3.SEP.32".

1 öre overpaid.



Registered letter 5-10g sent from "OSLO MAJORSTUEN 24 VIII 32" to São Paulo, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 25.8.32", "BERLIN C 25.8.32" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 29.8.32". Flown on the fifth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in violet), from Friedrichshafen 29 August. Arrival postmark "SÃO PAULO -6 X 32". 460 öre correct postage for registered letter 5-10 g.





Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 26-8-32" to São Paulo, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 27.8.32", "BERLIN C 27.8.32" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 29.8.32". Flown on the fifth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in violet), from Friedrichshafen 29 August. Arrival postmark "SÃO PAULO - X 32". 87 öre correct postage.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, postmarked "TARDE PERNAMB - 2 IX.32". Flown on the fifth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America (special flight cachet in violet), from Recife 3 Sept. Transit postmarks and arrival postmark "TØNSBERG - 9 IX 32" on reverse. 4\$200 correct postage for letters up to 5g 1932-1936.



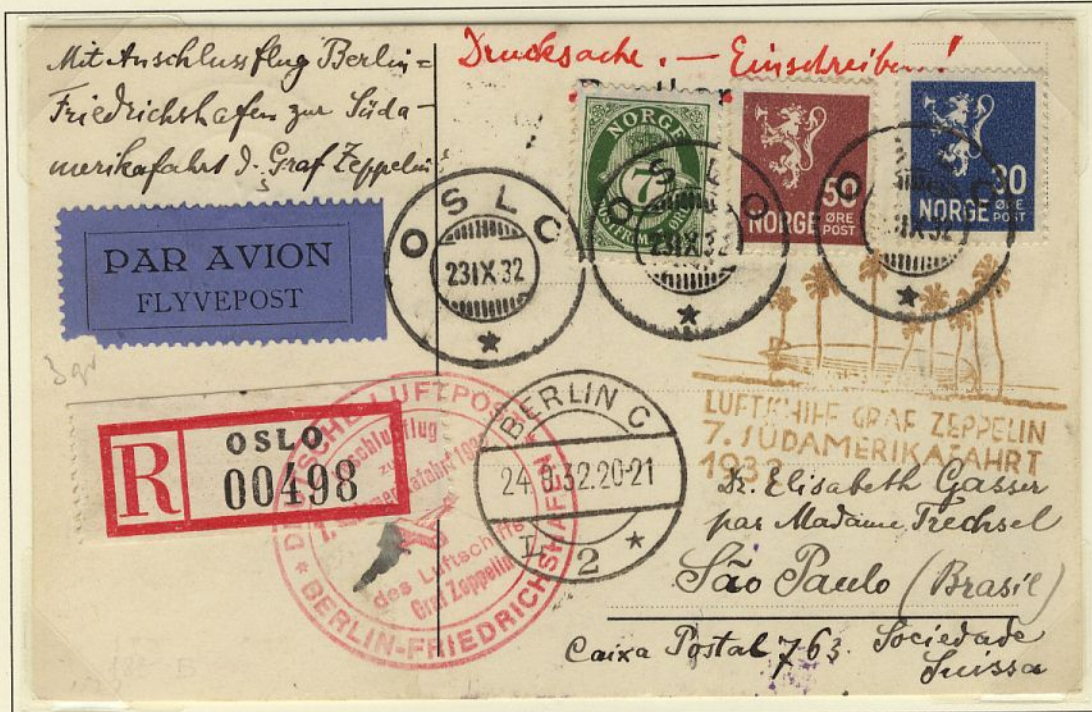


Letter sent from "DRAMMEN 6- IX 32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -8.9.32", "BERLIN C -8.9.32" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 12.9.32". Flown on the sixth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in green). 2.30 kr correct postage.

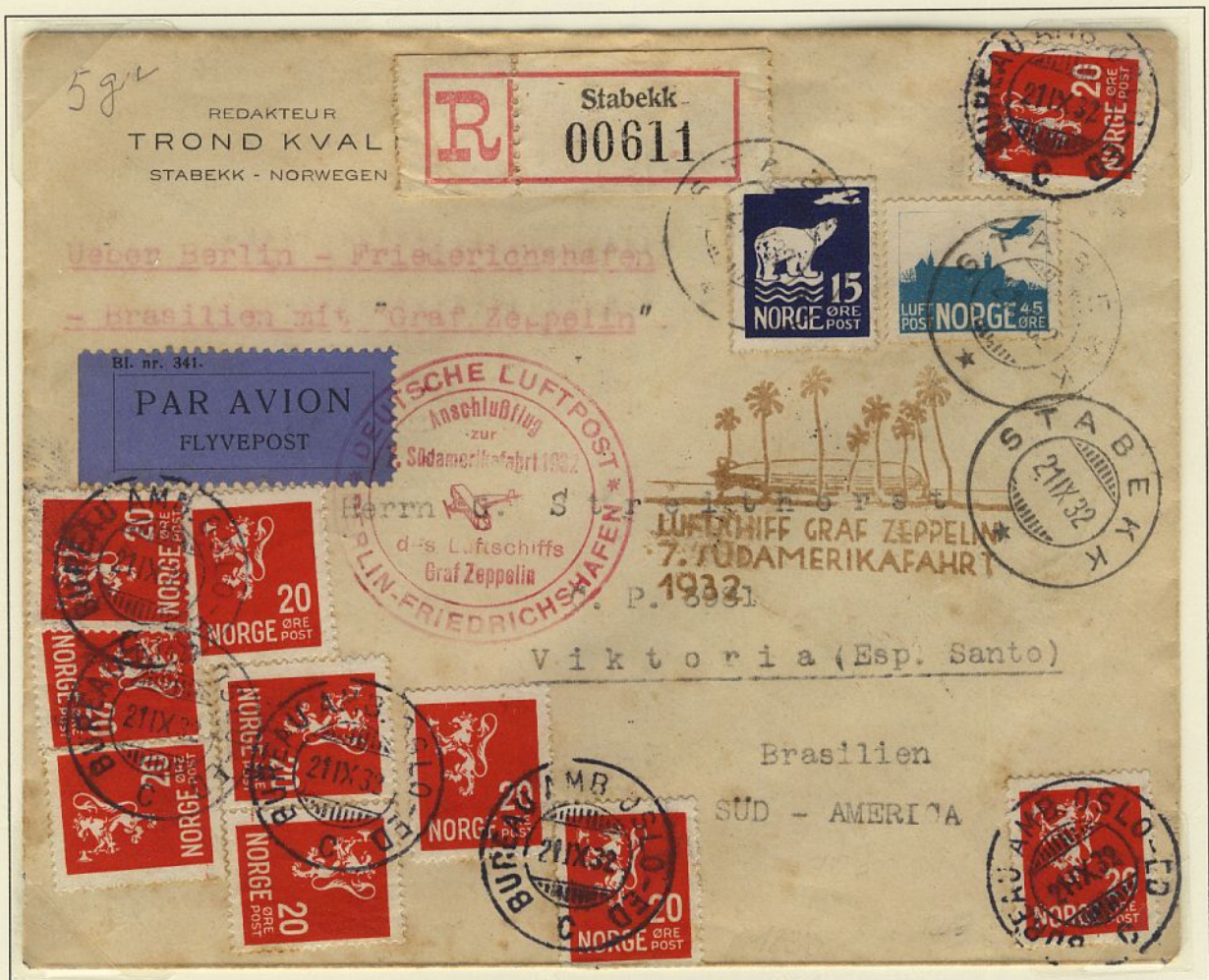


Printed matter sent from "OSLO -9 IX 32" to Curitiba, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 10.9.32" and "BERLIN C - 10.9.32" (on reverse). Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special circular connecting flight cachet in red), and further on the sixth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in green). Arrival postmark "PARANA CURITIBA 17.IX.32". 57 öre correct postage.





Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 23 IX 32" to São Paulo, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 24.9.32" and "BERLIN C 24.9.32". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the seventh 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in brown), from Friedrichshafen 26 September. 87 öre correct postage.



Registered letter sent from "STABEKK 21 IX 32" to Victoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil. Transit postmarks "OSLO 21 IX 32", "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 22.9.32" and "BERLIN C 22.9.32" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the seventh 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in brown), from Friedrichshafen 26 September. Arrival postmark "VICTORIA E.S. 30. IX. 32" on reverse. 2.60 kr correct postage.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 29 IX 32" to Curitiba, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 30.9.32" and "BERLIN C 30.9.32".

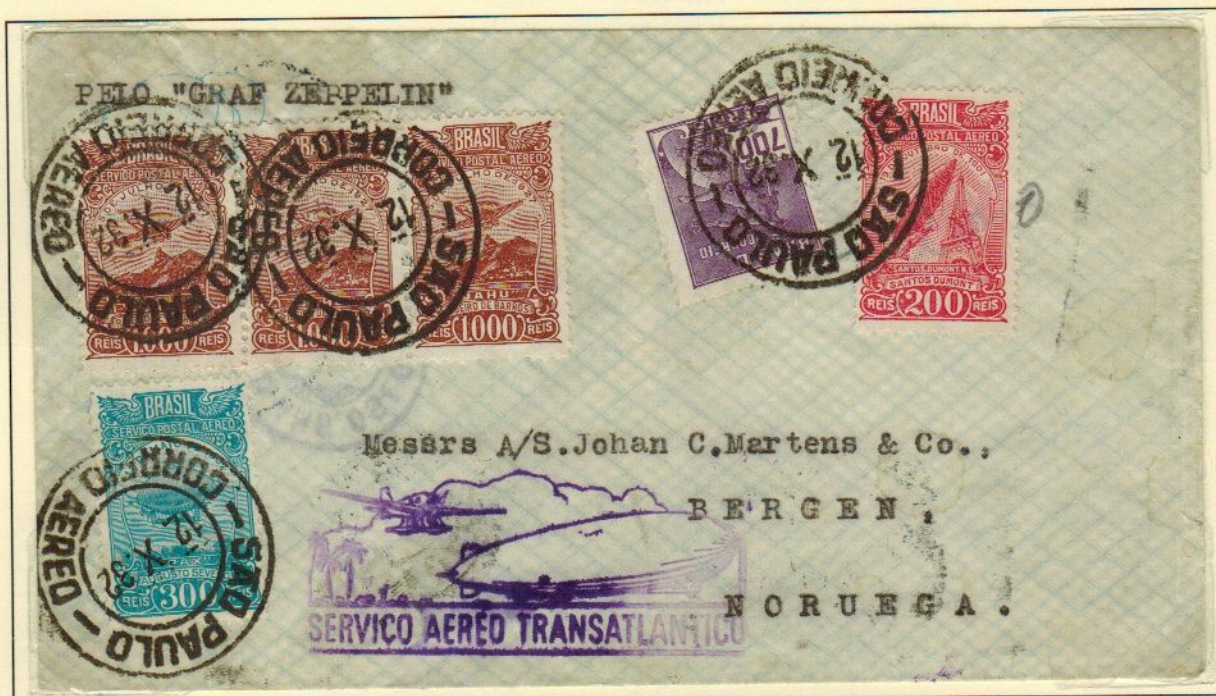
Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichs-hafen (special circular connecting flight cachet in red), and on the eighth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in brown), from Friedrichs-hafen 9 October.

57 öre correct rate.



Cover from "DRAMMEN 4- X 32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -5.10.32" and "BERLIN C -5.9.32" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special circular connecting flight cachet), and on the eighth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America (special flight cachet in red), from Friedrichs-hafen 9 October. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 15 OCT 32" on reverse. 2.30 correct postage.





Mail only from São Paulo received the "Servico Aereo Transatlantico" cachet for this flight. Cover from "São Paulo, Brazil 12 October, 1932 to Bergen, Norway. Postmarked "SÃO PAULO 12 X 32". Flown on the eighth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" South America flight, from Recife 16 October. Transit postmarks Friedrichshafen and Oslo-Ed, also arrival postmark Bergen 22 October on reverse. Correct postage, the letter rate was 700 Reis up to 20 g and zeppelin airmail surcharge 3\$500 per 5 g, total 4\$200, valid 1932-1936.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, postmarked "TARDE PERNAMB 15 X.32". Flown on the eighth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America, from Recife 16 Oct. Postmarks "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 19 10 32" "OSLO-ED 21 X 32" and "TØNSBERG 21 X 32" on reverse. 4\$200 correct postage for letters up to 5g 1932-1936.





Registered printed matter from "OSLO - 8 X 32" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 20.10.32" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the Berlin - Friedrichshafen connecting flight (special circular flight cachet in red) and further on the ninth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 24 October (special flight cachet in orange – the normal colour for this is red). Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 29 OCT 32" on reverse. 87 öre correct postage.



Letter from "KRISTIANSUND N 19 X 32" to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 21.10.32" and "BERLIN C 21.10.32" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the Berlin-Friedrichshafen connecting flight (special circular flight cachet in red) and further on the ninth 1932 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 24 October (special flight cachet in red). Arrival postmark "RIO DE JANEIRO 28 OUT 932" on reverse. 230 öre correct postage.



LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" performed nine flights to South America in 1933.

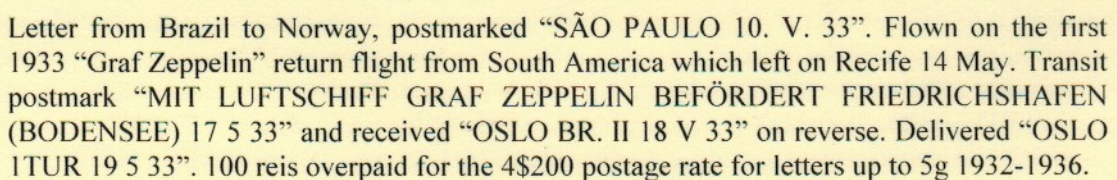
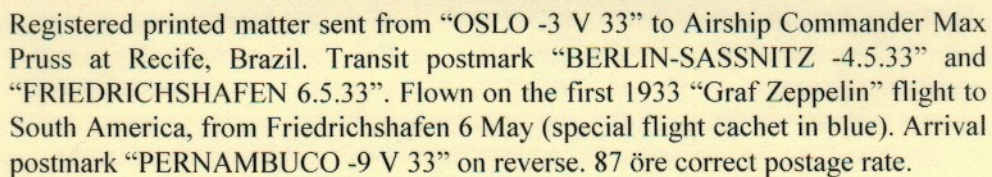


Registered postcard sent from "OSLO -3 V 33" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -4.5.33" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 6.5.33". Flown on the first 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 6 May (special flight cachet in blue). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO -9 V 33". 2.50 kr correct postage rate.

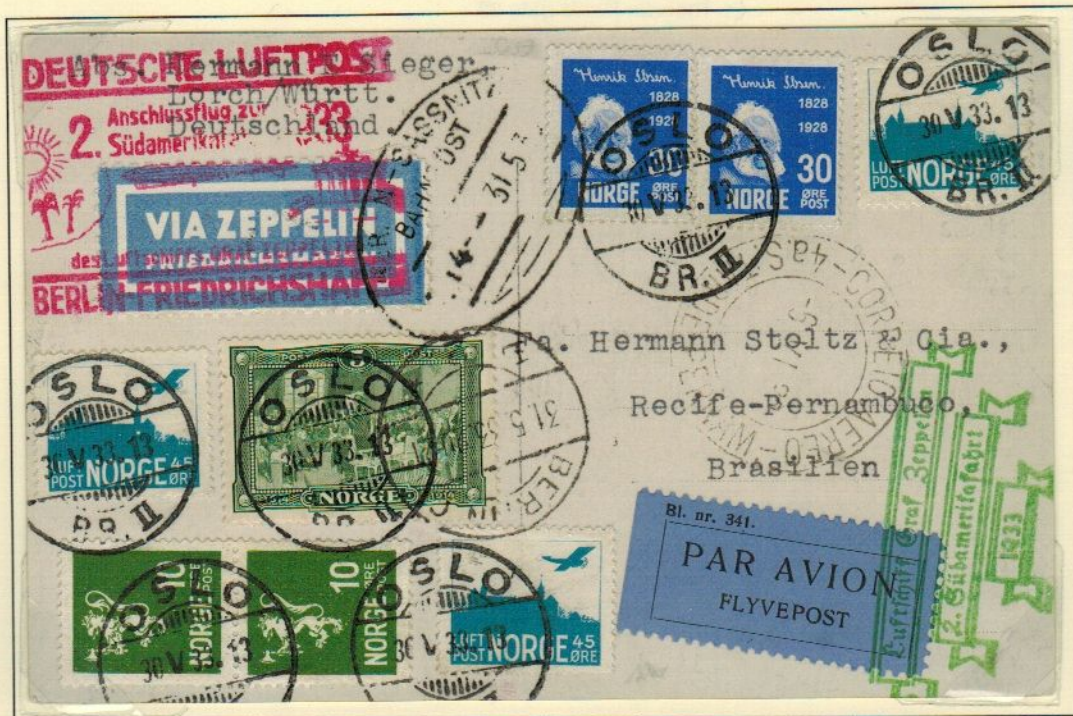


Printed matter from "OSLO -4 V 33" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN -5.5.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special red hexagonal connecting flight cachet), and onwards on the first 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 6 May (special flight cachet in blue). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO -9 V. 33". 57 öre correct postage rate.









Postcard sent from "OSLO 30 V 33" to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 31.5.33" and "BERLIN 31.5.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the second 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 3 June (special flight cachet in green). Arrival postmark "4a S. TARDE PERNAM. -6 VI 33". 2.20 kr correct postage rate.



Registered letter sent from "NORDSTRANDHØGDA 30 V 33" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -1.6.33" and "BERLIN C -1.6.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the second 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 3 June (special flight cachet in green). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO -6 VI. 33". 2.30 kr postage which possibly means that the post office did not recognize that the the zeppelin airmail rate was a surcharge rate, and failed to collect the 30 öre base rate.





Printed matter from "OSLO -2 VI 33" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -3.6.33" and "BERLIN -3.6.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the second 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 3 June (special flight cachet in green). Arrival postmark "4a S. TARDE PERNAM. -6 VI 33" on reverse. 57 öre correct postage rate.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, postmarked "BAHIA -9. VI. 33". Flown on the second 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America, from Recife on 10 June. Special cachet "VIA CONDOR-ZEPPELIN SERVICO AEREO TRANSATLANTICO" in violet. Transit postmark "MIT LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN BEFÖRDERT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN (BODENSEE) 13 6 33", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 14 VI 33" and received "TRONDHEIM 2TUR 15. 6. 33" on reverse. 4\$200 postage rate for letters up to 5g 1932-1936.





Registered postcard from "NORDSTRANDHØGDA 27 VI 33" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmark "OSLO 27-6-33" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special hexagonal connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the third 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 1 July (special flight cachet in blue). Arrival postmark on reverse "BUENOS AIRES -8 JUL 33" on reverse. 20 øre underfranked; the post office has failed to charge the base postcard rate.



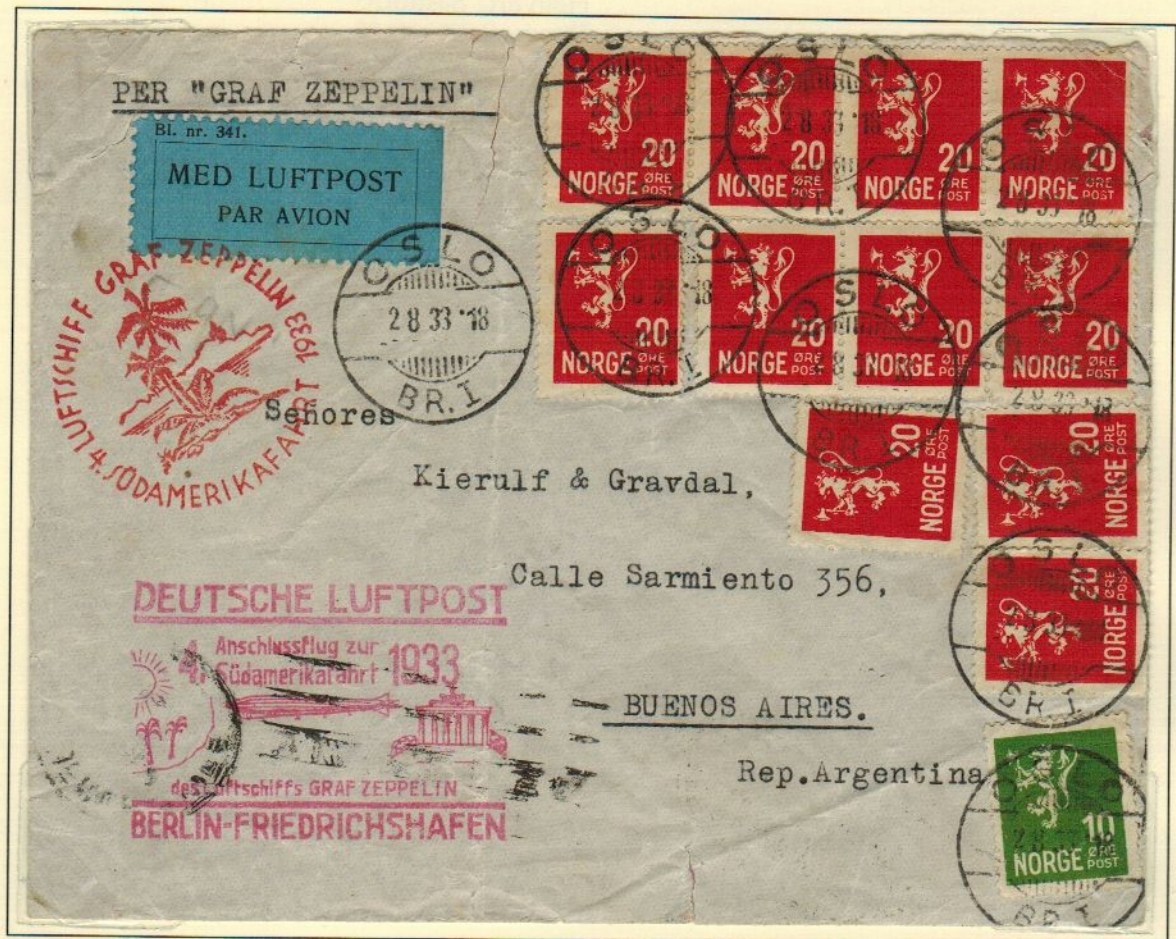
Printed matter from "BUREAU D'ECHANGE D'OSLO 29 VII 33" to Porto Alegre, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 30.6.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special hexagonal connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the third 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 1 July (special flight cachet in blue). Arrival postmark on reverse "PORTO ALEGRE 6 VII 33". 3 øre overfranked.



# Fourth South America Flight 1933

5 – 15 August, 1933

Letter from "OSLO BR. I 2 VIII 33" to Argentina. On reverse transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -3.8.33" and "BERLIN C -3.8.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the 4th 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 5 August (special flight cachet in red, which is the regular colour). Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES AGO 10 1933". 2.30 kr correct postage.



Registered postcard sent from "NORDSTRANDHØGDA 29 VII 33" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 31.7.33" and "BERLIN 31.7.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the fourth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 5 August (special flight cachet in red, which is the regular colour). Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 10AGO33". 2.30 kr postage which possibly means that the post office did not recognize that the zeppelin airmail rate was a surcharge rate, and failed to collect the 20 öre base rate for postcards.

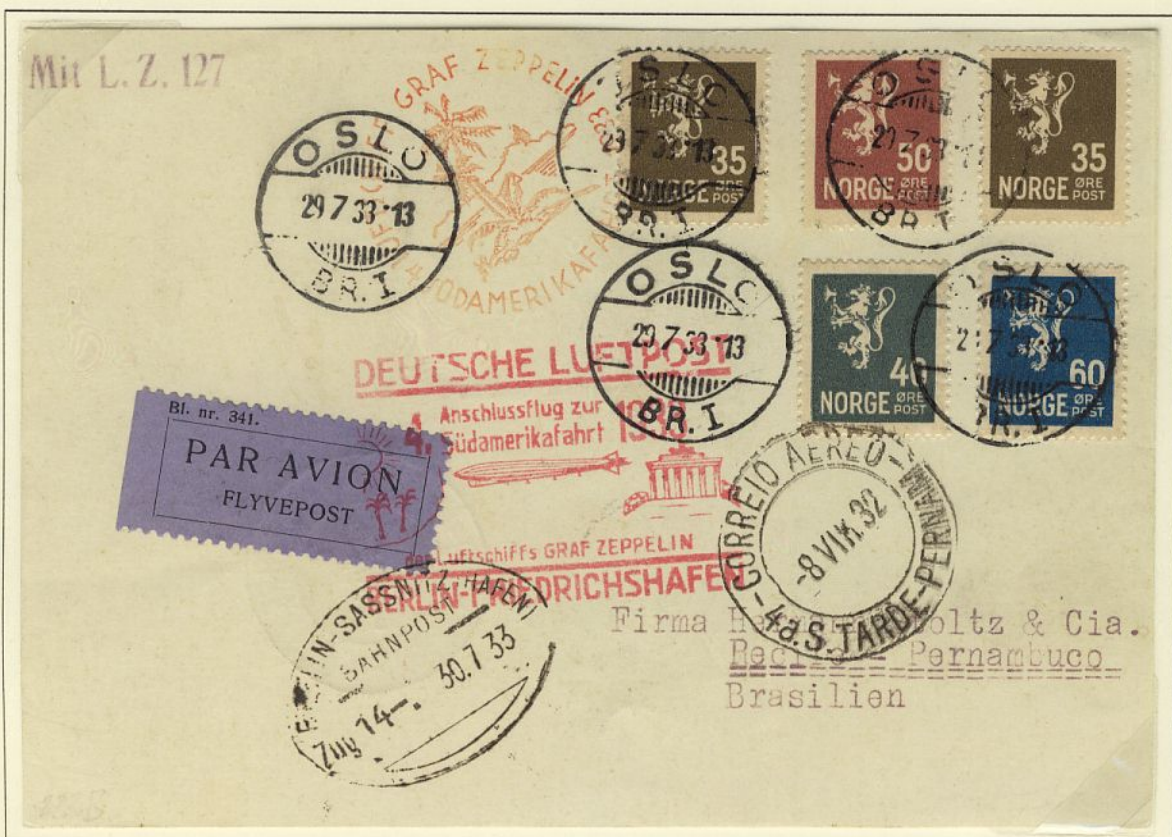




Printed matter from "OSLO 3 8 33" to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -4.8.33" and "BERLIN 4.8.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the fourth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 5 August (special flight cachet in red). Arrival postmark "RIO DE JANEIRO -9 AGO 933". 3 öre overfranked.

Postcard sent from "OSLO 29 7 33" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 30.7.33" and "BERLIN 31.7.33".

Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the fourth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 5 August (special flight cachet in brown, note that this cachet is normally in red). Arrival postmark 8 Sept.. 2.20 kr correct postage.





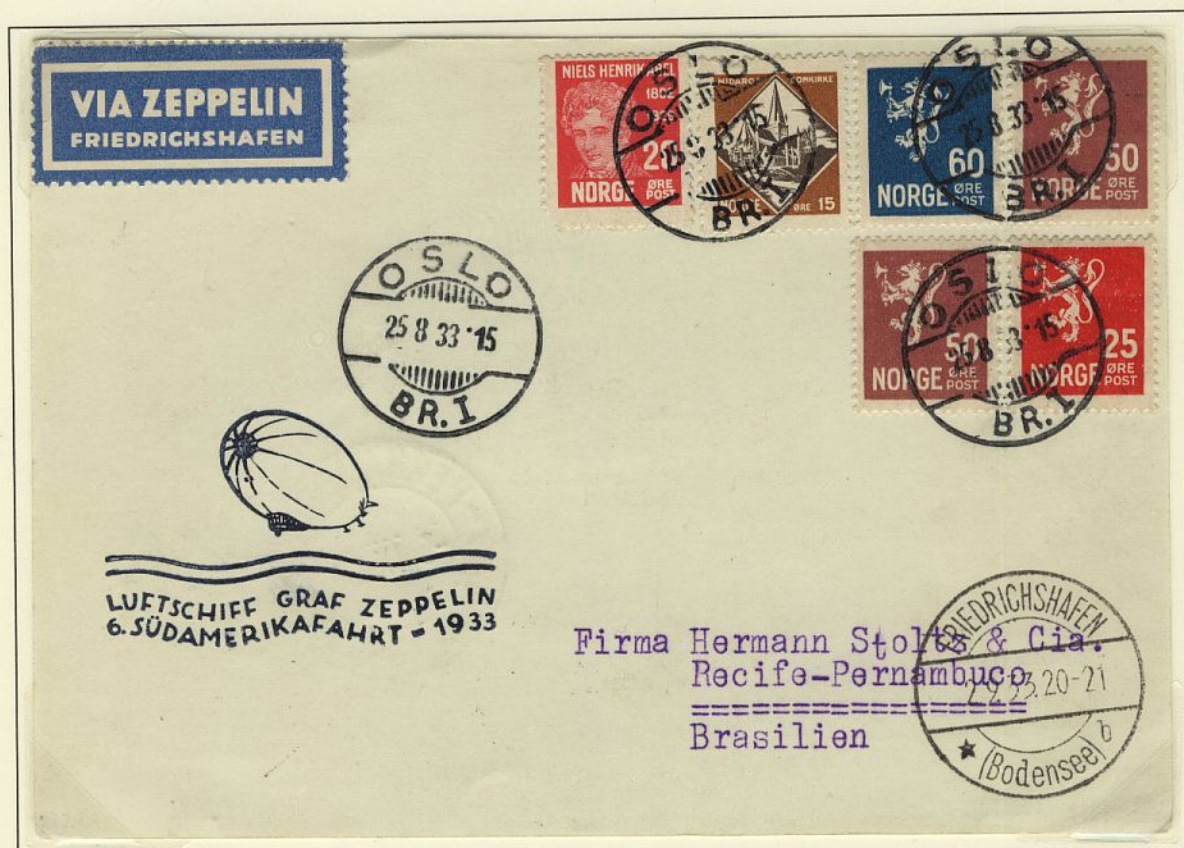


Letter sent from "OSLO 17 VIII 33" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 19.8.33". Flown on the fifth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 19 August (special flight cachet in red). 2.30 kr correct postage.



Postcard from "OSLO 12 VIII 33" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN C 13.8.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special hexagonal connecting flight cachet in red), and onwards on the fifth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 19 August (special flight cachet in red). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 22 VIII. 33". 2.20 kr correct postage rate.





Postcard from "OSLO 25 8 33" to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 2.9.33" on reverse. Flown on the sixth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 2 September (special flight cachet in black). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 4a SECCÃO-TARDE -5 IX 33". 2.20 kr correct postage.



Registered printed matter from "OSLO 31-8-33" to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -1.9.33" and "BERLIN C 1.9.33". Flown on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen (special connection flight cachet in red), and onwards on the sixth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 2 September (special flight cachet in black). Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 5a SECCÃO-MANHÃ -6 IX 33". 87 öre correct postage rate.





Letter sent from "OSLO -9 9 33" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks Paris, France 10 and 11 September on reverse. Flown on the seventh 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 16 September, special flight cachet in blue. Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 19 IX. 33". 2.30 kr correct postage.



Registered letter from "OSLO 12-9-33" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 13.9.33" and "BERLIN C 13.9.33" on reverse. Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special connection flight cachet in red) and onwards on the seventh 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 16 September (special flight cachet in blue). Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 21 SEP 33". 2.60 kr correct postage.





Registered postcard sent from "NORDSTRANDHØGDA 26 IX 33" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Flown on the eighth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 30 September, special flight cachet in violet. Transit postmarks "OSLO 26 IX 33", "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 27.9.33" (German railway postmark), "BERLIN 27.9.33" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 30.9.33". Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 6 OCT 33". 2.50 kr correct postage rate.



Registered letter sent from "NORDSTRANDHØGDA 26 IX 33" to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Flown on the eighth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 30 September, special flight cachet in violet. Transit postmarks on reverse "OSLO 26 IX 33", "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 27.9.33" (German railway postmark), "BERLIN 27.9.33" and on front "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 30.9.33". Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO -4 X. 33". 2.60 kr correct postage rate.





Printed matter from "BUREAU D'ECHANGE D'OSLO 28 IX 33" to Lima, Peru. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 29.9.33" and "BERLIN 29.9.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight Berlin-Friedrichshafen (special connection flight cachet in red) and onwards on the eighth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 30 September (special flight cachet in violet). Chile postmarks "ARICA -9OCT33" and "LIMA 16 X 33". Overfranked 88 öre for the 57 öre rate.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, postmarked "RECIFE (PER) -6 X.33". Flown on the eighth 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America, from Recife 7 Oct. Special Brazilian zeppelin flight cachet in green on front and reverse. Postmarks on reverse "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 9 10 33", "BERLIN 10.10.33", "MALMÖ 10.10.33", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 11 X 33" and "TÖNSBERG 11 X 33".

Correct postage rate 4\$200 for letters up to 5g 1932-1936.





A major change in "Graf Zeppelin"'s flight plan was made when the ninth 1933 South America flight was extended to include a flight to the United States in conjunction with the 1933 "Century of Progress" World's Fair in Chicago. This was also her 50<sup>th</sup> Atlantic crossing. Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO -9 X 33" to Tarija, Bolivia. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 10.10.33" and "BERLIN C 10.10.33". Flown by Deutsche Lufthansa on the connecting flight from Berlin to Friedrichshafen and onwards by "Graf Zeppelin" from Friedrichshafen on 14 October to Recife 18 October. Overfranked 2 öre for the 87 öre rate.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 10.X.33" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 11.10.33" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 14.10.33". Flown on the first leg of the 1933 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to Chicago. Red special flight cachet. 57 öre correct postage.





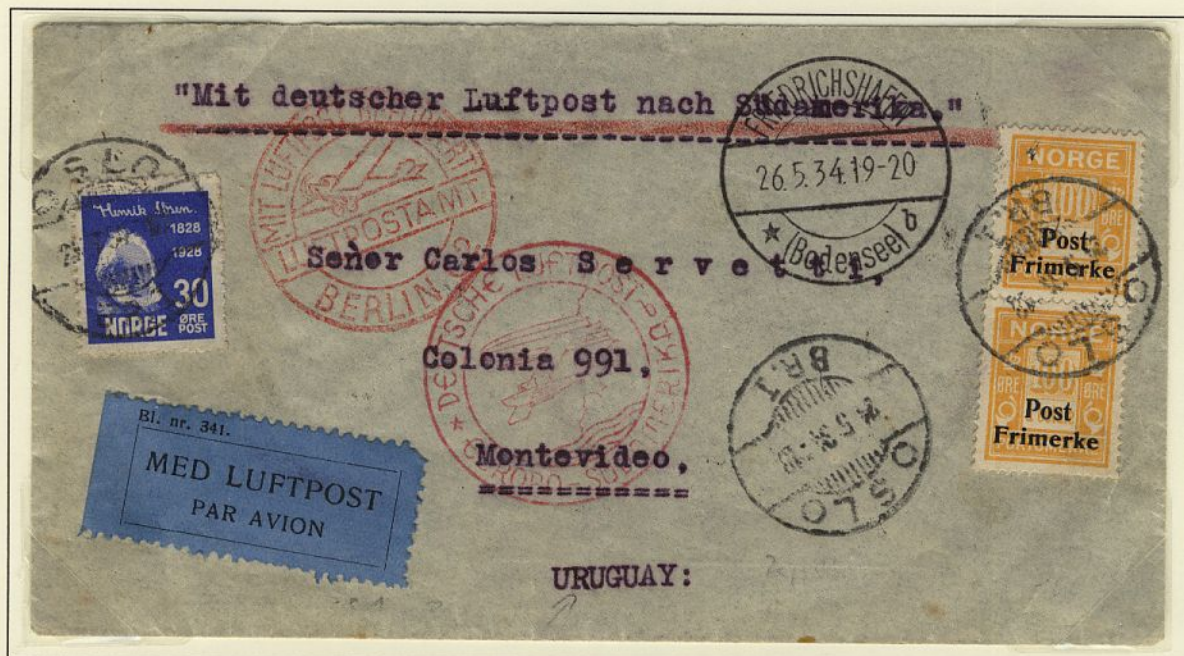
Letter sent from the World Exhibition to Molde, Norway. "CHICAGO OCT 26 1933". Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 10.10.33" and "BERLIN C 10.10.33". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" from Chicago, IL on 26 October. Special flight cachet in grey. On reverse "FRIDERICHSHAFEN 2 11 33", "BERLIN C 2 11 33", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED -3 XI 33" (railway post office Sweden-Norway) and received "MOLDE 4 11 33". 5c underfranked for the 50c letter/card rate.



Postcard sent from "AKRON, OHIO OCT 28 1933" to Oslo. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" from Akron, OH on 28 October. Special flight cachet in blue. Arrival postmark "FRIDERICHSHAFEN 2 11 33". 50c correct postage.



LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" performed 12 flights to South America in 1934.



Letter sent from "OSLO 24 V 34" to Montevideo, Uruguay. Transit postmarks "BERLIN C 25.5.34" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 26.5.34". Berlin air mail cachet and red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Flown on the first 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 26 May. Arrival "MONTEVIDEO 30 MAY". 2.30 kr correct postage.



Letter sent from "OSLO 24.5.34" to Santos, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN 25.5.34" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 26.5.34". Flown on the first 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America. Berlin air mail cachet and red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. 2.30 kr correct postage.





Printed matter sent from "OSLO 24 V 34" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN C 25.5.34" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 26. 5. 34.". Red Berlin air mail cachet and red standard staging cachet from Friedrichshafen. Flown on the first 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 26 May. Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 29.V.34" on reverse. 57 öre correct postage.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, sent from "RIO DE JANEIRO 31 MAIO 34". Flown on the return flight of the first 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Recife 2 June. On reverse Friedrichshafen machine cancellation "MIT LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN BEFÖRDERT 5 6 34", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED -6VI 34" and received "OSLO -6 VI 34". The 4\$200 postage rate for airmail letter to Europe, per 5 g, was valid from 1932 to 1936.





Printed matter from "OSLO - 7 6 34" to Brazil. Flown on the second 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 9 June. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ - 8.6.34" (on reverse), "BERLIN C - 8 6 34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 9 6 34". Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 12 VI. 34". 57 öre correct postage.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, sent from "RIO GRANDE 12 VI 34". Flown on the return flight of the second 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Recife 14 June. On reverse airmail postmark "SERVICIO AEREO TRANSOCEANICO BRASIL – EUROPA" and Friedrichshafen machine cancellation "MIT LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN BEFÖRDERT". Arrived in Oslo, Norway on 20 June, 1934. 4\$200 postage rate for airmail letter to Europe, per 5 g, valid from 1934 to 1936.





Letter from "OSLO BR. I 20 6 34" to Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 14 21.6.34", "BERLIN C 21.6.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 23.6.34". Flown on the third 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 23 June. Special flight cachet in violet. Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO 26 VI. 34". 230 öre correct postage.

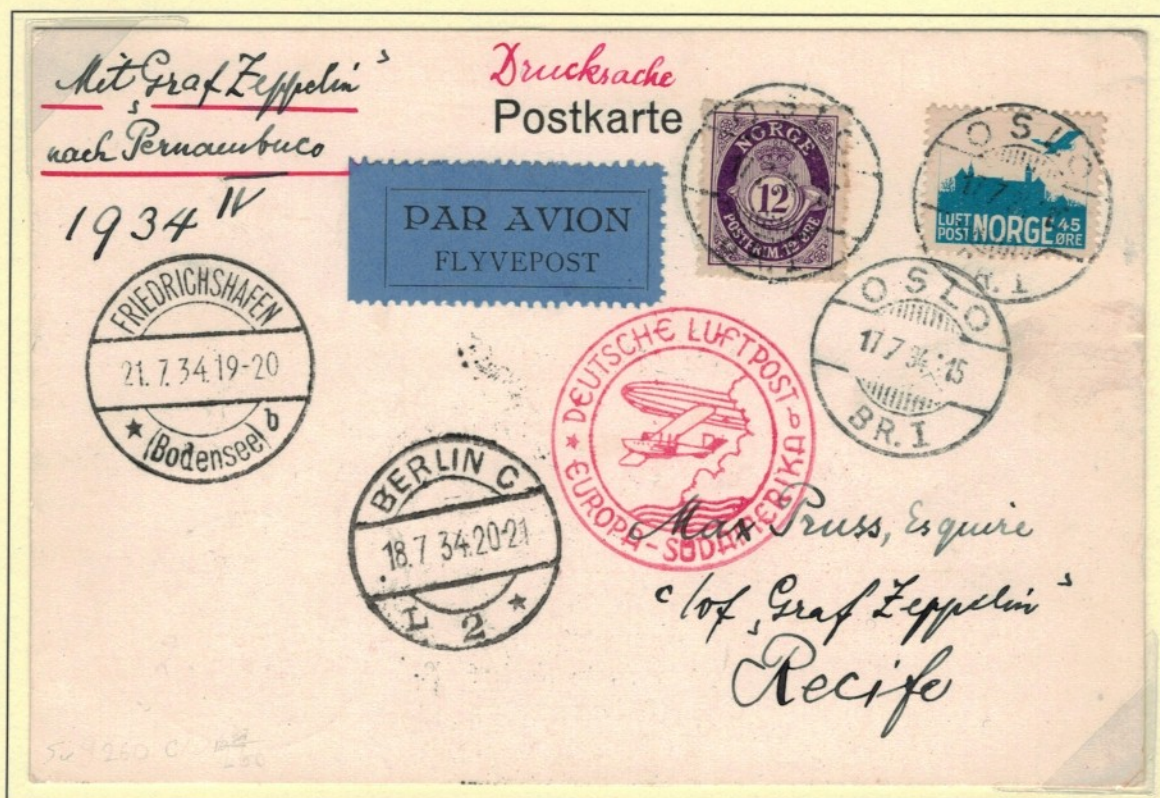


Letter from Argentina, postmarked "BUENOS AIRES 29 JUN 34" to Oslo, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the third 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Buenos Aires 30 June. Faint impression of triangular special flight cachet in violet "1o VUELO DIRECTO ARGENTINA-EUROPA". Transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 6.7.34" and arrival postmark "OSLO BD. -8 7 34" on reverse. 1.15 pesos correct postage; 15 centavos letter rate per 20 g and 1 peso air mail fee per 5 g, valid 1932-1936.





Letter sent from "FREDRIKSTAD 18 VII 34" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 19.7.34", "BERLIN C 19.7.34" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 21.7.34". Flown on the fourth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 21 July. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. 230 öre correct rate.



Printed matter from "OSLO 17 7 34" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 18.7.34", "BERLIN C 18.7.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 21.7.34". Flown on the fourth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 21 July. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark on reverse "RECIFE (PER.) 24 VII 34". 57 öre correct rate.





Letter from "OSLO 27 VII 34" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 28.7.34" (on reverse) and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -4.8.34". Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Flown on the fifth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 5 August. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES 10.8.34" on reverse. 230 öre correct rate.



Letter from Brazil to Norway, sent from "RIO DE JANEIRO -9 AGO 34". Flown on the return flight of the fifth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Recife 11 August. Red airmail cachet "SERVICIO AEREO TRANSOCEANICO BRASIL - EUROPA". On reverse "SYNDICATO CONDOR 9 AGO 34". Arrived "OSLO 15 8 34". \$400 postage rate for airmail letter 5-10g to Europe, valid from 1934 to 1936.



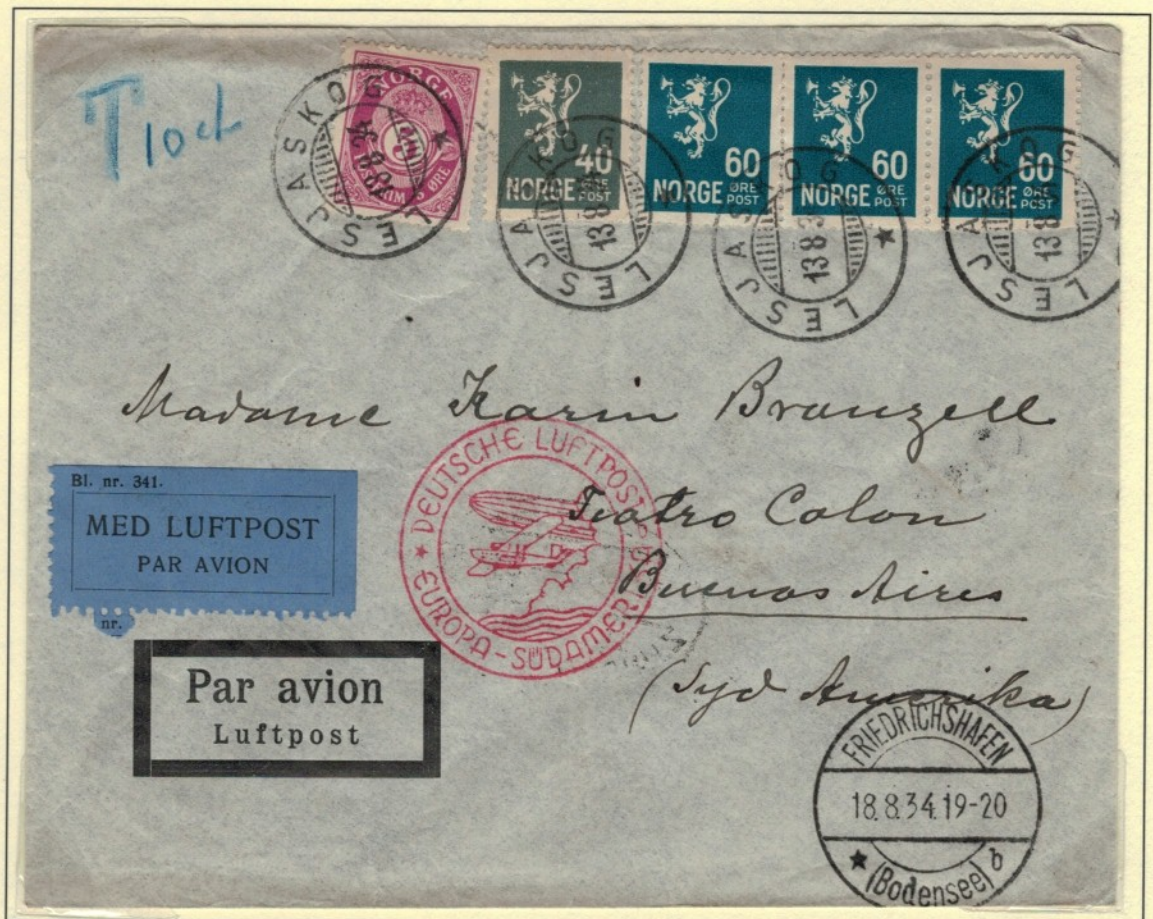


Postcard sent from "OSLO 11 8 34" to Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN C 12.8.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 18.8.34". Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Flown on the sixth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 18 August. Arrival "RECIFE (PER.) 4a. SECÇÃO-NOITE 21.VIII.34". 5 öre overfranked for the 2.20 kr postcard postage rate.

Letter sent from "LESJASKOG 13 8 34" to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 15.8.34", "BERLIN 15.8.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 18.8.34".

Flown on the sixth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 18 August. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen.

225 öre postage which is 5 öre underfranked, and manuscript "T 10 ct" for postage due.





FREDRIK ENGELHART & CIA.  
STEAM-SHIP AGENTS  
P. O. BOX 1144  
RIO DE JANEIRO

"VIA AEREA" GRAEF ZEPPELIN

DEN NORSKE SYD-AMERIKA LINJE.

POSTBOKS, 316.

OSLO.

NORUEGA.



Two letters from Brazil to Norway, flown on the sixth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America (black standard staging cachet BRASIL-EUROPA), from Recife 25 August.

4\$200 correct postage for letters up to 5g 1932-1936.

AYRES & SON  
CAIXA 197  
RECIFE

Per "Graf Zeppelin"

Theodor M. Nilsen, Esq.,

c/o Messrs. Wilh. Wilhelmsen,

Tönsberg

Norway

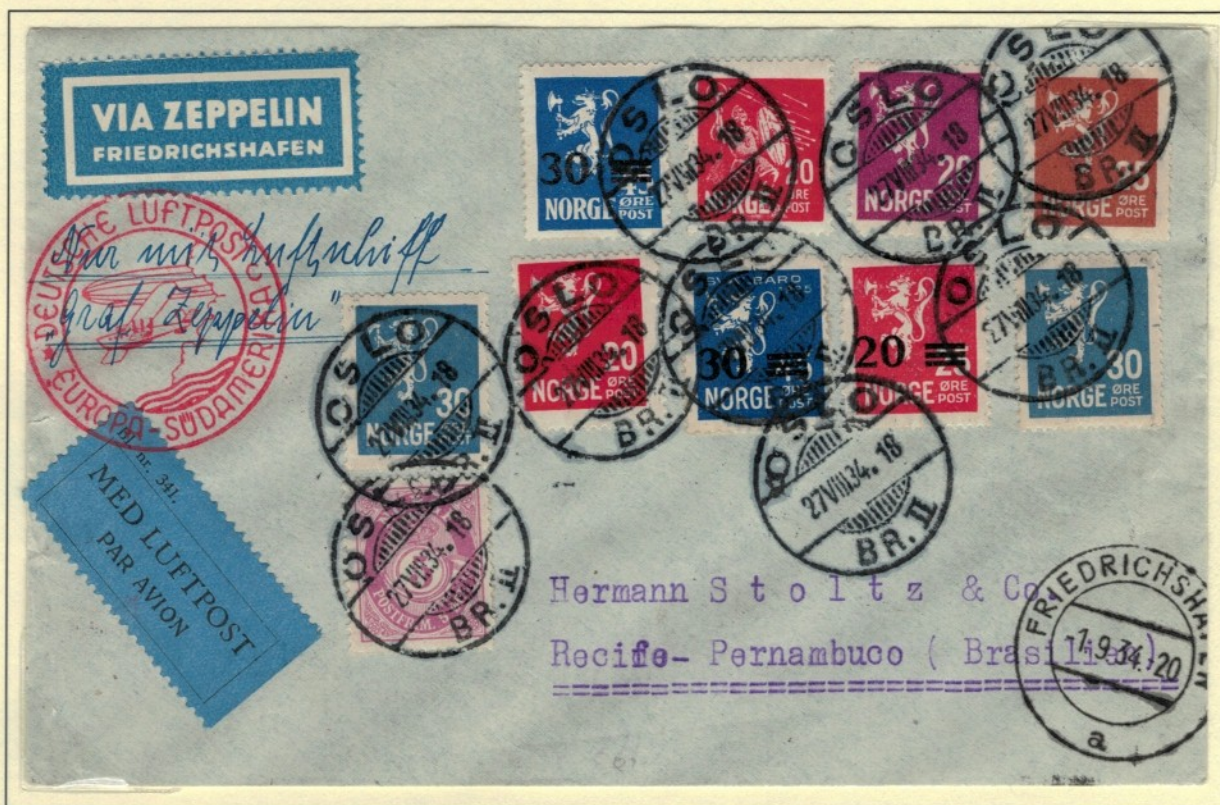


Both letters have transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 28 8 34".

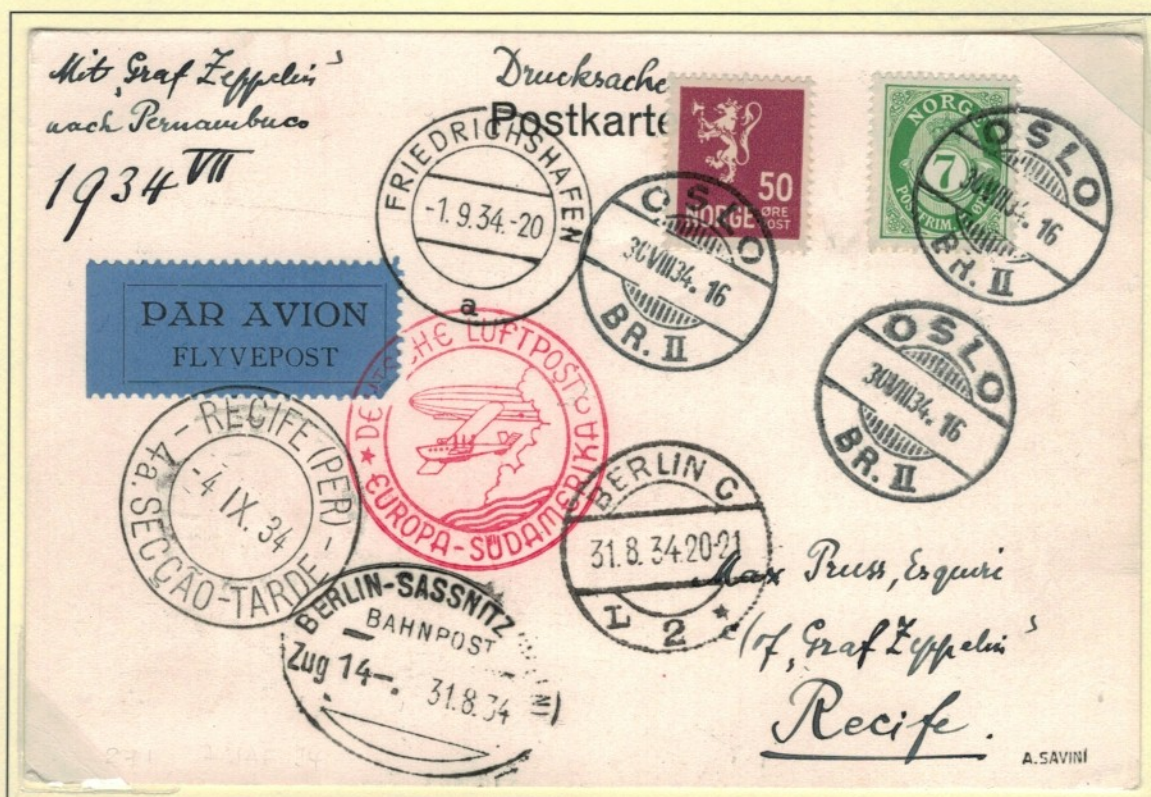
The first letter went via "BERLIN C 28 8 34" and arrived "OSLO 30 8 34".

The second letter went via "MALMÖ 28. 8 34 LUFPOST", "OSLO-ED 29 VIII 34" and arrived "TÖNSBERG 30 VIII 34".



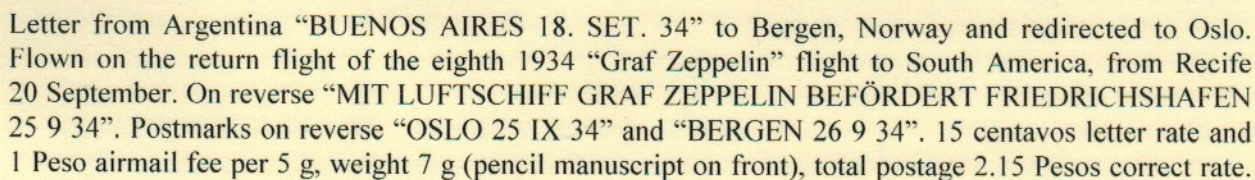
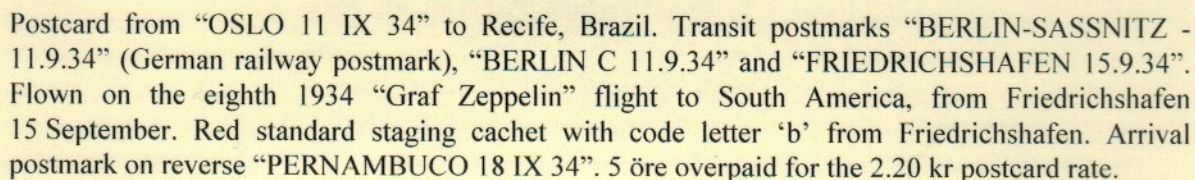


Letter from "OSLO 27 VIII 34" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 28.8.34", "BERLIN C 28.8.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -1.9.34". Flown on the seventh 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 1 September. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark on reverse "PERNAMBUCO -4 IX 34". 2.30 kr correct postage.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 30 VIII 34" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 31.8.34", "BERLIN C 31.8.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN -1.9.34". Flown on the seventh 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 1 Sept. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c', used in Friedrichshafen. Arrival post-mark "RECIFE -4 IX 34". 57 øre correct postage rate.









Letter sent from "KRISTIANSUND N 25 IX 34" to Argentina. Transit postmarks on reverse "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 28.9.34" and "BERLIN C 28.9.34". Flown on the ninth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 29 September. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES -4.10.34" on reverse. 2.30 kr correct postage.



Double weight letter sent from "OSLO MAJORSTUEN 27 IX 34" to Brazil. Transit postmark on reverse "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 28.9.34" (German railway postmark) and "BERLIN C 28.9.34". Flown on the ninth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 29 September. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark "BUENOS AIRES -4.10.34" on reverse. 4.30 kr correct postage for letters 5-10g.





Printed matter sent from "OSLO Br -8.10.34" to São Paulo, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -9.10.34" (German railway postmark) and "BERLIN C -9.10.34" on reverse and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 13.10.34". Flown on the tenth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 13 October. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Receiving postmark "SÃO PAULO 18 X 34" on reverse. 3 öre overfranked for the 57 öre printed matter rate.



Letter sent from "OSLO ELISENBERG -8 X 34" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -9.10.34" (German railway postmark), "BERLIN C -9.10.34" and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 13.10.34". Flown on the tenth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 13 October. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' from Friedrichshafen. 2.30 kr correct postage for letters to 5g.





Letter sent from "ÅNDALSNESRUTEN 25 X 34" (travelling post office, ship) to Pelotas, Brazil. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'a' which was used in Berlin. On reverse transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 27 10 34" (German railway postmark) and "BERLIN 27 10 34". Flown on the eleventh 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 27 October. Postmarks "VARIG PELOTAS 2 NOV. 34" and "PELOTAS 2 NOV. 34". 230 öre correct rate for letters up to 5 g.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 23 10 34" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmarks "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 24 10 34" (German railway postmark) and "BERLIN 24 10 34" on reverse and "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 27.10.34". Flown on the eleventh 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 27 October. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse arrival postmark "RECIFE (PER.) 30 X. 34". 107 öre correct postage rate for printed matter 5-10 grams.



# Twelfth South America Flight 1934 – Christmas Flight

8 – 19 December, 1934

Postcard from  
“OSLO -1 XII 34” to  
Recife Pernambuco,  
Brazil.  
Flown on the  
“Christmas Flight”,  
the twelfth 1934  
“Graf Zeppelin”  
flight to South  
America, from  
Friedrichshafen  
8 December, and  
special flight cachet  
in green. Arrival  
postmark “RECIFE  
(PER.) 4a.  
SECÇÃO-MANHÃ  
12 XII 34” on  
reverse.  
5 öre overfranked for  
the 2.20 kr postage  
rate.



Registered printed matter from “OSLO -5 XII 34” to Recife, Brazil. Flown on the “Christmas Flight”, the twelfth 1934 “Graf Zeppelin” flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 8 December, and special flight cachet in green. Transit postmark “BERLIN-SASSNITZ -7.12.34” and arrival postmark “RECIFE (PER.) 4a. SECÇÃO-MANHÃ 12 XII 34” on reverse. 3 öre overfranked for the 87 öre postage rate.





Double-weight letter from "OSLO -6 XII 34" to Porto Alegre, Brazil. Transit postmark on reverse "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -7.12.34" (German railway postmark). Flown on the "Christmas Flight", the twelfth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen 8 December, and special flight cachet in green. Arrival postmark "PORTO ALEGRE 13 XII 34" on reverse. 4.30 kr correct postage for letters 6-10 grammes.



Letter from "SÃO PAULO 12 XII 34" to Aalesund, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the "Christmas Flight", the twelfth 1934 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Recife on 14 December. Standard staging cachet "BRASIL-EUROPA" in black. Transit postmark on reverse "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED II 20 XII 34" (railway postmark Sweden-Norway). 4\$200 correct postage.



6 – 16 April, 1935  
20 April – 1 May, 1935

[illegible]

Impress  
lettres

Bl. nr. 341.

MED LUFTPOST  
PAR AVION

BERLIN-SKANTZHAFFEN  
Aug 14. 18435

VIA ZEPPELIN  
FRIEDRICHSHAFEN

OSLO  
17IV35. 10  
B.R. VI

DEUTSCHE LUFTPOST  
EUROPA - SÜDAMERIKA

NORGE 40 ØRE POST  
NORGE 15 ØRE POST  
NORGE 60 ØRE POST  
NORGE 60 ØRE POST  
NORGE 25 ØRE POST

SVALBARD 1925  
NORGE 15 ØRE POST

Hermann Stoltz & Co.,  
Recife-Pernambuco.  
Brasil.

Letter sent from "OSLO BR VI 17 IV 35" to Recife-Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 18.4.35". Flown on the second 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 20 April, red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Inscribed "Imprimés" (printed matter), this is crossed over in blue crayon and written "Lettres" (letter). 60 öre underfranked for the 2.90 kr postage rate which was valid from 1 January, 1935. No postage due markings.





The zeppelin air mail surcharge was increased from 1 January, 1935, by 60 öre for postcards and letters per 5 g and 10 öre for printed matter per 10 g. Both of these items to Recife were flown on the second 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 20 April, and both were sufficiently franked for the old rates, but underfranked for the new rates.

Above: 55 öre underfranked postcard from "OSLO 17 IV 35", red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' applied in Friedrichshafen. No trace of postage due being collected.

Below: 10 öre underfranked printed matter from "OSLO 15 IV 35", with red standard staging cachet 'c' also from Friedrichshafen. No trace of postage due being collected.





Third South America Flight 1935  
Fourth South America Flight 1935

4 – 14 May, 1935  
19 – 28 May, 1935



Postcard from "OSLO 29 IV 35" to Recife, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 30. 4. 35" on reverse. Flown on the third 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 4 May. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Arrival postmark "PERNAMBUCO - 7 V. 35". 55 öre underfranked for the 1935 rate. Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Michel or Sieger.



Printed matter from "OSLO 15 V 35" to Recife, Brazil. Transit "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 16. 5. 35". Flown on the fourth 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 19 May. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Arrival "RECIFE (PER.) 21 V. 35" on reverse. 10 öre underfranked for the 1935 rate.





Postcard from "OSLO 28 5 35" to Recife, Brazil to Norway, Transit "BERLIN - SASSNITZ 29. 5. 35". Flown on the third 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 1 June. Red standard staging cachet with code letter 'b' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Arrival "PERNAMBUCO -4 VI. 35". 10 öre underfranked for the 1935 rate; no postage due markings.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Michel or Sieger.



Letter from Recife, Brazil to Norway, postmarked "TARDE PERNAM. -7 VI 35". Flown on the fifth 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America (black standard staging cachet BRASIL-EUROPA), from Recife 8 June. Transit "MALMÖ 11. 6. 35", "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 12 VI 35". On reverse arrival "TÖNSBERG 12 VI 35". 4\$200 correct postage for letters up to 5g 1934-1936.





Printed matter from "OSLO BR II 11 6 35" to São Paulo. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 13.6.35" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the sixth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 15 June. Standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. 67 öre correct franking.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



Printed matter from "OSLO BR I 11 6 35" to Recife. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ 12.6.35". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the sixth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 15 June. Standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. Receiving postmark "PERNAMBUCO 4a SECÇÃO-TARDE 18 VI. 35". 4 öre overfranked for the 67 öre rate.



Sixth South America Flight 1935  
Seventh South America Flight 1935

15 – 25 June, 1935  
29 June – 9 July, 1935



Letter from "SÃO PAULO 20 VI 35" to Norway. Flown on the return flight of the sixth 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" flight to South America, from Recife on 21 June. Postmark "SERVICIO AEREO TRANSOCEANICO BRASIL – EUROPA" and on reverse "OSLO 1 TUR 26.6.35". 4\$200 postage rate for airmail letter to Europe, per 5 g, valid from 1934 to 1936.



Letter from "OSLO BR 28.6.35" to Bahia, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-ZENTRALFLUGHAFEN 29.6.35" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the seventh 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 29 June. Standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'e' from Stuttgart. On reverse "SERVICIO AEREO TRANSOCEANICO BRASIL – EUROPA" and arrival "BAHIA 3.6.35". 290 öre correct franking.



**Seventh South America Flight 1935**  
**Ninth South America Flight 1935**

**29 June – 9 July, 1935**  
**29 July – 7 August, 1935**



Printed matter from "OSLO BR II 28 VI 35" to Pernambuco, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN-ZENTRAL-FLUGHAFEN 29.6.35" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the seventh 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 29 June, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'e' which was used in Stuttgart. Receiving postmark "RECIFE (PER.) 4a SECÇÃO-MANHÃ -2 VII. 35" on reverse. 67 öre correct postage.

From the eighth to the fourteenth South America flight in 1935, only a part of the mail was carried to South America by airship. The zeppelin mail only consisted of printed matter, samples and parcels as well as express consignments. All other mail like regular letters and postcards from Germany and from Europe (mail from incoming lines, other than printed matter, etc.) were carried by airplanes.



Printed matter from OSLO 15 VII 35 to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 16.7.35". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the ninth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 29 July, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'd' used in Friedrichshafen. 10 öre underfranked. **This flight carried only non-letter mail; all regular letters and postcards were flown by Lufthansa. Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.**



**Fourteenth South America Flight 1935**  
**Fifteenth South America Flight 1935**

**7 – 16 October, 1935**  
**23 October – 4 November, 1935**

Printed matter sent from "OSLO 30 IX 35" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN -1.10.35". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the fourteenth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 7 Oct., and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. Receiving postmark "PERNAMBUCO 10 X. 35". 8 öre overfranked for printed matter 6-10 g.

**This flight carried only non-letter mail, and all regular letters and postcards were flown by Deutsche Lufthansa.**



Letter sent from "OSLO 22 X 35" to Chile. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the fifteenth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 23 October, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'a' which was used in Berlin. On reverse receiving postmark "SANTIAGO 28 OCT 35". The letter postage rate was 30 öre for the first 20 g and air mail surcharge 2.60 kr per 5 g, total 2.90 kr. These rates were valid from 1 January, 1935 until 30 April, 1937. **Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.**





Letter sent from "OSLO -2 11 35" to Recife, Brazil. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the sixteenth 1935 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 7 November, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' from Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark "RECIFE 10 XI. 35". Overfranked for the 67 øre printed matter rate.



Letter sent from "ASUNCION 30 11 35" to Oslo, with triangular zeppelin postmark from Paraguay, and Via Condor Zeppelin postmarks on reverse. Flown on the sixteenth 1935 "Graf Zeppelin" return flight from South America, from Recife 6 December. Transit postmark "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 11 XII 35" on reverse. 44.5 Pesos correct franking for letters to 5g (2.5 Pesos on reverse).



**First South America Flight 1936**  
**Fifth South America Flight 1936**

**31 March – 10 April, 1936**  
**25 May – 3 June, 1936**

There were 20 airship flights between Germany and South America in 1936,  
 13 were performed by LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin" and 7 by LZ 129 "Hindenburg".  
 Mail from Norway is not recorded from all the 1936 flights to South America.

Reg. printed matter  
 sent from "OSLO  
 28-3-36" to Brazil.  
 Standard staging  
 cachet in red with  
 code letter 'b' which  
 was used in  
 Friedrichshafen.

Flown by "Hinden-  
 burg" on the first  
 1936 flight to South  
 America, from FN-  
 Löwental 31 March.

On reverse receiving  
 postmark "RIO -4 IV  
 36".

The postage rate for  
 registered printed  
 matter to Brazil was  
 7 öre per 50 g, 30 öre  
 registration fee and  
 air mail surcharge 60  
 öre per 5 g, total 97  
 öre correct franking.  
 These rates were  
 valid from 1 May,  
 1935 until 30 April,  
 1937.



Both these flights carried only non-letter mail, and all regular  
 letters and postcards were flown by Deutsche Lufthansa.



Registered printed matter  
 from "OSLO 23 V 36" to  
 Brazil. Transit postmark  
 "BERLIN C 25.5 36" and  
 standard staging cachet in  
 red with code letter 'e'  
 which was used in  
 Friedrichshafen, flown by  
 "Hindenburg" on the fifth  
 1936 flight to South  
 America, from Frankfurt  
 in the evening of 25 May.  
 On reverse receiving  
 postmark "BAHIA 31  
 MAIO 1936".

3 öre overfranked for the  
 97 öre postage rate.





Letter sent from "OSLO -7 7 36" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN -8.7.36" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the eighth 1936 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 9 July, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark "CORREIO AERO BAHIA 12 JUL 36".

The postage rate for letters to Brazil was 30 öre for the first 20 g and air mail surcharge 2.60 kr per 5 g, total 2.90 kr. These rates were valid from 1 May, 1935 until 30 April, 1937.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



Letter sent from "OSLO -6 7 36" to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN -8.7.36" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the eighth 1936 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 9 July, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark 13 July. 25 öre underfranked.



Tenth South America Flight 1936  
Twelfth South America Flight 1936

30 July – 10 August, 1936  
27 August – 8 September, 1936



Letter from "OSLO 27 7 36" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 28.7.36" on reverse. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the tenth 1936 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 30 July, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'e' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark "CORREIO AERO BAHIA -2 AGO 36". The postage rate for letters to Brazil was 30 øre for the first 20 g and air mail surcharge 2.60 kr per 5 g, total 2.90 kr. These rates were valid from 1 May, 1935 until 30 April, 1937.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 21 8 36" to Recife, Brazil. Flown by "Hindenburg" on the twelfth 1936 flight to South America, from Frankfurt on 27 Aug., and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'b'. Receiving postmark 30 VIII 36. 67 øre correct postage.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



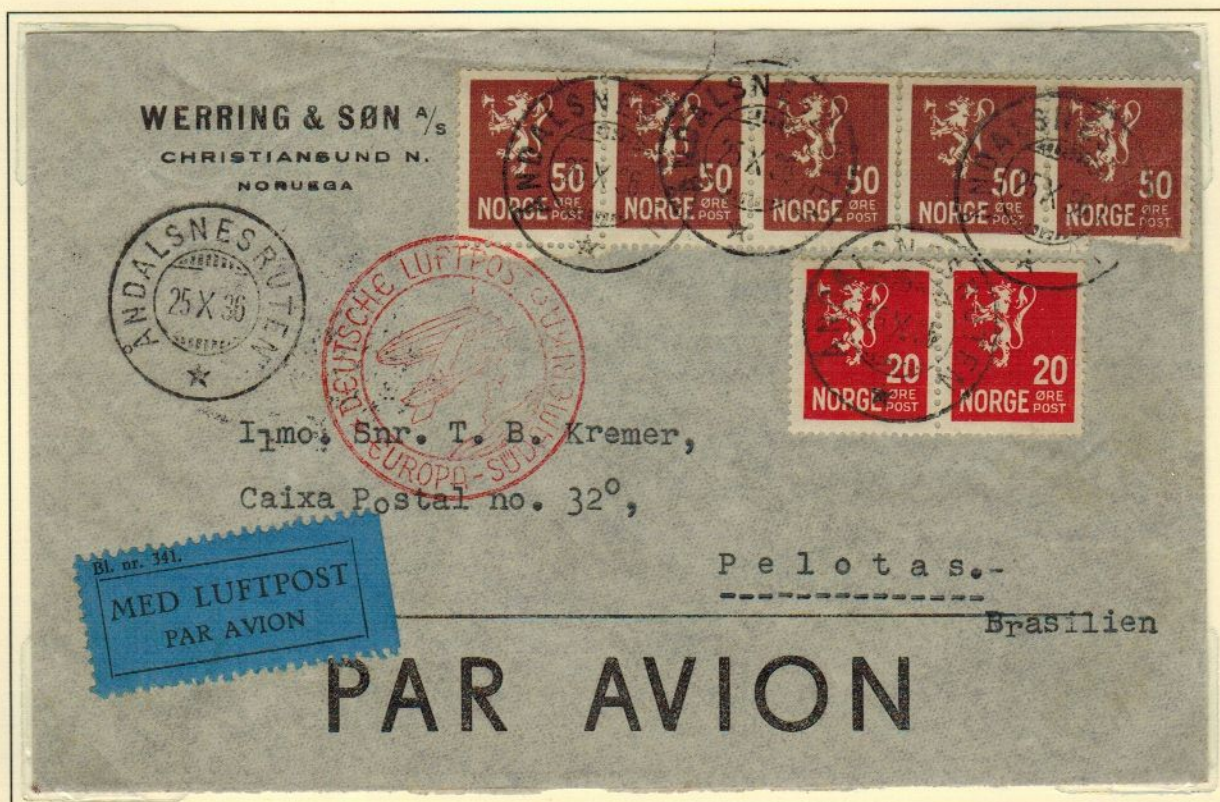
Fourteenth South America Flight 1936  
Seventeenth South America Flight 1936

23 September – 5 October, 1936  
29 October – 9 November, 1936



Printed matter from "OSLO 19 9 36" to Brazil. Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the fourteenth 1936 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 23 September, and standard staging cachet in violet with code letter 'd'. Receiving postmark "S. TARDE-PERNAM. 27 IX 36". 67 öre correct postage.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



Letter from "ÅNDALSNESRUTEN 25 X 36" (TPO) to Brazil. Transit postmarks on reverse "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED II 26 X 36" and "BERLIN 27.10.36". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the seventeenth 1936 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 29 October, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'c' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark "PELOTAS -3 XI 36". 2.90 kr correct postage.

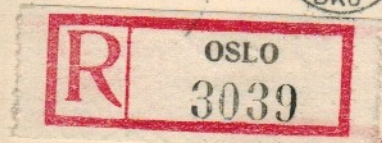
Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



**Eighteenth South America Flight 1936**  
**Second South America Flight 1937**

**5 – 16 November, 1936**  
**13 – 25 April, 1937**

Mit Luftschiff nach Südamerika 18. Fahrt 4/5 Nov. 1936.  
Hindenburg.



Syndicato Condor.

Rio de Janeiro  
Caixa Postal 190.



Registered postcard from "OSLO 31 X 36" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 11.4.37". Flown by "Hindenburg" on the eighteenth 1936 flight to South America, from Frankfurt on 5 Nov., and standard staging cachet in violet with code letter 'd' which was used on board. Receiving postmark TARDE-RIO -9 XI 36. 3.10 kr correct rate.

**Non-letter flight - mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.**

There were 3 airship flights between Germany and South America in 1937, 1 was performed by LZ 129 "Hindenburg" and 2 by LZ 127 "Graf Zeppelin".  
**Mail from Norway is not recorded from the first 1937 flight to South America.**

Zweite Südamerika-Fahrt 1937  
mit Graf Zeppelin am 13. April



Syndicato Condor,

Rio de Janeiro.

-----  
Caxia Postal 190

Registered postcard from "OSLO 10 IV 37" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 11.4.37". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the second 1937 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 13 April, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'b' which was used in Friedrichshafen. On reverse receiving postmark 17 IV 1937. 4 øre overpaid.

**Non-letter flight - mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.**



Second South America Flight 1937  
Third South America Flight 1937

13 – 25 April, 1937  
27 April – 8 May, 1937



Registered postcard from "OSLO 10 IV 37" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 11.4.37". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the second 1937 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 13 April, and standard staging cachet in red with code letter 'b' which was used in Friedrichshafen. Receiving postmark 17 IV 1937. 3.10 kr correct postage.

Non-letter flight - mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



"Graf Zeppelin"'s last mail-carrying flight. Registered postcard from "OSLO 24 IV 37" to Brazil. Transit postmark "BERLIN 25.4.37". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the third 1937 flight to South America, from Friedrichshafen on 27 April. Standard staging cachet in pink with star. On reverse receiving postmark 17 IV 1937. 3.10 kr correct postage.

Non-letter flight; mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



# Flights to North America

## Zeppelin mail fees from Norway to North and Central America

From 1936 onwards, Norwegian air mail could be sent by Zeppelin to countries in North and Central America. The standard airship route was between Frankfurt, Germany and Lakehurst, New Jersey, U.S.A. The air mail fee included both the Zeppelin route and the connecting route(s). The air mail fees (öre) were:

	Canada and USA (except New York)		New York		Bermuda	
	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37
Letter per 5 grams	140	130	115	110	130	125
Printed matter per 5 g	50	40	25	20	40	35
Postcard	140	130	115	110	130	125
	Bahamas, British Honduras, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Virgin Island		Barbados, Costa Rica, Guadalupe, Leeward Island, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Windward Islands		Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Curacao, Saba, Surinam, Venezuela	
	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37	from 1.5.36	from 1.5.37
Letter per 5 grams	165	160	185	170	225	210
Printed matter per 5 g	75	70	95	80	135	120
Postcard	165	160	185	170	225	210

The regular Norwegian postage rates were to be paid in addition to the air mail fees. The rates remained unchanged from 1927 to 1946: Letter 30 öre per first 20 grams and 20 öre per additional 20 grams. Postcard 20 öre. Printed matter 7 öre per 50 grams. Registration fee 30 öre. Express fee (special delivery) 60 öre.

## First North America Flight 1936

6 – 14 May, 1936



Registered letter sent from "OSLO -1 V 36" to Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -2.5.36" (German railway postmark). Flown on "Hindenburg's" very first flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 6 May, and standard staging cachet in red. On reverse postmarks "NEW YORK N.Y., 5-9 1936" and "BROOKLYN N.Y. MAY 11 1936". 2.90 kr correct postage for registered letters 5-10 grams.





Letter sent from "BERGEN 4- V 36" round-trip to Bergen, via Frankfurt, Germany and via New York. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -6.5.36" on reverse. Flown on "Hindenburg's" very first flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 6 May, and standard staging cachet in red. On reverse transit postmarks "NEW YORK N.Y. MAY 9 1936" and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 17 V 36" (Sweden-Norway railway postmark) and receiving postmark "BERGEN 2 TUR 18.5.36". 145 öre correct postage. Forwarded by surface mail from USA to Norway.



Registered postcard from "FRANKFURT -5.5.36" to Stavanger, Norway. Flown on "Hindenburg's" very first flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 6 May, and standard staging cachet in red. Transit postmark "NEW YORK N.Y. 5-9 1936" "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 17 V 36" (Sweden-Norway railway postmark). Received "STAVANGER 18 V 36". Forwarded by surface mail from USA to Norway. 90 Pf correct postage (39 Pf on reverse).



## First North America Flight 1936

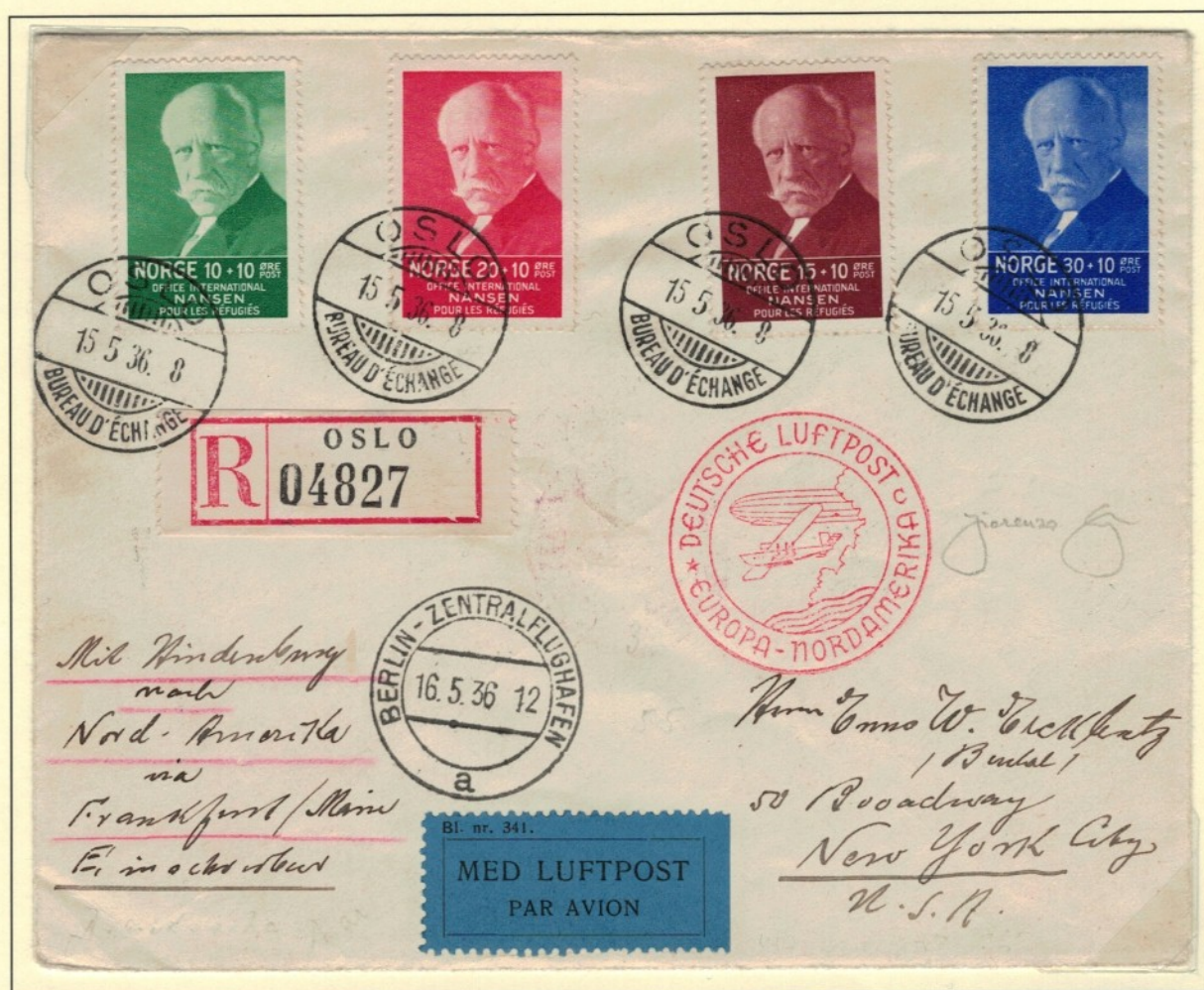
6 – 14 May, 1936



Postcard sent from "BROOKLYN N.Y. MAY 11 1936" to Oslo, Norway. Flown on the return flight of "Hindenburg's" very first flight to North America, from Lakehurst, N.J. on 12 May, and special flight handstamp in violet. Transit postmark "FRANKFURT (MAIN) 14 5 36 MIT LUFTSCHIFF" and received "OSLO 15 5 36". 40c correct postage for letters and postcards by airship and by surface mail in USA and in Europe.

## Second North America Flight 1936

17 – 23 May, 1936

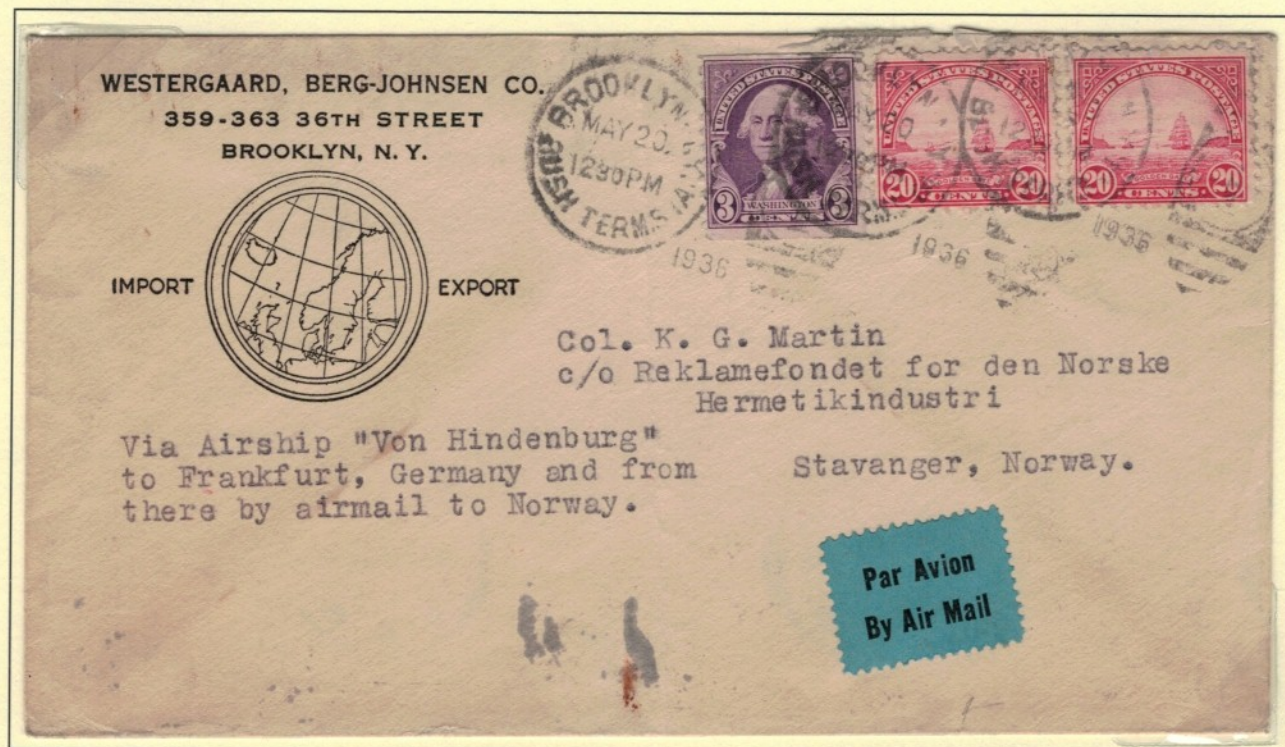


Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 15 5 36" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A. Flown on the second 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 May, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 7 öre per 50 g printed matter rate, 30 öre registration fee and air mail surcharge 25 öre per 5 g, total 62 öre (13 öre overfranked), valid from 1 May 1936 to 30 April 1937.





Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 15 V 36" to Lakehurst, N.J., U.S.A. Flown on the second 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 May, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 7 øre per 50 g printed matter rate, 30 øre registration fee and air mail surcharge 25 øre per 5 g, total 62 øre (3 øre overfranked), valid 1 May 1936 to 30 April 1937.

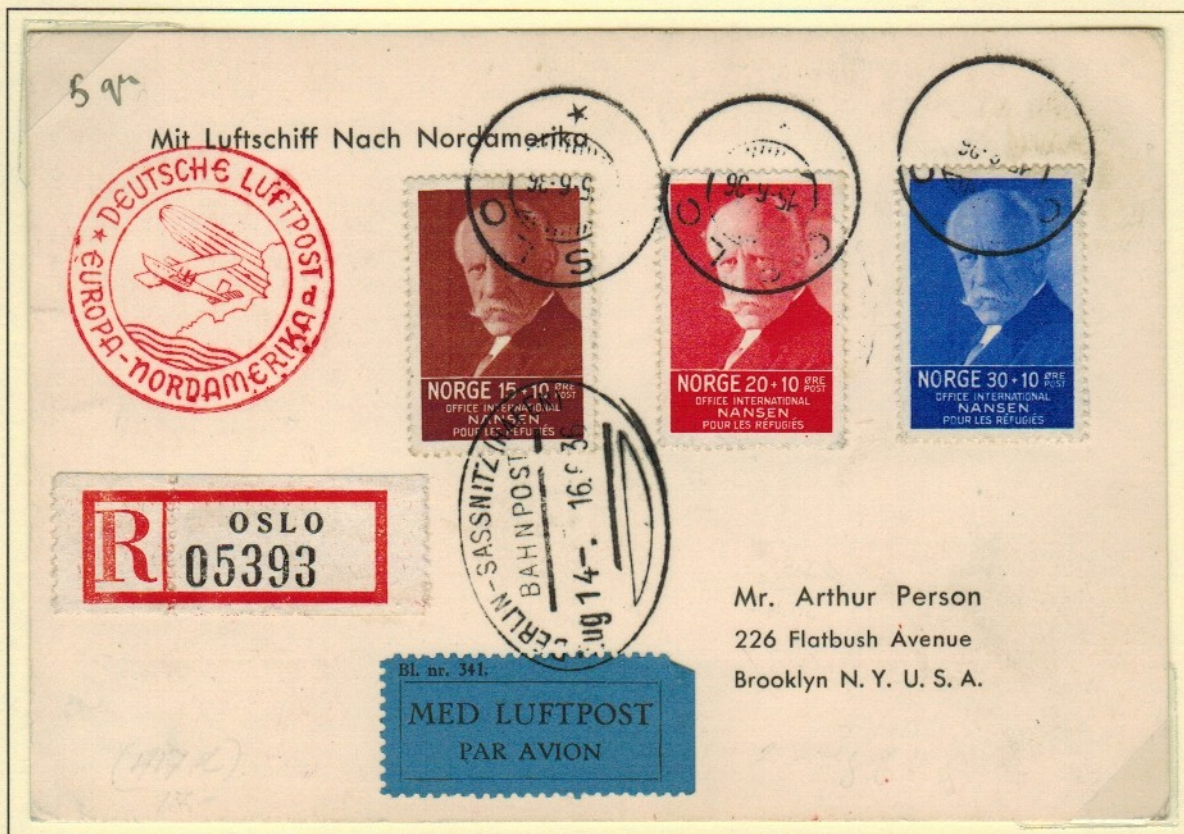


Letter sent from "BROOKLYN N.Y. MAY 20 1936" to Stavanger, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the second 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Lakehurst on 21 May. On reverse receiving postmark "STAVANGER 25 V 36". 43c correct postage for dispatch by surface mail in the USA, by airship and by air in Europe.



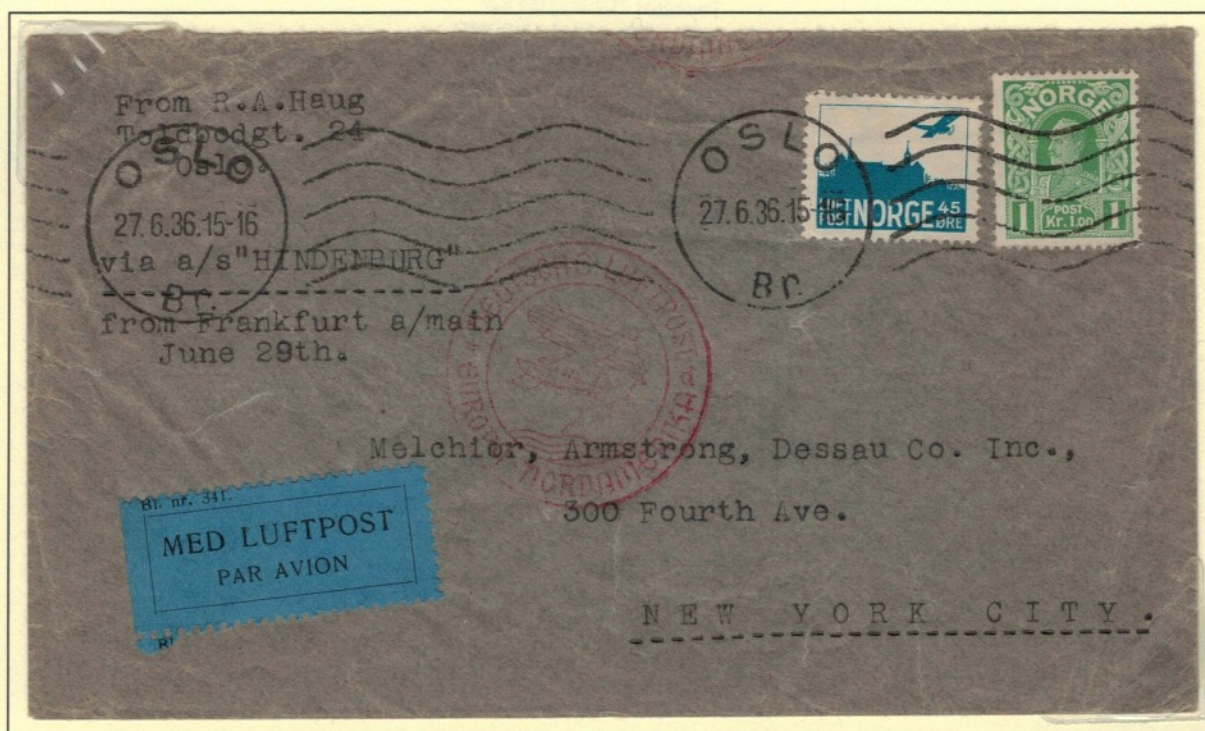


Registered postcard sent from "OSLO 15 6 36" to Lakehurst, N.J., U.S.A. Berlin-Sassnitz transit postmark on reverse. Flown on the third 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 19 June, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 20 øre postcard rate, 30 øre registration fee and air mail surcharge 115 øre for postcards, total 165 øre correct franking. These rates were valid from 1 May, 1936 until 30 April, 1937.



Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO 15 6 36" to Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. Flown on the third 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 19 June, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 7 øre per 50 g printed matter rate, 30 øre registration fee and air mail surcharge 25 øre per 5 g, total 62 øre (3 øre overfranked). These rates were valid from 1 May, 1936 until 30 April, 1937.





Letter sent from "OSLO 27.6.36" to New York City, U.S.A. Flown on the fourth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 39 June, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 30 öre per 20 g letter rate and air mail surcharge 115 öre per 5 g, total 145 öre correct postage, valid 1 May 1936 to 30 April 1937.



Letter sent from "NEW YORK, N.Y. JUL 3 1936" to Grimstad, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the fourth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Lakehurst on 4 July. No zeppelin postmarks, but must have been flown as it reached Oslo on 6 July and Grimstad on 7 July (postmarks on reverse). 43c correct postage for dispatch by surface mail in the USA, by airship and by air in Europe.





Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO BUREAU D'ÉCHANGE -8 7 36" to Lakehurst, N.J., U.S.A. Flown on the fifth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 10 July, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 7 öre per 50 g printed matter rate, 30 öre registration fee and air mail surcharge 25 öre per 5 g, total 62 öre (23 öre overfranked). These rates were valid from 1 May, 1936 until 30 April, 1937.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.



Registered double weight letter sent from "OSLO -3 VII 36" to New York. Berlin-Sassnitz transit postmark on reverse. Flown on the fifth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 10 July, and standard staging cachet in red. The postage rate for New York was 30 öre per 20 g letter rate, 30 öre registration fee and air mail surcharge 115 öre per 5 g, total 290 öre (20 öre overfranked) for letters 5-10g.

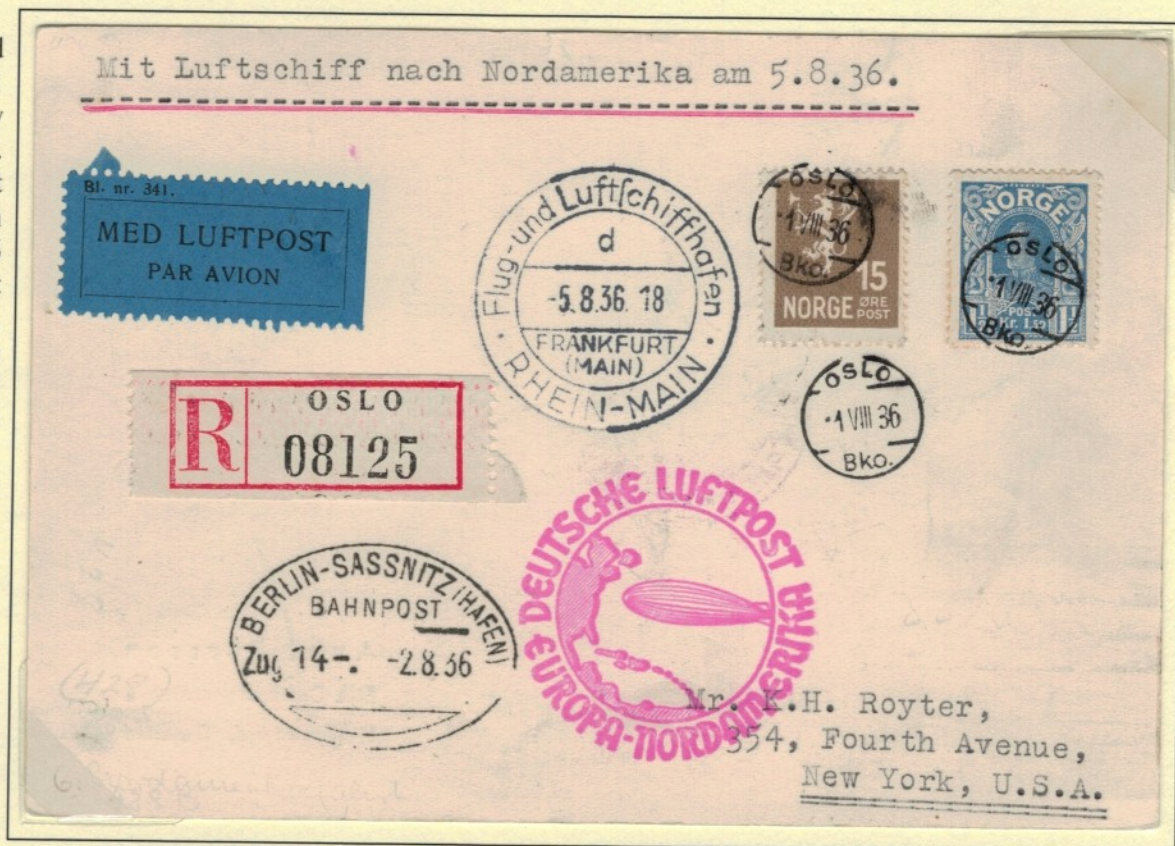




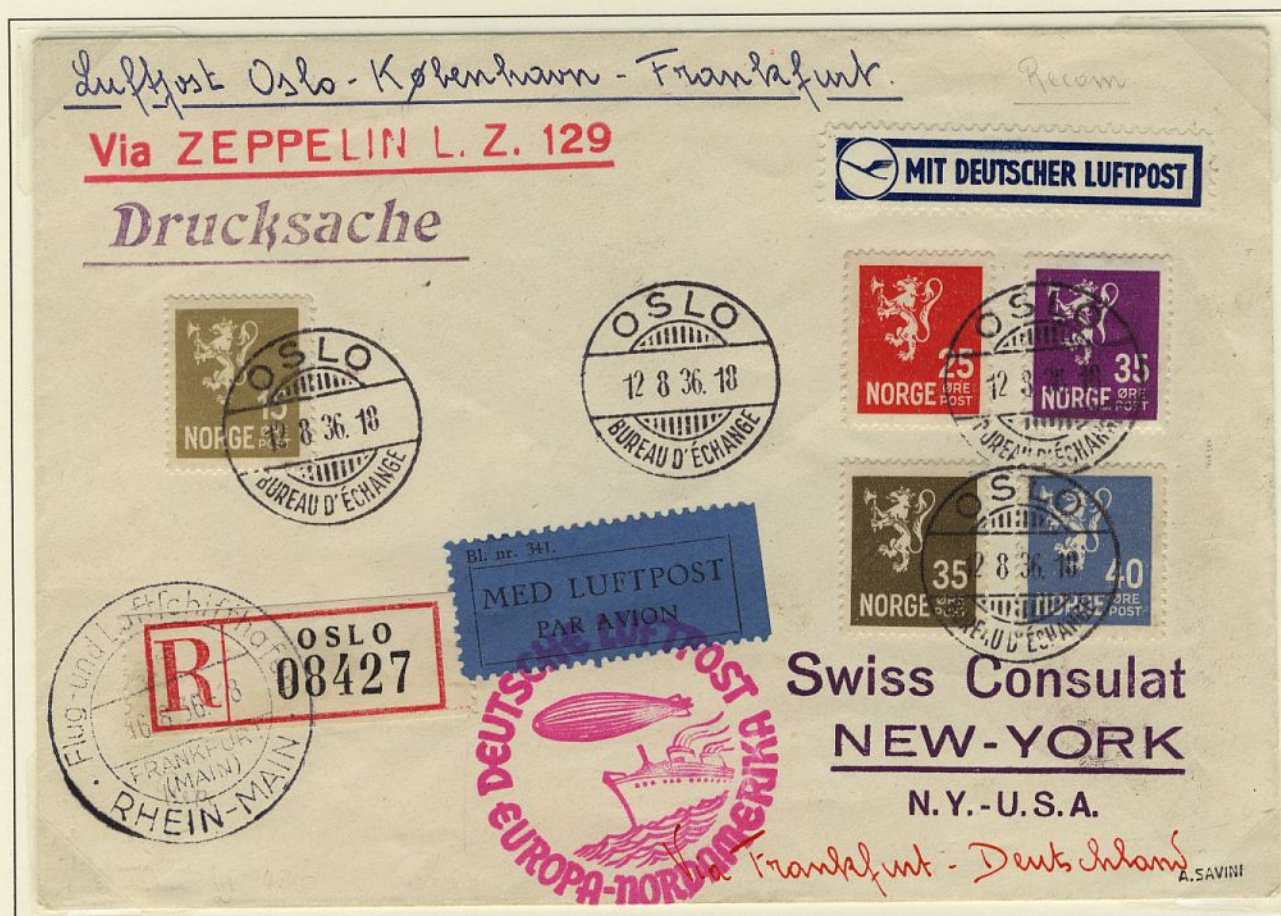
Letter from "STAVANGER -3 VIII 36" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A. Transit "OSLO -3 8 36" and "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -5.8.36" on reverse. Correct 145 öre letter rate to New York, composed by foreign letter rate 30 öre per 20 grammes and air mail surcharge 115 öre per 5 g, valid from 1 May 1936 to 30 April 1937.

Mail sent from Norway and carried on this flight is not recorded by Sieger or Michel.

Registered postcard sent from "OSLO -1 VIII 36" to New York, N.Y., U.S.A. German transit postmarks. Flown on the sixth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 5 August, and special flight cachet in purple. Correct 165 öre registered postcard rate to N.Y., composed by 20 öre postcard rate, 30 öre registration fee and air mail surcharge 115 öre for postcards, valid from 1 May 1936 to 30 April 1937.







Flown on the seventh 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 August, and special flight cachet in purple. Above: Registered printed matter from "OSLO 12 8 36" to New York. 7 öre printed matter rate per 50 g, 30 öre registration fee and 25 öre air mail surcharge per 5 g (overfranked). Below: Letter from "OSLO 14 8 36" to Woodside, Long Island, N.Y., U.S.A. Manuscript "12gr" denotes the weight. The 5.25 kr postage overpays the postage rate for New York, which was 30 öre letter rate up to 20 g and air mail surcharge 1.15 kr per 5 g, total 3.75 kr. The rates were valid 1 May 1936 - 30 April 1937.







Registered postcard sent from "OSLO 13 VIII 36" to New York. Transit postmarks "BERLIN - SASSNITZ 14.8.36" (train) and "FRANKFURT (MAIN) Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN 16 8 36". Flown on the seventh 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 August, and special flight cachet in purple. Correct postage: 20 öre postcard rate, 30 öre registration fee and 115 öre air mail surcharge for postcards.



Letter sent from "NEW YORK, N.Y. TRINITY STA. AUG 19 1936" to Tysnes via Bergen, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the seventh 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Lakehurst on 20 August. On reverse "FRANKFURT (MAIN) Flug und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN 22 8 36". 40c correct postage for letters and postcards by airship and by surface mail in USA and in Europe.





Letter sent from "TRONDHEIM 11 9 36" to New York. Transit postmark "OSLO 12 9 36" on reverse. Flown on the eighth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 September, and special flight cachet in pink. The 2.61 kr postage overpays by 1 öre the New York rate for letters 5-10 g.



Registered postcard from "OSLO 15 X 36" to New York. German transit postmarks on front and receiving postmark "NEW YORK 9 20 1936" on reverse. Flown on the eighth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 September, and special flight cachet in pink. 165 öre correct postage.





Registered printed matter from "JUBILEUMSMESSEN I GJØVIK 14 9 36" to Rahway, N.J., U.S.A. Flown on "Hindenburg's" eighth flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 September, and special flight cachet in purple. On reverse postmarks "NEW YORK N.Y. REG'Y DIV. 9-20 1936" and "RAHWAY, N.J. REGISTERED SEP 21 1936". 3 öre overfranked for the 62 öre postage rate.



Letter sent from "SARPSBORG 22 VIII 36" to Maine, U.S.A. Flown on "Hindenburg's" eighth 1936 flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 17 September, and special flight cachet in purple. 30 öre letter rate to 20 g and 140 öre air mail fee per 5 g, total 170 öre correct postage up to 5 grammes.





Printed matter sent from "OSLO 21 9 36" to Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. Flown on the ninth 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 26 September, and special flight cachet in purple. 13 öre overfranked for New York.



Letter sent from "NEW YORK, N.Y. SEP 28 1936" to Moss, Norway. Flown on the return flight of the 9<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" North America flight, which left Lakehurst, N.J. for Frankfurt, Germany on 1 October. On reverse transit postmarks "Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN -3.10.36" and "BUREAU AMB OSLO-ED II -5 X 36" (train Sweden-Norway). 43c correct postage for dispatch by surface mail in the USA, by airship and by air in Europe. 30 öre Swedish postage was not required, and the stamps are not postmarked.



Ninth North America Flight 1936  
Tenth North America Flight 1936

26 September – 3 October, 1936  
5 – 12 October, 1936



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 19 9 36" to Lakehurst, NJ. Transit postmark "BERLIN - SASSNITZ 20.9.36" (train). Flown on the 9<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 26 September, and special flight cachet in purple. 1 öre overpaid for the printed matter rate to N.Y.



Printed matter sent from "OSLO 3 10 36" to Florida. On reverse transit postmark "BERLIN - SASSNITZ 4.10.36" (train). Flown on the 10<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 5 October, and special flight cachet in purple. Receiving postmark "ST. PETERSBURG, FLA OCT 10". 5 öre underpaid for the printed matter rate to U.S.A. outside N.Y.





Registered printed matter sent from "OSLO -2 10 36" to Costa Rica. Transit postmarks "BERLIN - SASSNITZ -3.10.36" (train) and "Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN -5.10.36". Flown on the 10<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt 5 October, and special flight cachet in purple. Transit postmark "NEW YORK REG'Y. DIV. 10-8 1936". Sender's instruction is by airship to New York (i.e. onwards by surface mail), and 3 öre overpaid for air mail to New York.

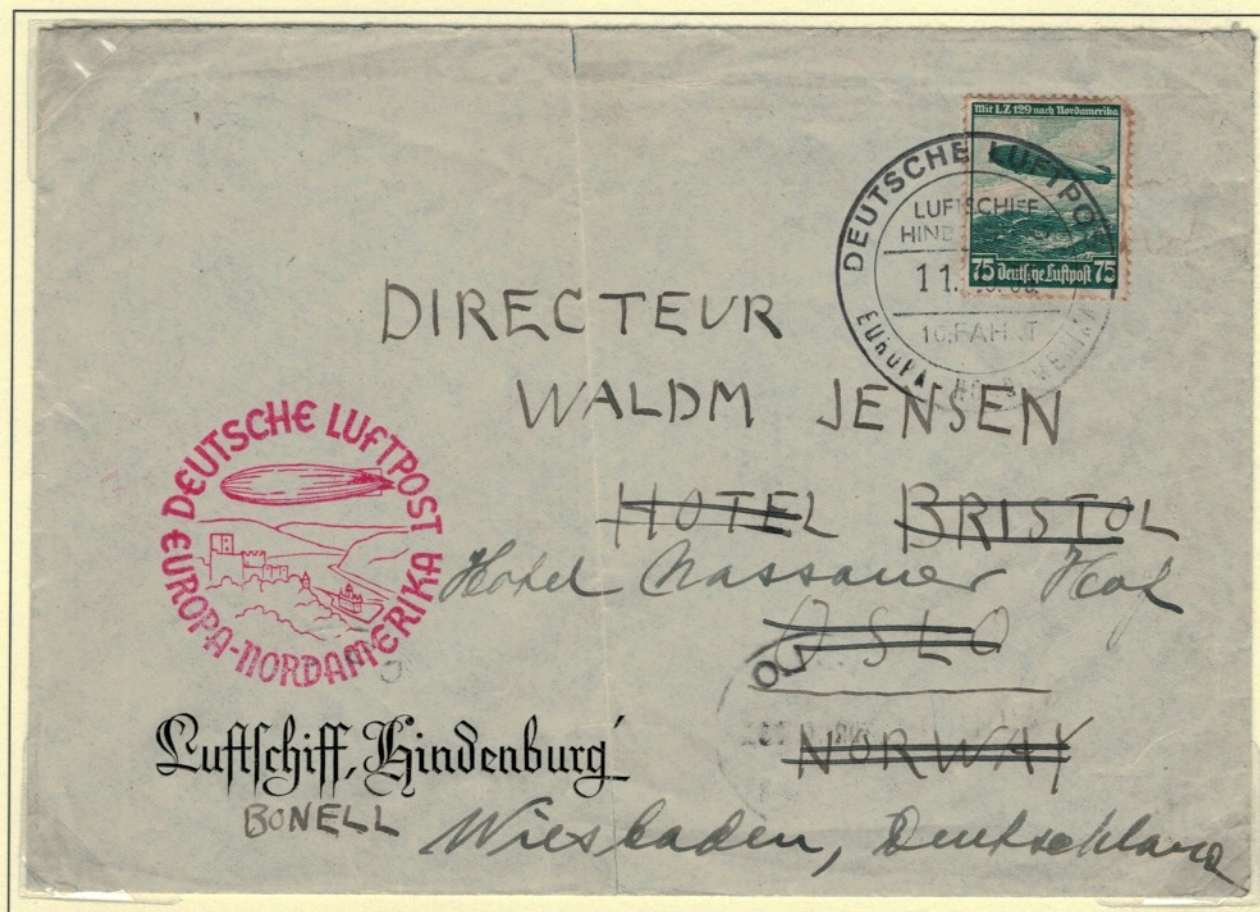


Printed matter from "OSLO -2 10 36" to New York City. Transit postmark "BERLIN-SASSNITZ -3.10.36" (train). Flown on the 10<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Frankfurt on 5 October, and special flight cachet in purple. 32 öre correct postage.





Letter from "NEW YORK GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NY OCT 7 36" to Høvik, Norway. Flown on the return flight for the 10<sup>th</sup> 1936 "Hindenburg" flight to North America, from Lakehurst, NJ on 10 October. Transit postmarks "FRANKFURT Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN 12 10 36" and "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 13 X 36" (train). 40c correct postage for dispatch by air in the USA, by airship and surface in Europe.



Letter posted on board the "Hindenburg" on the return flight of the 10<sup>th</sup> 1936 North America flight, from Lakehurst, N.J. on 10 October. Postmarked 11-10.36 with the official datestamp of the airship. Addressed to Oslo, transit postmark "BUREAU AMB. OSLO-ED 13 X 36" and receiving postmark "OSLO 1 TUR 14 X 35" on reverse. Re-directed to Germany, "OSLO 14.10.36.13-15" on reverse.



# End of an Era 1936-1939 – from triumph to disaster

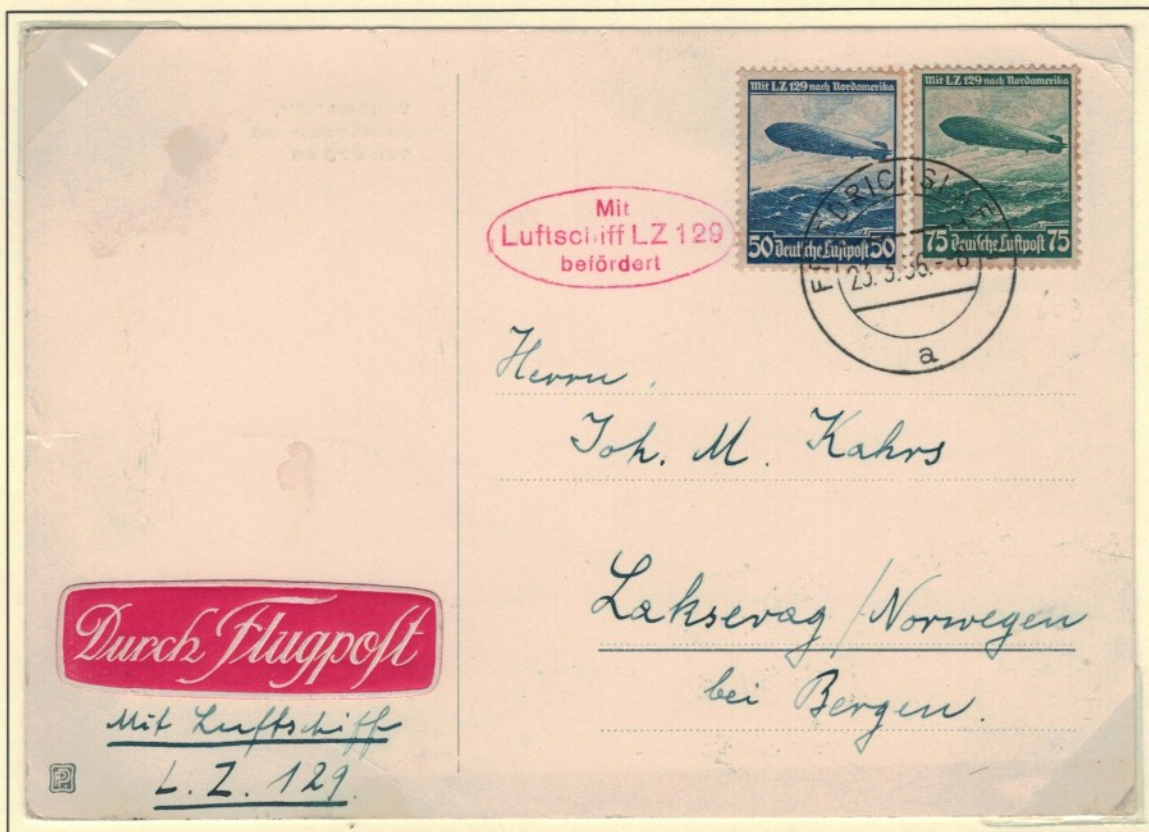
## “Hindenburg” – Test Flight

23 March, 1936

LZ 129 Hindenburg was a commercial passenger-carrying rigid airship, the lead ship of the Hindenburg class, the longest class of flying machine and the largest airship by envelope volume. It was designed and built by the Zeppelin Company on the shores of Lake Constance in Friedrichshafen, Germany, and was operated by the German Zeppelin Airline Company. It was named after Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, President of Germany 1925-1934. The airship flew from March 1936 and was a triumph of engineering for Germany's Third Empire.



LZ 129 “Hindenburg” and LZ 127 “Graf Zeppelin” over Lake Constance (Bodensee in German) on 23 March 1936. “Hindenburg” has not yet had her name painted on the hull. The two airships were used by the Third Empire in a Nazi propaganda tour around Germany 26-29 March 1936.



Postcard to Norway, postmarked “FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 23.3.36” and special flight cachet in red. This was the first flight of the “Hindenburg” with mail service onboard.



## The “Hindenburg” Olympic Flight – a symbol of triumph and success 1 August, 1936

The "Hindenburg" was used for propaganda purposes when she flew over the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on 1 August during the opening ceremonies of the 1936 Summer Olympic Games. Shortly before the arrival of Adolf Hitler to declare the Games open, the airship crossed low over the packed stadium while trailing the Olympic flag on a long weighted line suspended from its gondola.

This event is also a symbol for the success of the Zeppelins. It should not last long.



Letter to Norway, postmarked “Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN FRANKFURT -1.8.36”. Flown by LZ 129 “Hindenburg” on the Olympic Flight to Berlin on 1 August (special flight cachet in purple). On reverse “BERLIN - ZENTRALFLUGHAFEN 1. 8. 36. -16”. The all-inclusive zeppelin letter rate to any destination in Europe was 1 RM 1934 - 1939.



**"Hindenburg" – Olympic Flight**  
**"Graf Zeppelin II" – Flight to the Sudetenland**

**1 August, 1936**  
**2-3 December, 1938**

The two Hindenburg-class airships "Hindenburg" and "Graf Zeppelin II" were hydrogen-filled, passenger-carrying rigid airships, constructed entirely from duraluminium, built in Germany in the 1930s and named in honor of Paul von Hindenburg. They were the last such aircraft to be constructed, and in terms of length, height, and volume, the largest aircraft ever built.

Postcard to Norway,  
 postmarked "Flug- und  
 Luftschiffhafen  
 RHEIN-MAIN  
 FRANKFURT -1.8.36".  
 Flown by LZ 129  
 "Hindenburg" on the  
 Olympic Flight to  
 Berlin on 1 August  
 (special flight cachet in  
 purple). Transit  
 "BERLIN-ZENTRAL-  
 FLUGHAFEN 1.8.36.-  
 16". 2 Pf overfranked  
 for the 50 Pf all-  
 inclusive zeppelin letter  
 rate to any destination  
 in Europe 1934-1939.



The "Graf Zeppelin II" was virtually identical to the "Hindenburg" and flew for the first time on 14 September 1938. It was conceived to replace the ageing "Graf Zeppelin" on flying the South American transatlantic route.

Postcard to Norway,  
 postmarked "Flug- und  
 Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-  
 MAIN FRANKFURT  
 -1.12.38". Flown by LZ  
 130 "Graf Zeppelin II"  
 on the Flight to the  
 Sudetenland on 2 Dec.  
 (special flight cachet in  
 red). On reverse post-  
 mark "REICHENBERG  
 (SUDETENGAU) 2 12  
 38". 50 Pf all-inclusive  
 zeppelin postcard rate to  
 any destination in  
 Europe 1934-1939.  
 The Sudetenland is the  
 historical German name  
 for the northern,  
 southern and western  
 areas of former Czecho-  
 slovakia. The area was  
 annexed ("liberated") by  
 Germany in 1938.





## First North America Flight 1937 – The "Hindenburg" Disaster Flight 3 – 6 May, 1937

After opening its 1937 season by completing a single round trip passage to Rio De Janeiro in late March, LZ 129 "Hindenburg" departed from Frankfurt on the evening of 3 May on the first of 10 round-trips between Europe and the United States that were scheduled for her second year of commercial service. Mail was dropped over Cologne en route to the USA.

Three days later – LZ 129 "Hindenburg" caught fire and was totally destroyed on landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey on 6 May, 1937. Norwegian mail was not salvaged from the disaster.

The "Hindenburg" disaster marked the demise of the Zeppelins. "Graf Zeppelin" was grounded and "Graf Zeppelin II" which was under construction never entered passenger service.



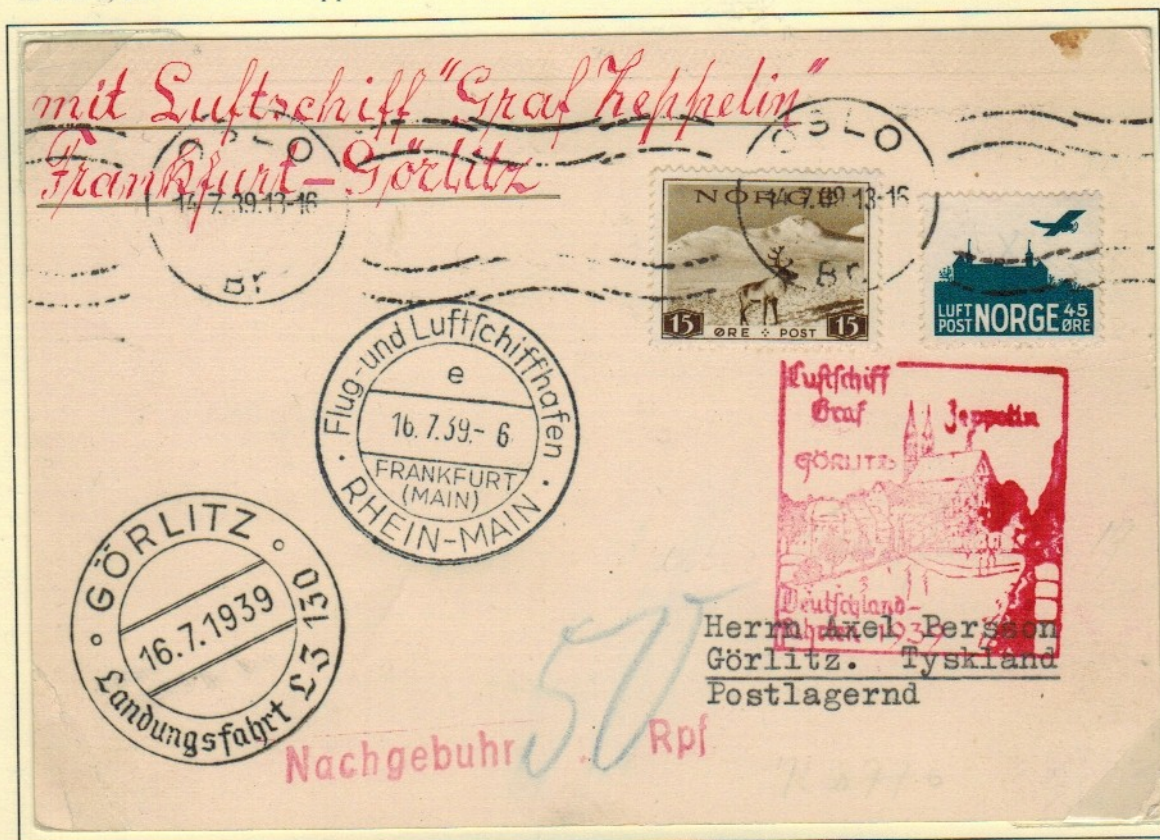
Letter sent from "Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN FRANKFURT -1.5.37" to Oslo, Norway. Intended to be flown on the "Hindenburg" Germany flight on 1 May, 1937 (special circular flight cachet in purple), but the flight was cancelled due to bad weather.

Instead flown on 3 May, 1937 and dropped over Cologne, as demonstrated by the boxed explanatory cachet "Wegen Ausfalls der Deutschlandfahrt Postabwurf bei Nordamerikafahrt". Transit postmark "KÖLN 3.5.37" and arrival postmark "OSLO 2 TUR -5 V 37" on reverse. The all-inclusive postage rate for zeppelin letters to any destination in Europe was 1 Reichsmark, valid from 11 May, 1934 to 31 August, 1939.

**This was the first leg of the disaster flight to North America.**  
Norwegian mail was not salvaged from the disaster.



In 1939, LZ 130 "Graf Zeppelin II" made a landing flight from Frankfurt to Görlitz in Saxony.



Two postcards sent from "OSLO 14-7-39" to Görlitz, Germany. Transit postmark "Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN FRANK-FURT 16.7.39". Flown by "Graf Zeppelin II" from Frankfurt to Görlitz (special flight cachet in red), to Görlitz on 16 July as shown by the postmark "GÖRLITZ Landungsfahrt LZ 130 16.7.1939".



The Norwegian postage on both cards overpaid the 20 øre postcard rate to Germany (valid 1927-1946), but was not accepted as payment for the German 50 Reichspfennig all-inclusive zeppelin airmail postage rate for Europe (valid 1934-1939), and hence the postage due cachets "-Nachgebühr-" (above) and "Nachgebühr 50 Rpf." (above and below). The Nachgebühr cachets are German, but the location where they were applied is not known.



In 1939, LZ 130 "Graf Zeppelin II" made a landing flight from Frankfurt to Bielefeld in North Rein-Westphalia. The flight continued to Münster after landing in Bielefeld.



Postcard sent from "OSLO 22-7-39" to Bielefeld, Germany. Transit postmark "Flug- und Luftschiffhafen RHEIN-MAIN FRANK-FURT 23.7.39 --6" which is 6 a.m., this proves that the airship left Frankfurt in the morning of 23 July, and not in the evening of 22 July as stated in the Michel and Sieger catalogues.

Flown by "Graf Zeppelin II" from Frankfurt to Bielefeld (special flight cachet in red), to Bielefeld on 23 July as shown by the special postmark "BIELEFELD Landung des "Graf Zeppelin" 23.7.1939".

Norwegian postage 50 øre overpaid the 20 øre postcard rate to Germany (valid 1927-1946), but was not accepted as payment for the German 50 Reichspfennig all-inclusive zeppelin airmail postage rate for Europe (valid 1934-1939), and hence the postage due cachet "Nachgebühre 50 Rpf.".

### ***The end of the Zeppelins***

In April 1940, Hermann Göring issued the order to scrap both *Graf Zeppelins* and the unfinished framework of LZ 131, since the metal was needed for other aircraft. By April 27, work crews had finished cutting up the airships. On May 6, the enormous airship hangars in Frankfurt were leveled by explosives, three years to the day after the destruction of the *Hindenburg*.