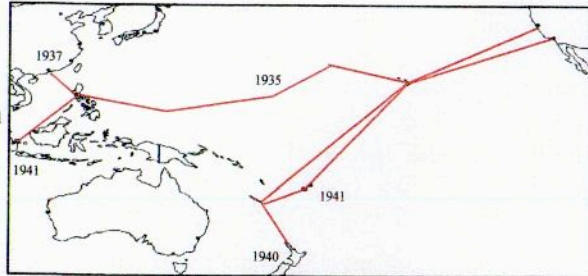


PAA Crosses the Pacific - 1935-1941

The Postal History Display Exhibit

PAA developed four Pacific routes from 1935 to 1941. Each route of the endeavor is illustrated by covers from the beginnings, through the operations, to the end caused by Pearl Harbor attacks in December 1941. Important points in the story are highlighted in subsections as shown in the Outline. Special attention is given to connections to other airlines as airmail and passengers traveled beyond the range of the PAA routes. The war in Europe and Japanese influence caused some important route changes and these are highlighted in the narrative. The story is illustrated with original newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, system timetables, post office notices and other relevant items.



Route Development
 1935 SF to Manila
 1937 Manila to Hong Kong
 1940 Honolulu to Auckland
 1941 Manila to Singapore
 1941 Samoa added.

The Story

In 1935, Pan American Airways, then the dominant carrier in the Caribbean and South America was blocked by the British from setting up routes over the Atlantic Ocean. PAA turned to the task of crossing the Pacific Ocean for airmail, cargo and passengers. The purposes were partially commercial and partially nationalistic to check the expansion of the Japanese. They had two aircraft types, the well tested Sikorsky S42 which was barely capable of such journeys, and the very new Martin M-130. The much larger Boeing 314 was not available until 1939. Despite headlines to the contrary, PAA really only had weeks to plan for such an endeavor. The routes became unexpectedly important as war in Europe closed the Mediterranean to commercial air travel. Mail that had been carried to Asia through the Mediterranean was carried over the Pacific, and in some cases over the Atlantic as well. Other route changes were required as Japanese and Vichy French blocked the BOAC Hong Kong connection. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor ended much of the commercial Pacific operations in December 1941.

These operations inspired tremendous public interest. Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of people came to watch the seaplanes. News reports were sought out and mailers knew the flight schedules. In December 1941 PAA commissioned an art print showing their worldwide routes as of 7 December 1941.



Sikorsky S42, Samoan Clipper At Auckland Harbor

The Sikorsky S42's performed early survey work and shorter routes to Hong Kong. The Samoan Clipper's surveys to New Zealand ended in its loss on 11 January 1938 at Pago Pago.



Martin M-130 over San Francisco
 The three Martin M-130's performed much of the commercial work until the Boeing 314's became available.



Boeing B314 at Pearl Harbor
 Six Boeing B314's were used in the Pacific from 1935 to the War in December 1941. They continued the Hawaii shuttle and in the Atlantic afterwards.

Exhibit Outline

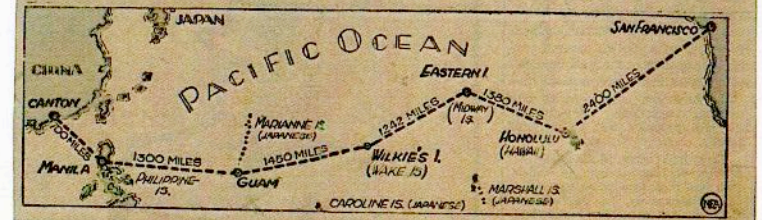
- San Francisco to Manila Route-1935
 - Survey Flights
 - First Flights
 - Special Flights
 - Serving Customers
 - Passenger Inspection
 - Rate Changes
 - Special Flights
 - NEA Extra Flights
 - Islands: Hawaii, Wake, Midway, Guam
 - Wartime Routing
 - Pearl Harbor Attacks
 - Last Flights
 - Hawaii Wartime Shuttle
- Flights of the Samoan Clipper-1937
- San Francisco to Hong Kong Route-1937
 - Route to China
 - Route to Australasia
 - Prewar and Wartime Connections
 - Last Flights Out
- San Francisco to New Zealand Route-1940
 - First Flights
 - Route to South Pacific
 - Route to Middle East and Europe
 - Route to Asia
 - Two Ocean Route
 - Last Flights
- San Francisco to Singapore Route-1941
 - First, Second and Third Flights
 - First Passenger Flight
 - Singapore Usage
 - Connections to Asia
 - Connections to Mediterranean
 - Two Ocean Route
 - Last Flight
- Pursued Ships—Clippers the day the War came.
- Original Print: *Routes of the Flying Clipper Ships*

San Francisco to Manila Pacific Survey Flights 1935

Clipper Plane Arrives at Hawaii



Completing the first commercial flight between the United States and the Hawaiian Islands, this giant Pan American Airways' clipper ship today landed in Pearl Harbor, T. H., after a record-breaking hop from San Francisco Bay. Photo shows the Sikorsky flying boat soaring thru the Golden Gate, framed by the twin towers of the new bridge which is to span the famous harbor entrance.



Like stepping stones across the Pacific lie the American islands which will break the long trans-ocean hop into easy stages. The map shows the tiny spots where Pan-American Airways is building terminal facilities. In two cases the islands will be inhabited for the first time.

The aircraft used for the first four survey flights was NC 823M. Had been used in the Caribbean as the *West Indies Clipper*. Renamed the *Pan American Clipper* for these flights but returned to the Caribbean and its old name.

Unknown Newspaper
 ca 17 April 1935