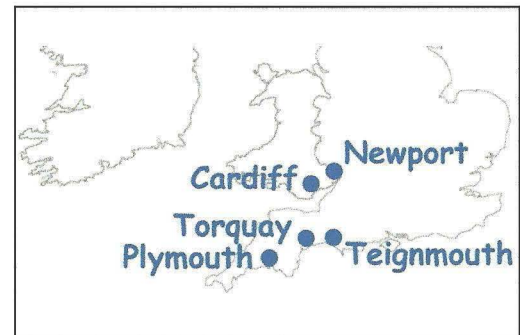


Great Western Railway Air Services

First Flight Commercial Inland Air Service in Great Britain (April 12, 1933)

On April 12, 1933 the Great Western Railway inaugurated the first commercial, inland air service in Great Britain. Operating between Cardiff Air Port (serving Cardiff and Newport), Haldon Aerodrome (serving Teignmouth and Torquay) and Roborough Aerodrome (serving Plymouth). On the initial flight mail was carried by Mr. Phillips a passenger.



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Plymouth and return, signed by the pilot, Capt. Gordon Olley accepted at GWR Newport High St. with two 3d newspaper parcels stamps, 4½d postage paid Cardiff Registered datestamps, delivered to Cardiff aerodrome and then by air to Plymouth GWR Plymouth (North Rd) oval arrival and returned to Cardiff aerodrome

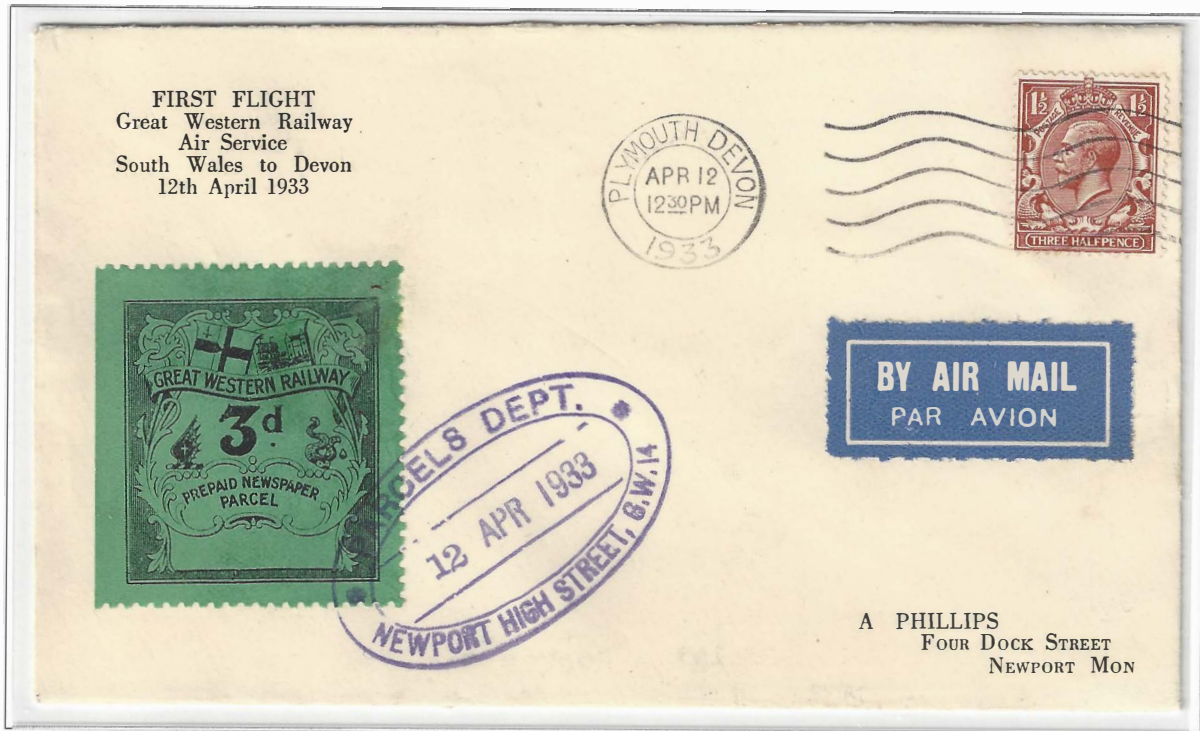
the only round trip cover carried on this inaugural flight
(cover specifically described in 1935 article by the mail-carrier, Phillips)

Great Western Railway Air Services

First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933) complete maiden flight: Cardiff to Plymouth



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Cardiff (General) prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Plymouth 12:30 PM postmark



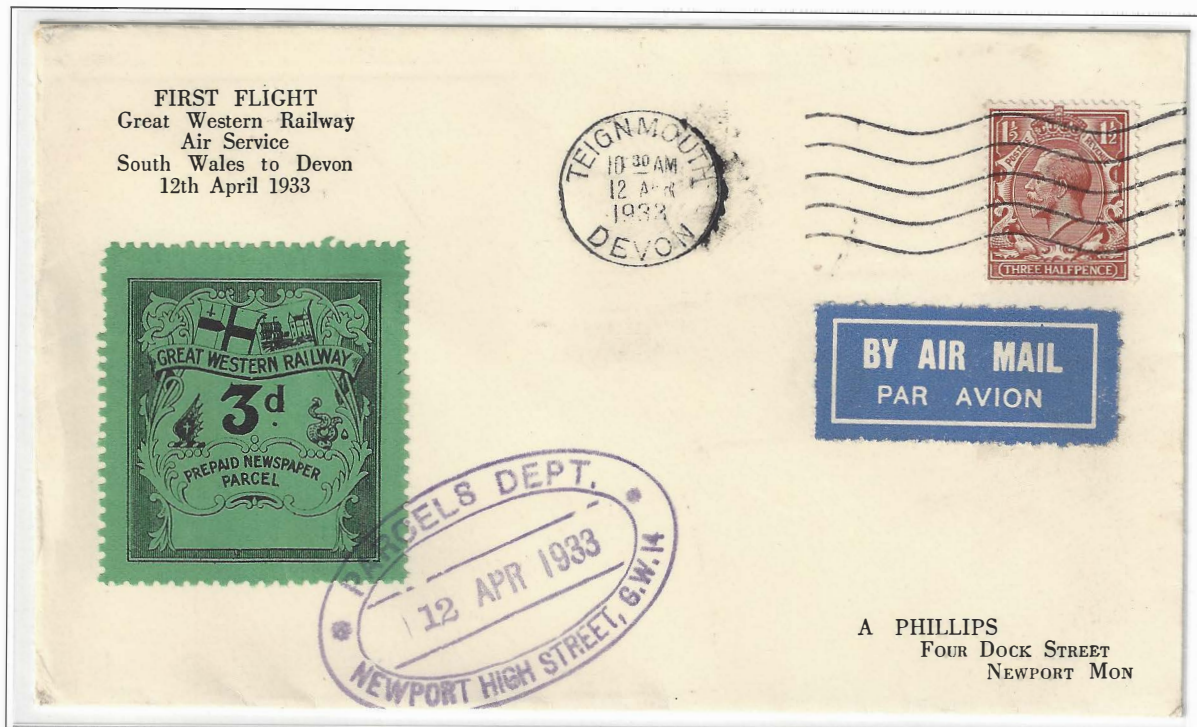
12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Newport High Street prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Teignmouth 12:30 PM postmark

Great Western Railway Air Services

First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933)
first leg of maiden flight: Cardiff to Teignmouth



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Cardiff (General)
prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Teigenmouth 10:30 AM postmark



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Newport High Street
prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Teigenmouth 10:30 AM postmark

Great Western Railway Air Services

**First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933)
first leg of maiden flight: Cardiff to Teignmouth (posted at Torquay)**



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Cardiff (General) prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Torquay 11:30 AM postmark



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Newport High Street prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Torquay 11:30 AM postmark

Great Western Railway Air Services

**First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933)
covers signed by pilots of the two required planes due to the number of passengers**



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teigenmouth, accepted by GWR at Newport High Street signed by Capt, Gordon P. Olley the Imperial Airways pilot of the first plane



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Plymouth, accepted by GWR at Cardiff (General) signed by Capt. F. Dismore, the pilot of the second plane, Plymouth 12:30 PM postmark

Great Western Railway Air Services

**First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933)
carried by second plane on maiden flight: Cardiff to Teignmouth (posted at Torquay)**



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Newport High Street prepaid 3d fee plus 1½d postage postage, entered mails with Torquay 12:15 PM postmark

apparently this cover missed the first plane leaving Cardiff as the Torquay postmark is 45 minutes later than the covers carried by the first plane

Great Western Railway Air Services

First Commercial Inland Air Service Flight in Great Britain (April 12, 1933) return maiden flight: Plymouth to Teignmouth and Cardiff



12 April 1933 Cardiff to Teignmouth, accepted by GWR at Plymouth (North Road)
no stamps available at Plymouth to pay the fee, entered mails with Newport 2:45 PM postmark
only 12 covers were at posted Newport



12 April 1933 Plymouth to Cardiff, accepted by GWR at Plymouth (North Road)
no stamps available at Plymouth to pay the fee, entered mails with Cardiff 1:15 PM postmark

Great Western Railway Air Service

Introduction of the G.W.R. 3d Air Mail Stamp (May 15, 1933)

On May 15, 1933 the Great Western Railway issued 3d stamps for their Air Service. A total of 10,000 stamps were printed in sheets of 20 (4 rows of 5 each) and control numbers were added starting with far right column, top to bottom and continuing left to right in each successive column.



original drawing by the stamp designer, G. Sawyer, as submitted to Waterlow & Sons



15 May 1933 Cardiff to Plymouth, first day use carried on the first flight of the day
3d Air Mail stamp #20 was the first stamp from the first sheet available to the public

Great Western Railway Air Service

Introduction of the G.W.R. 3d Air Mail Stamp (May 15, 1933)



largest known block from the first sheet of stamps
the sheet, control #000 to #019, was retained by G.W.R in their archives

Great Western Railway Air Service

Introduction of the G.W.R. 3d Air Mail Stamp (May 15, 1933)



unadopted essay for the
Air Services stamp



"Specimen" overprinted strip from sheet of 20,
all control #000, from the G.W.R archives

Great Western Railway Air Service

Introduction of the G.W.R. 3d Air Mail Stamp (May 15, 1933)



15 May 1933 Cardiff to Plymouth and return cover, signed by pilot Capt. F. Dismore first day use carried on the first round trip flight of the day, one of 25 carried



15 May 1933 Torquay to Cardiff, signed by pilot Capt. F. Dismore first day use carried on the first return flight of the day

Great Western Railway Air Service

Introduction of the G.W.R. 3d Air Mail Stamp (May 15, 1933)



15 May 1933

Torquay to Cardiff use

Enclosed letter of Sir Henry Mather Jackson, a director of the Great Western Railway Co. to his son.

Master C.E.P. Jackson,
Mytho Gwynn
61 Tydeau Rd.
Roath Park,
Cardiff.

Rosery View,
Torquay,
Devon.
14.5.1933

Dear Edgar,
I am sending this letter by the first Inland air mail which leaves for Cardiff tomorrow. Unfortunately the Post Office would not agree to my proposal to start an official service, but has agreed to running the service jointly with the Great Western Railway

I am sending this letter by the first Inland Airmail which leaves for Cardiff ... the Post Office would not agree to my proposal to start an official (contract) service, but has agreed to running jointly with the Great Western Railway Co, so the Air Mail Stamp will be a G.W.R. stamp ...

Great Western Railway Air Service

Extension of Service to Birmingham (May 22, 1933)



22 May 1933 Birmingham to Plymouth where it entered the mails first day of service on inaugural flight from Birmingham



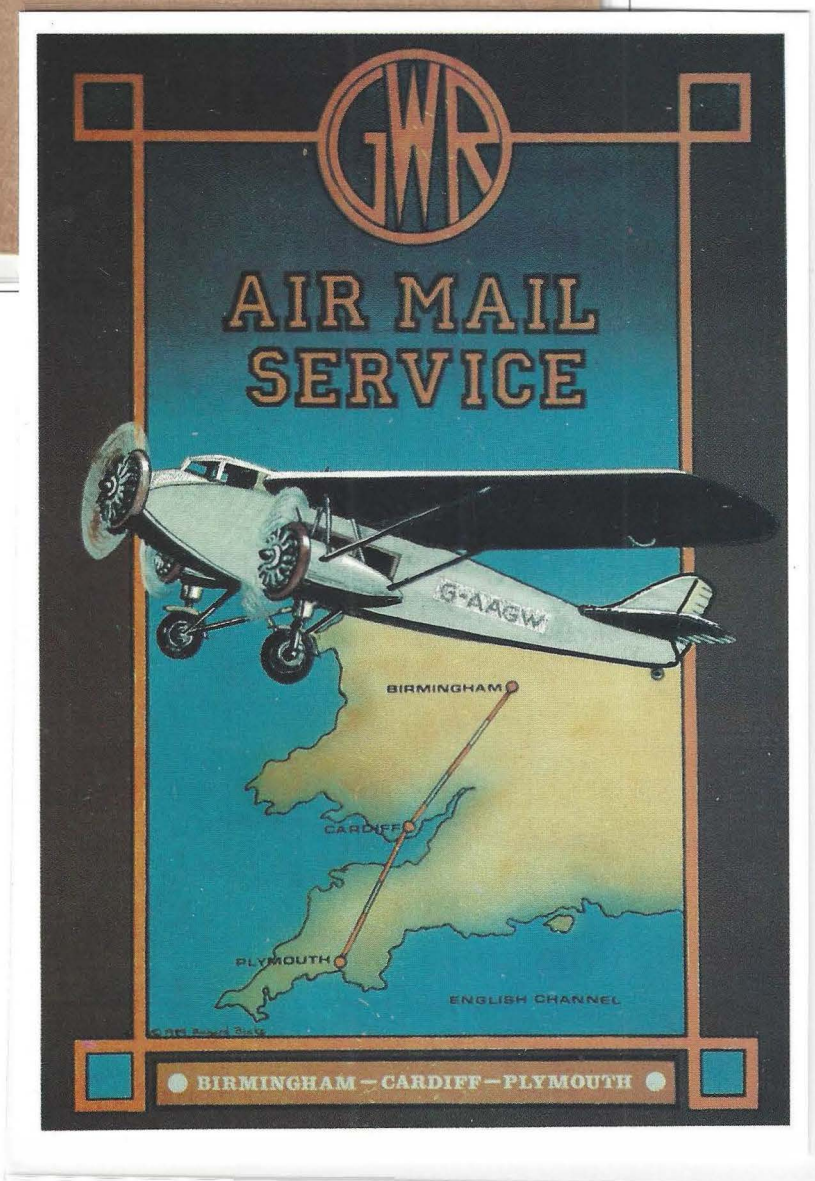
22 May 1933 Plymouth to Birmingham where it entered the mails first day use carried on the first return flight of the day

Great Western Railway Air Service

Extension of Service to Birmingham (May 22, 1933)



22 May 1933 Birmingham to Cardiff flight
"To Be Called For"
annotation as used on Railway Letter Mail
that was not to be posted



G.W.R. post card advertising
the new extension

Great Western Railway Air Service

First Sunday Service (June 18, 1933)



18 June 1933 Birmingham to Plymouth, accepted at Birmingham Snow Hill booking office
new acceptance datestamp introduced the same day at Birmingham Snow Hill

Test of New Extension Service to Newton Abbot (July 17, 1933)



17 July 1933 to GWR
service manager at
Torquay

accepted at Cardiff

entered the mails at
Newton Abbot

Great Western Railway Air Service

Last Day of Service (September 30, 1933)

After sustaining financial losses on their Air Service, the G.W.R. suspended operations on September 30, 1933. After making it from Birmingham to Cardiff, the final flight departed for Plymouth but was forced to return due to bad weather at destination.



30 September 1933 Birmingham by air to Cardiff, onward by rail to Teigenmouth



30 September 1933 Birmingham to Cardiff by air, onward by rail to Plymouth