# New Zealand Prisoner of War Airmails

9000 NZ troops captured in WW2; 4000 in Greece/Crete in Apr/May 1941 & 2000 in North Africa in Nov/Dec 1941

New Zealand POW Airmail to and from Europe sent via USA and Lisbon

Special NZ POW air mail rates in August 1941:

3s 0d: air wherever possible. Before Pearl Harbor, mail flown transPacific by *Pan Am, a*fter December 1941 it crossed Pacific by sea often to Panama. Then air to Lisbon via New York

1s 0d: sea to USA then air to Lisbon

POW air mail from Italy: 2L 75c; from Germany 40Rpf;

surface mail was free

# Main Routes

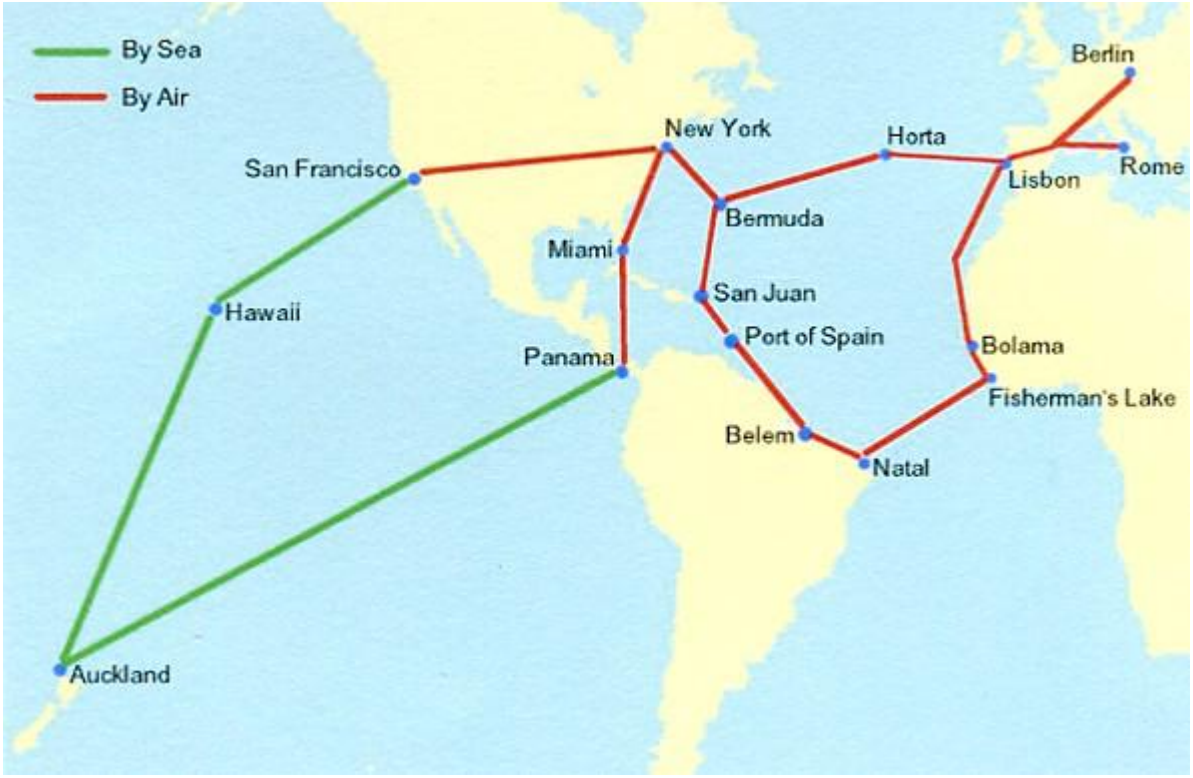
Route New York to Lisbon was via Bermuda and (Horta) Azores.

In reverse, that was summer route from Lisbon.

Winter route from Lisbon was via West Africa, Brazil, Trinidad, Puerto Rica and Bermuda to New York

POW air mail from Italian POW camps flown Rome – Lisbon by *Ala Littoria*.

POW air mail from German POW camps flown Berlin – Lisbon by *Lufthansa*.



# New Zealand - Geneva

Postmarked 15 Dec 1941.
Missed last *Pan Am* transPacific flight.

Sent by sea to USA,
air in USA, air to Lisbon.
Then through Spain and Vichy France to Geneva.

Then sent to *Stalag IX C* near Leipzig.



# POW Air Mail from Italy

Letter dated 24 Dec 1942
Sent from *Campo PG 47* near Modena.

Flown Rome – Lisbon via Barcelona and Madrid by *Ala Littoria*.

Flown to NZ via West Africa, South America, Caribbean, Bermuda and USA.

Opened by censors in Italy and in Chicago.

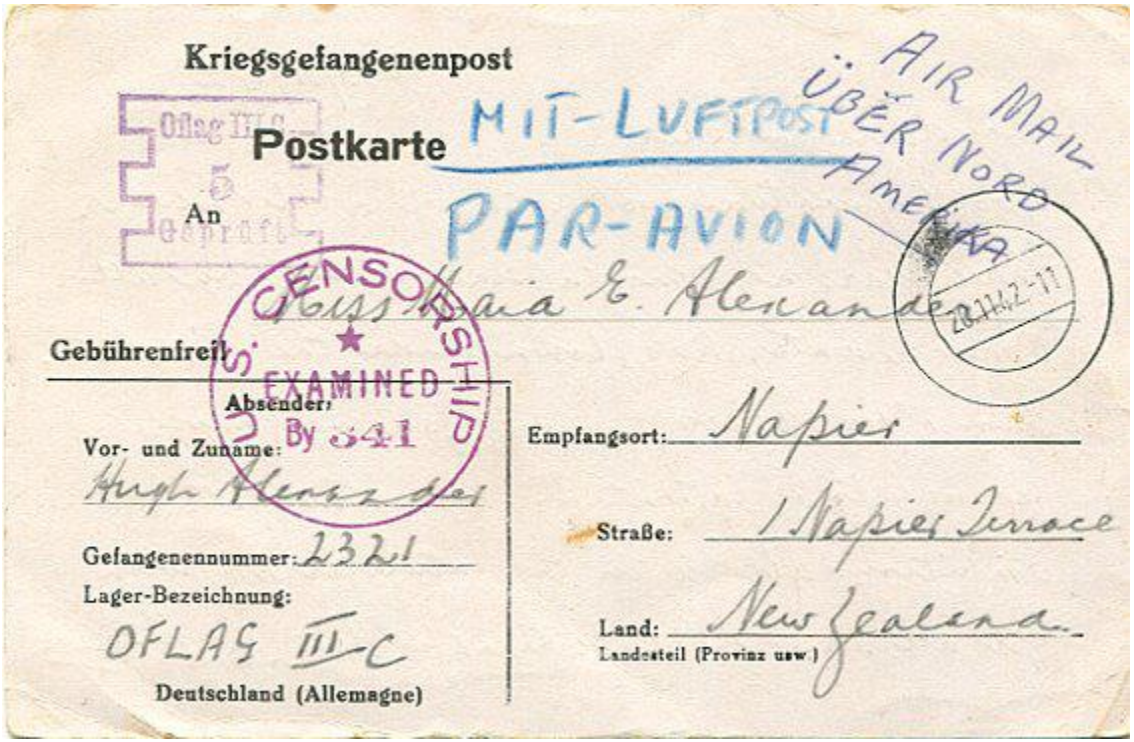


# NZ POW Air Mail from Germany

Postcard postmarked on 20 November 1942.
Sent from *Offlag IIIC* in Lubben, Brandenburg.

From March 1942 air mail from Berlin sent via Stuttgart, Barcelona and Madrid to Lisbon.
Then flown via West Africa and South America to NY.

Chicago censor mark.



# NZ POW Air Mail from Germany

Lettersheet dated 29 Oct inside, but not postmarked until 24 Nov 1942.

Sent from *Stalag VIIIB* in Lamsdorf, Silesia.
Has *Tax percue RM 80 Rpf* handstamp and so twice the normal rate.

Sent by 5 continent winter airmail route.

Has Chicago censor mark.

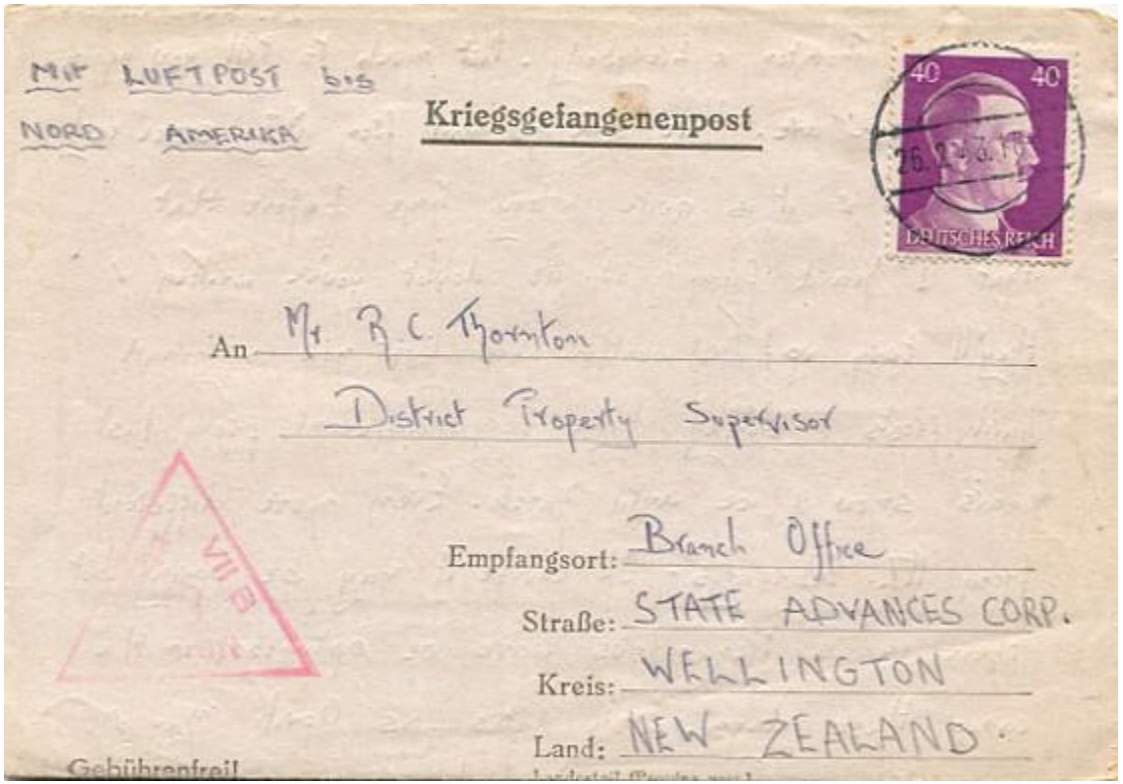


# NZ POW Air Mail from Germany

Lettersheet postmarked
26 Feb 1943.
Sent from *Offlag VIIB* in
Eichstatt, Bavaria.

Unusually it has a postage stamp rather than a *Tax percue RM 40 Rpf* handstamp.

Sent by 5 continent winter air mail route.




Not clear that the recipient would appreciate being sent a picture of Hitler.

# NZ Air Mail to Red Cross in Geneva

Air Mail to Red Cross could use the POW concessionary rate. Franked with 1s 0d: sea to USA, air to Lisbon.

Cover postmarked September 1942. Likely contain an enquiry about location of POW and 40 word message for onward transmission to POW.

Germany occupied Vichy France in Nov 1942 and air mail to Switzerland sent to Paris to be censored. This cover:

1. NZ censor 54
2. New York censor 6525
3. German censor in Paris (code X)

More examples and descriptions on my *New Zealand Stamp Images* website at: www.nzstamps.org.uk

