

Optional Use of Additional Domestic Airmail Service in Turkish Foreign Airmails

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Abstract

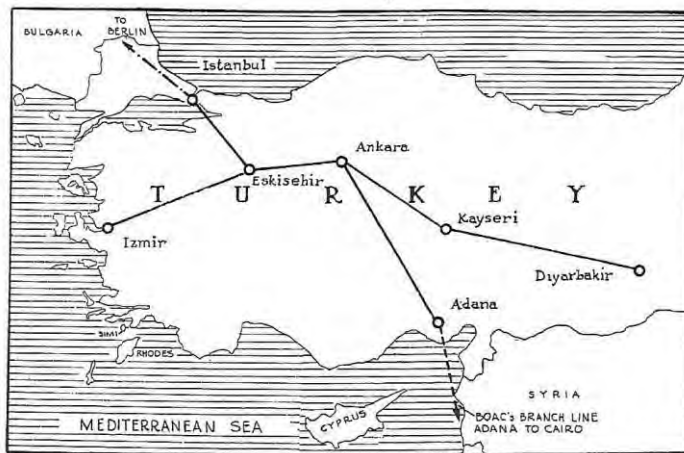
In 1934, Turkish Post began to offer an optional domestic airmail service to carry foreign destination mails that were sent from Ankara travelling via Istanbul. If the sender wished to pay extra for the additional domestic airline fee, foreign mails were carried from Ankara to Istanbul with airmail, instead of surface mail, to be then travelled to their destinations abroad. In later years, this optional service had been extended to other cities in Türkiye where domestic airline service were provided. Optional use of domestic airmail service in Turkish foreign destination mails remained in place until **1950's**. This article reveals the use of this Turkish postal service for the first time.

Background

CFRNA (Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne) founded in 1920, then changed its name to CIDNA (Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne) in 1925, began to provide first domestic and international airmail services (Postes Aériennes) in Türkiye in 1924. Although CIDNA's international airmail services continued in the following years (along with other airline compagnies later on, such as Aeroespresso, Luft Hansa), their domestic airmail services stopped by the end of 1924. There were no domestic airmail services until after Devlet Hava Meydanları İşletmeleri (The State Airports Enterprise) and Devlet Hava Yolları İşletmeleri (State Airlines Enterprise) were established in 1933, to begin providing domestic airline services in Türkiye in 1934 and onwards.

Turkish domestic airmail rates between 1934 and 1959		
Period	Domestic airmail rate (20 gr)	Notes
27 May 1934 - 6 September 1936	7,5 kr	(5 kr airmail fee, 2,5 kr Carrier's charge)
6 September 1936 - 14 May 1942	4,5 kr	(3 kr airmail fee, 1,5 kr Carrier's charge)
14 May 1942 - 1 March 1944	7,5 kr	
1 March 1944 - 1 July 1948	6 kr	
1 July 1948 - 15 June 1959	5 kr	

Reference : Postal Rates of Republic of Turkey 1920 - 1950, by Mehmet Akan, Selçuk Akar, Turhan Turgut RDP FRPSL, Emre Utku - p 230,

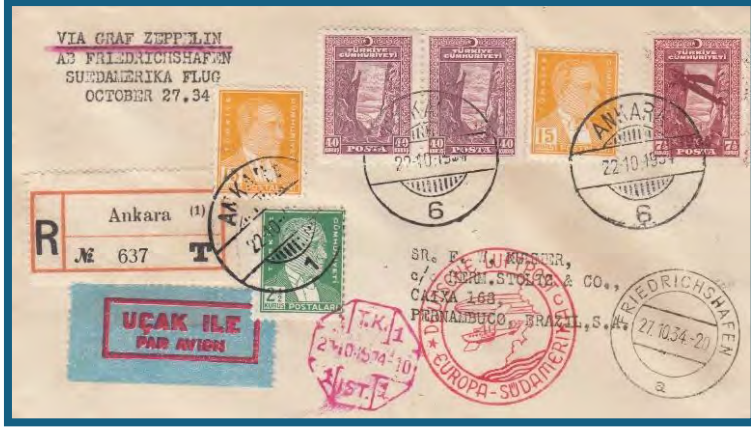


Turkish State Airports (Devlet Hava Meydanları) and routes of Turkish State Airlines (Devlet Hava Yolları) during World War II

(Source: Airmail Operations during World War II, Thomas H. Boyle Jr., p.555, Figure 241)

Examples of optional use of additional domestic airmail service in Turkish foreign destination mails

EXHIBIT 1A



Both Zeppelin letters sent from Türkiye to Pernambuco Brazil, have the same departure date; 22 October 1934. The one sent from Ankara (in Exhibit 1A) was carried from Ankara to Istanbul by airmail as additional 7.5 **kuruş** domestic airmail rate fee properly applied with 7.5 **kuruş** value stamp of the first "1934 Turkish airmail issue", bearing airplane overprint.

EXHIBIT 1B (*)



In 1934, it was compulsory to use only airmail issue stamps for domestic airmail surtax. This requirement was soon abandoned a couple of years later, consequently ordinary postage stamps could also be used for airmail fee and airmail stamps could be used as ordinary postage stamps.

(*) Cover in Exhibit 1B from Selçuk Akar's collection

EXHIBIT 1A VS EXHIBIT 1B		Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Foreign Registration Fee	Türkiye to Brazil Zeppelin Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
1A	Registered Zeppelin letter sent to Brazil from Ankara via Istanbul, also carried with domestic airmail from Ankara to Istanbul	22.10.1934	12,5 kuruş	17,5 kuruş	82,5 kuruş	7,5 kuruş	120 kuruş
1B	Zeppelin letter sent to Brazil from Istanbul	22.10.1934	12,5 kuruş		82,5 kuruş		95 kuruş

EXHIBIT 2A



Both letters sent from Türkiye to Germany by airmail, the one in Exhibit 2A from Ankara on 7 July 1937, the one in Exhibit 2B from Istanbul on 18 June 1939. Airmail rate from Türkiye to Germany is 12 kuruş at both dates.

The letter sent from Ankara, bearing writings *Par Avion Yust. Istanbul* and *Jusqu'a Istanbul avion*, meaning that the letter carried by air from Ankara to Istanbul. Total postage of 29 kuruş includes 4,5 kuruş domestic airmail fee in addition to 12,5 kuruş foreign letter fee and 12 kuruş airmail fee to Germany.

EXHIBIT 2B



	EXHIBIT 2A VS EXHIBIT 2B	Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Türkiye to Germany Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
2A	Airmail letter to Germany sent from Ankara, also carried with domestic airmail from Ankara to Istanbul	7.07.1937	12,5 kuruş	12 kuruş	4,5 kuruş	29 kuruş
2B	Airmail letter to Germany sent from Istanbul	4.02.1937	12,5 kuruş	12 kuruş		24,5 kuruş

EXHIBIT 3A



Both letters were sent to USA from Istanbul (from Istanbul American College / Robert College in Bebek) by airmail; the one in Exhibit 3A on 25 September 1942 and the other in Exhibit 3B on 24 October 1942. Airmail rate from Türkiye to USA at both dates is 75 kr (per 10 gr) and both letters followed the Adana, Cairo, Lagos route.

EXHIBIT 3B (**)



The letter in Exhibit 3A, bears post officer's handwriting in red in Turkish **"Adana'ya kadar uçakile"** meaning that it was carried by domestic airmail from Istanbul to Adana, before it took Cairo Lagos route. Total postage of 92,5 kuruş includes 7,5 kuruş domestic airmail fee in addition to 10 kuruş foreign letter fee and 75 kuruş airmail fee to USA.

(**) Cover in Exhibit 3B from Ozan Kuntay's collection

EXHIBIT 3A VS EXHIBIT 3B		Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Türkiye to USA Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
3A	Airmail letter to USA sent from Istanbul via Adana, also carried with domestic airmail from Istanbul	25.09.1942	10 kuruş	75 kuruş	7,5 kuruş	92,5 kuruş
3B	Airmail letter to USA sent from Istanbul via Adana, carried with domestic surface mail from Istanbul to Adana	24.10.1942	10 kuruş	75 kuruş		85 kuruş

EXHIBIT 4A



Both letters were sent to USA by airmail; the one in Exhibit 4A on 11 April 1947 and the other in Exhibit 4B on 17 May 1947. Airmail rate from Türkiye to USA at both dates is 60 kr (per 10 gr) and followed Istanbul-London-Ireland-USA route with Pan American World Airways.

The letter in Exhibit 4A, was also carried from Adana to Istanbul with domestic airmail as **additional 6 kuruş** domestic airmail was paid. Total postage of **86 kuruş** includes 6 kuruş domestic airmail fee in addition to 20 kuruş foreign letter fee and 60 kuruş airmail fee to USA.

EXHIBIT 4B

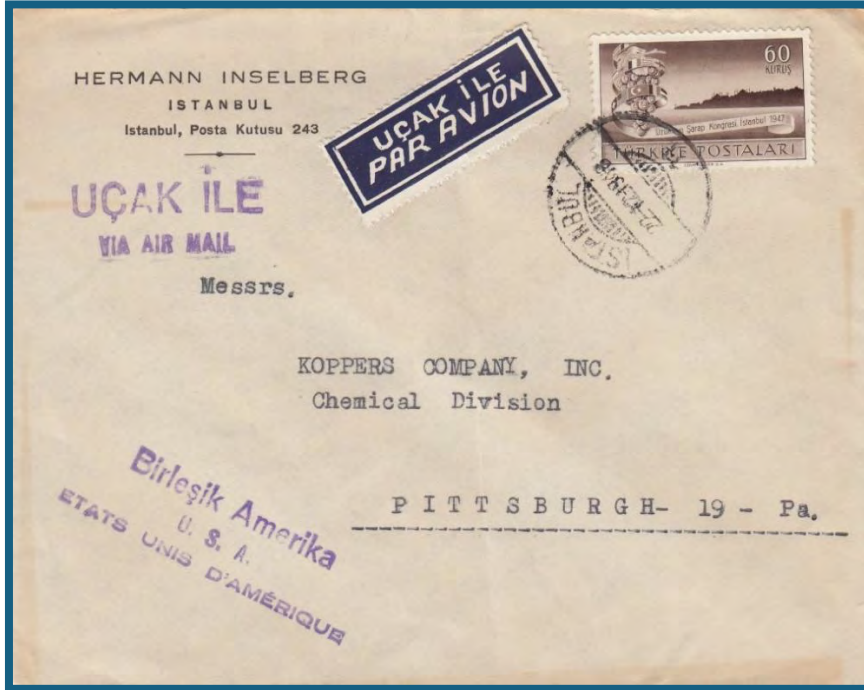


	EXHIBIT 4A VS EXHIBIT 4B	Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Türkiye to USA Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
4A	Airmail letter to USA sent from Adana via Istanbul, also carried with domestic airmail from Adana to Istanbul	11.04.1947	20 kuruş	60 kuruş	6 kuruş	86 kuruş
4B	Airmail letter to USA sent from Istanbul	17.05.1947	20 kuruş	60 kuruş		80 kuruş

EXHIBIT 5A



EXHIBIT 5B



Both letters were sent to USA by airmail; the one in Exhibit 5A on 21 May 1948 and the other in Exhibit 5B on 22 December 1948. Airmail rate from Türkiye to USA at both dates is 40 kr (per 10gr).

The letter in Exhibit 5A, was also carried from Kozan (Adana) to Istanbul with domestic airmail as **additional 6 kuruş** domestic airmail was paid. Total **postage of 106 kuruş** includes 6 kuruş domestic airmail fee in addition to 20 kuruş foreign letter fee, 40 kuruş registration fee and 40 kuruş airmail fee to USA.

	EXHIBIT 5A VS EXHIBIT 5B	Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Foreign Registration Fee	Türkiye to USA Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
5A	Registered airmail letter to USA sent from Kozan (Adana) via Istanbul, also carried with domestic airmail from Adana to Istanbul	21.05.1948	20 kuruş	60 kuruş	40 kuruş	6 kuruş	106 kuruş
5B	Airmail letter to USA sent from Istanbul	22.12.1948	20 kuruş		40 kuruş		60 kuruş

EXHIBIT 6A



Both letters were sent to USA by airmail; the one in Exhibit 6A on 1 June 1950 and the other in Exhibit 5B on 18 October 1949. Airmail rate from Türkiye to USA at both dates is 40 kr (per 10 gr).

The letter in Exhibit 6A, was also carried from Ankara to Istanbul with domestic airmail as additional 6 kuruş domestic airmail was paid. Total postage of 65 kuruş includes 5 kuruş domestic airmail fee in addition to 20 kuruş foreign letter fee and 40 kuruş airmail fee to USA.

EXHIBIT 6B

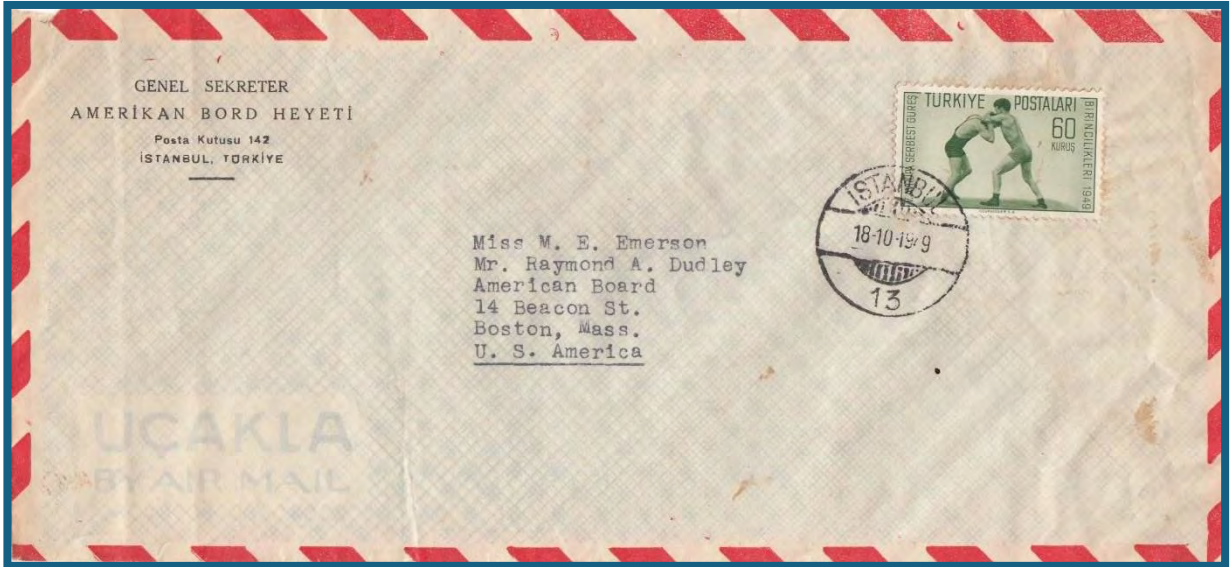


	EXHIBIT 6A VS EXHIBIT 6B	Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Türkiye to USA Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
6A	Airmail letter to USA sent from Ankara via Istanbul, also carried with domestic airmail from Ankara to Istanbul	1.06.1950	20 kuruş	40 kuruş	5 kuruş	65 kuruş
6B	Airmail letter to USA sent from Istanbul	18.10.1949	20 kuruş	40 kuruş		60 kuruş

EXHIBIT 7A



Both letters were sent to from Izmir to Switzerland by airmail; the one in Exhibit 7A on 18 March 1949 and the other in Exhibit 7B on 30 August 1950. Airmail rate from Türkiye to Switzerland at both dates is 20 kr (per 20 gr).

The letter in Exhibit 7A, was also carried from Izmir to Istanbul with domestic airmail as additional 5 kuruş domestic airmail fee was paid. Total postage of 45 kuruş includes 5 kuruş domestic airmail rate in addition to 20 kuruş foreign letter fee and 20 kuruş airmail fee to Switzerland.

These examples show that the use of additional domestic airmail service in Turkish foreign destination mails were optional, not compulsory.

EXHIBIT 7B



EXHIBIT 7A VS EXHIBIT 7B		Departure Date	Foreign Letter Rate	Türkiye to Switzerland Airmail Rate	Domestic Airmail Rate	Total Postage Paid
7A	Airmail letter to Switzerland sent from Izmir via Istanbul, also carried with domestic airmail from Izmir to Istanbul	18.03.1949	20 kuruş	20 kuruş	5 kuruş	45 kuruş
7B	Airmail letter to Switzerland sent from Izmir via Istanbul, carried with domestic surface mail from Izmir to Istanbul	30.08.1950	20 kuruş	20 kuruş		40 kuruş

Note: Letter in Exhibit 7 was sent on August 30th, Turkish Victory Day. Additional 1 kuruş Red Crescent and 1 kuruş Aviation Defence Tax stamps were properly applied, as their use was compulsory on that day.

References:

Foreign letter & registration rates: Postal Rates of Republic of Turkey 1920 - 1950, by Mehmet Akan, Selçuk Akar, Turhan Turgut RDP FRPSL, Emre Utku - p 164, Table III.1.1 & p 190 Table III.1.1