

7.5 AIRMAIL SURCHARGES – AIRSHIP MAIL

From 1930 until 1937, mail from Hungary could be carried on Zeppelin and, later, on Hindenburg flights, both special single tours and later more regular flights, particularly to South America. The instructions and postal surcharges for such flights are given below, taken from the relevant PTRTs, which are translated below.

Airmail surcharges – ‘Graf Zeppelin’ - South American tour, 1930

Airmail parcels can also be sent from Hungary with the “Graf Zeppelin” airship.

Airmail parcels can also be sent from Hungary with the ‘Graf Zeppelin’ airship on its planned trip to South America between May 10th and 15th of this year, via the German Post.

According to the German Post Office, the airship will travel via Spain to Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco. Weather permitting, it will also fly over the Canary Islands.

There will be stopovers and mail exchange in Seville, Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco. The airship is expected to drop off mail in Santa Cruz and Tenerife (Canary Islands) and Bahia (Brazil). The plan is for the rest of the journey to take it from Pernambuco via Havana (Cuba) to Lakehurst (United States of America). Depending on the weather conditions, the airship will land and exchange mail in Havana or drop mail over Havana. From Lakehurst, the airship will return to Friedrichshafen via Seville and on this journey will land and exchange mail in Seville.

Ordinary letter-post items may be sent by airship under the following conditions:

1. The weight of each letter shall not exceed 20 g.
2. Letter-post air items shall be marked ‘By air’ or a blue sticker shall be used and the appropriate air route and destination as shown in the table below shall be clearly marked at the top of the cover.

For those, the total fee set out below shall also be charged, depending on the distance to which the air transport is carried out:

The place to which the air transport is carried out:	The sender shall state in a conspicuous manner at the top of the cover of the letter-post item:	Total fee:	
		Letter	Postcard
Sevilla	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Sevilla</i>	3.50 P	1.80 P
Santa-Cruz de Tenerife	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Santa Cruz de Tenerife</i>	6.00 P	3.00 P
Rio de Janeiro	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Rio de Janeiro</i>	6.00 P	3.00 P
Bahia (Brazil)	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Bahia (Brasilien)</i>	6.00 P	3.00 P
Pernambuco	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Pernambuco</i>	6.00 P	3.00 P
Habana (Cuba)	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Habana (Cuba)</i>	12.00 P -	6.00 P
Lakehurst	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Lakehurst</i>	12.00 P	6.00 P
Friedrichshafen (Bodensee)	<i>Mit LuFtschiff Graf Zeppelin Friedrichshafen—Südamerika—Friedrichshafen</i>	18.00 P	9.00 P

Source: PTRT 18, 07.05.1930.

Airmail surcharges – ‘Graf Zeppelin’ - European tour 1931

The Zeppelin airship will fly to Budapest on March 29th of this year, land there, then make a few hours of circular flight over Hungary,

then land again in Budapest and finally return to its base in Friedrichshafen.

Ordinary letters and postcards can be sent with these airship flights under the following conditions.

1. The weight of the letters may not exceed 20 g each.
2. Airmail items must be marked ‘By air’ or have a blue airmail sticker. In addition, the appropriate air route must be indicated prominently at the top of their cover, according to the table below, and the items, if they are transported by the Zeppelin during its circular flight in Hungary or its return to Germany, will be subject to the following airmail surcharge in addition to the regular postal rate corresponding to the destination of the letter-mail item. The sender shall make a conspicuous entry at the top of the address of the letter-post item:

	Airmail surcharge:	per letter:	per postcard:
'To be delivered on the route of the Zeppelin airship around Hungary'		2.00 P	1.00 P
'From Hungary to Friedrichshafen by Zeppelin airship'		3.00 P	2.00 P

Senders who wish to send letter-post airmail items to Hungary on the journey of the airship from Friedrichshafen to Budapest must proceed as follows and charge the following total fee for the items:

The sender shall make a conspicuous entry at the top of the address of the letter-post item:

	total fee:	per letter:	per postcard:
' <i>Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin von Friedrichshafen nach Budapest.</i> '		3.50 P	2.00 P

The latter charges also include the charges for airmail transport on the route between Budapest and Friedrichshafen. Such items are sent by Budapest Post Office No. 72 to Friedrichshafen by regular airmail. There, the Friedrichshafen Post Office hands them over to the airship for transport, after having provided them with a special handstamp for this purpose, with the inscription '*Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Ungarnfahrt 1931.*'

3. Airmail items brought to Budapest by Zeppelin are provided by the Hungarian Post Office with a red handstamp specially made for this purpose, with the inscription "Arrived by Zeppelin 1931". The drawing depicts the airship.

The Hungarian Post Office will handstamp the correspondence sent for the Hungarian circumnavigation with a blue stamp with the inscription 'Zeppelin Hungarian Circumnavigation 1931', and the correspondence sent for the airship's Budapest-Friedrichshafen journey with a green stamp with the inscription "Zeppelin I. Hungary-Germany Journey 1931". One of the latter two stamps depicts the airship and some aircraft, while the other depicts the airship flying over the Parliament Building. The Hungarian circumnavigation depends on weather conditions. The following cities are planned for mail drop: Debrecen, Kaposvár, Pécs, Szeged, Székesfehérvár and Szombathely. The temporary post office set up at the Csepel airport on the day of the circumnavigation will provide information regarding which cities the airship will drop mail over. The airmail items in the dropped bag shall be stamped with the regular east postmark by the delivering post office of the city.

4. Letter mail airmail items for any journey of the airship may be prepaid with ordinary and airmail stamps, but the full postage of the items is mandatory. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters will be returned to the senders.

5. On this occasion, the Hungarian Post Office will issue special airmail stamps with the denominations of 1 Pengő and 2 Pengő. The design of these stamps is identical to the design of the Pengő airmail stamps currently in circulation, but the 1 Pengő is orange-yellow and the 2 Pengő is purple, and the following text can be seen in black on the 1 Pengő and green on the 2 Pengő: 'Zeppelin 1931'. The stamps can only be used for salary exemption during the current Zeppelin trip to Hungary.

The valuables warehouse will officially supply these stamps to Budapest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 62, 72 and 114, as well as to the provincial treasury post offices, which will sell the stamps from March 23rd to March 29th.

Any remaining stock at the end of the month should be submitted by the offices, accompanied by a pair of receipts, to the stamp sales office of the Royal Hungarian Post Office, Budapest 114, on March 30th of the current year.

Such letter mail airmail items can be posted at any post office or via any letter collection box, and on March 29th at the temporary post office in Csepel. However, the items for the Zeppelin's Friedrichshafen-Budapest journey must be posted in Budapest by the evening of March 25th at the latest, and in the countryside by the evening of March 24th. The post offices should send them to Budapest Post Office No. 72 for forwarding to the appropriate air route. Neither the Hungarian nor the German Post will refund the air transport charges charged by the senders for letter mail airmail items intended for the planned air routes of the Zeppelin airship, even if the transport is carried out only part of the way by airship, or if it is not carried out at all. The postal administrations do not guarantee that the air transport of the items will be carried out entirely according to the planned route.

Airmail surcharges – 'Graf Zeppelin' - Polar tour and South American tour, 1931

Airmail mail can also be sent from Hungary on the routes planned by the 'Graf Zeppelin' airship in the second half of the current year. The airship planned the following routes in the second half of 1931:

1. The Arctic route on July 24. Stopovers in Berlin-Staaken and Leningrad. Mail drop over the Russian icebreaker 'Malygin' and the Franz Josef Land.
2. The first South American route on August 26. Stopover in Pernambuco. Mail drop over the Atlantic archipelago.
3. The second South American route on September 19. Stopover in Pernambuco. Mail drop over the Atlantic archipelago.
4. The Spanish route on October 7. Stopover in Seville. Dropping of mail over Toulouse.

The weight of each letter sent by Zeppelin must not exceed 20 grams. The letter mail airmail must be marked 'By airmail' or a blue airmail sticker. In addition, the appropriate air route must be clearly marked at the top of the

cover. The note should be written in German, preferably in the following way. For the first journey: '*Polarfahrt 1931*', for the second and third journeys '*Südamerikafahrt 1931*' and for the fourth journey '*Spanienfahrt 1931*'. The following total postage must be charged in Hungarian postage stamps on such letter mail airmail items sent in Hungary:

Northern Hemisphere:	Letter:	Postcard:
To Berlin	4 P.....	2 P
To Leningrad	4 P.....	2 P
To the 'Malygin' icebreaker .	8 P.....	4 P
To the Franz-Joseph area...	8 P.....	4 P
South American routes:		
To Pernambuco	8 P.....	4 P
To the Atlantic islands	8 P	4 P
Other routes	4 P.....	2 P

These rates also include the cost of air transport on the route between Budapest and Friedrichshafen. The items are sent by regular airmail from Budapest Post Office No. 72 to Friedrichshafen, where they are handed over to the airship with a special stamp.

The German postal administration assumes no responsibility for any changes in the schedule. It is therefore desirable that the sender indicates on the item itself or on the accompanying document what should happen to the item if it cannot be forwarded on the specified route.

Airmail items intended for forwarding by Zeppelin must be posted at any post office or at any letter box in Budapest no later than 2 days and in the countryside no later than 3 days before the above departure dates of the Zeppelin airship. Post offices should post the items with the usual Eastern postmark and forward them to Budapest Post Office No. 72. On this occasion, I once again call the attention of the offices to pay special attention to the legible and clear postmarking of the items. The postmark on the items must be stamped so that the postmark covers only part of the stamp image. Budapest Post Office No. 72 The Hungarian Post Office, in addition to the Eastern Postmark, will provide items sent in Hungary with a special airmail postmark with the inscription 'Zeppelin, 1931. Arctic route' for the Arctic route, and with the 'Zeppelin route' for the other routes, which have been used until now. Both postmarks depict the image of the Zeppelin. The Hungarian or German Post Office will not refund the airmail charges charged on letter mail airmail items intended for transport by Zeppelin airship, even if the transport is only part of the route or not at all by airship. The postal administrations will not assume any responsibility for the complete transport of items by air according to the planned routes.

Airmail surcharges – 'Graf Zeppelin' - Third South American tour, 1931

PTRT 45, 10.10.1931: Airmail consignments can also be sent from Hungary to the planned 3rd South American flight of the Graf Zeppelin airship.

The airship is expected to depart from Friedrichshafen at midnight on October 16th of this year. Its route will take it to Pernambuco. In connection with the stopover in Pernambuco, the Condor Syndicate intends to organize another separate air route on this trip, this time via Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires. The combined route of the airship and the aircraft provides the opportunity to forward airmails to Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. The airship route is not advantageous for forwarding consignments to Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and (French, British and Dutch) Guiana. The airship will only accept consignments to the latter states at the express request of the sender.

Postcards, letters, printed matter, business papers, sample items and bundled items may be sent to the places corresponding to the above-mentioned route. The weight of the latter items may be up to 50 g, but there is no limit to the weight of the letters. The items may also be sent registered.

The following total fee must be charged in Hungarian postage stamps for such letter mail items sent in Hungary:

for postcards	4 P
for letters up to 20 g.	8 P
for each additional 20 g of the letter	4 P
for printed matter, business papers, sample items, bundled items up to 50 g	2 P

These fees also include the cost of transport between Budapest and Friedrichshafen.

The fee for registered mail is 50 f in addition to the above fees.

The airship transports the items, depending on the addressee's place of residence, either to Pernambuco or by connecting airmail to Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Paraná, Florianopolis, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande, Montevideo or Buenos Aires. Items destined for other destinations are transported to Pernambuco or Buenos Aires, depending

on the sender's wishes. Beyond these destinations, the items are then forwarded by regular mail. The appropriate air route must be clearly indicated at the top of the cover of letter-post items and:

1. items to South America: with the inscription '*Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin nach Südamerika*';
2. items to other destinations must be marked '*Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Pernambuco*' or '*Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin und Anschlussflug bis Buenos-Aires*' depending on the route desired by the sender.

Airmail labels must not be affixed to the items.

All items transported by the Zeppelin airship on its 3rd South American journey will be handstamped by the German Post Office with the inscription '*Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 3rd Südamerikafahrt 1931.*'

Items forwarded on the connecting airmail flight from Pernambuco will probably also be stamped by the Brazilian postal administration.

Items destined for Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro are also provided with a special advertising stamp.

Letter mail airmail items intended for forwarding by Zeppelin must be posted at any post office in Hungary or via any letter collection point in Budapest by the evening of October 14 of the current year at the latest, and in the countryside by the evening of the 13th. Post offices should stamp the items with the usual Eastern postmark and forward them to Budapest Post Office No. 72. Registered items must be indicated separately in the column sheet and marked '*... drb./ Zeppelin*'.

On this occasion, I would also like to draw the attention of post offices to the fact that they should pay special attention to the legible and clear stamping of the items. The stamps on the items must be stamped in such a way that the stamp impression covers only part of the stamp image.

The items are sent by Budapest Post Office No. 72 to Friedrichshafen by the most advantageous and fastest possible transport route for delivery to the airship.

The German postal administration assumes no responsibility for any changes in the schedule. It is therefore desirable for the sender to indicate on the item itself or on the accompanying document what should happen to the item if it cannot be forwarded by the indicated route.

Airmail surcharges – 'Graf Zeppelin' - South America route 1932.

To: Brazil :

- a) letters and postcards, per 5 g 2.50 P.
- b) other items, per 25 g, 2.50 P.

To: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay:

- a) letters and postcards, per 5 g, 3.00 P.
- b) other items, per 25 g 3.00 P.

Source: PRT 9, 01.103.1932

Airmail surcharges – Zeppelin airship - 1932 European tour 1932

Ordinary and registered airmail items could be sent from Hungary on the routes listed below planned for June and July 1932. The planned airmail routes are as follows:

1. On June 28 to Switzerland. Mail drop in Zurich.
2. On July 30 to Danzig for the airmail exhibition held there. In connection with this, a round trip over Bornholm. Mail drop was expected to be over **Rønne**.

Only postcards and letters can be forwarded on the airship routes indicated above. The weight of the letters may not exceed 20 grams each. The following total fee must be charged in Hungarian postage stamps for items sent in Hungary:

- | | |
|---------------|--------|
| for postcards | 1.50 P |
| for letters. | 3.00 P |

These fees include the regular postage fee (20 and 40 *fillér*), as well as the Budapest and Friedrichshafen and the Zeppelin airship air freight fee. A registration fee of 50 *filler* must also be charged for registered items. Items intended for postal drop cannot be sent as registered items.

Source: PTRT 23, 23.06.1932

Airmail surcharges – Zeppelin flights -South America and Europe flights 1933

For the 1933 summer season, regular flights **from Friedrichshafen to Pernambuco** took place. The costs were:

1. The air surcharge for air transport between Budapest—Berlin—Friedrichshafen (16 *fillér* per 20 g).

2. The following transportation fee for the Zeppelin airship and connecting occasional flights arranged on the South American continent according to the type of item and destination:

1. To Brazil.

a) letters and postcards	per 5 g	2.50 P.
b) other items	per 25 g	2.50 P.

2. To Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay (Peru) and Uruguay.

a) letters and postcard	per 5 g	3.00 P.
b) other items	per 25 g	3.00 P.

For example, the total discharge fee for a 15 g express registered letter to La Paz (Bolivia) is as follows:

1. The regular postal fee to South America	0.40 P
Registered fee	0.50 P
Express fee	0.80 P
2. The fee for transportation by Zeppelin flight 3.00 P per 5 g, total	9.00 P
3. The air surcharge for the Budapest—Friedrichshafen route	0.16 P
Total	10.86 P

For the single flight from Friedrichshafen to Pernambuco via Rome (28/9 May):

1. Ordinary postal fee, possibly registered or express fee, corresponding to the destination.
2. Airmail surcharge for air transport between Budapest and Rome (32 *fillér* per 20 g).
3. The following freight charges for forwarding by Zeppelin airship, according to the country of destination:

From Rome to Friedrichshafen:

a) postcard per piece	1.00 P
b) letter per 5 g	1.60 P

From Rome to Brazil:

a) postcard per piece	3.20 P
b) letter per 5 g .	3.80 P

From Rome to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

a) postcard per piece	4.60 P
b) letter per 5 g	6.10 P

Flights in Europe:

During the year 1933 the Zeppelin airship will make the following flights in Europe:

May 28 to Rome, mail drop in Livorno and Naples.

June 25 to Saarbrücken.

July 28 to Switzerland, mail drop: in Bern.

July 22 to Barcelona.

August 24 to Switzerland, mail drop in St.-Gallen.

Only ordinary and registered postcards and letters can be forwarded with these flights. The weight of the letters may not exceed 20 grams. Postage charges for items:

Postcards	1.50 P
Letters	3.00 P

The charges included the regular postal charge, the charges for the Budapest—Friedrichshafen airtime and the charges for transport by Zeppelin airship. A registration charge of 50 *filler* will also be charged for items sent as registered mail.

Source: **PTRT 18, 28.04.1933**

Airmail surcharges – ‘Graf Zeppelin’ flights - 1935

Initially, it was planned as follows: from July 15 to October South American flights to Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires. Rate 0.70 P per 5 g. Source: addendum to **PTRT 16, 12.07.1935**. This was then changed due to the Stuttgart to Maracaibo aircraft flights the same year. The revised programme goes to other places in South America.

Airmail surcharges – ‘Hindenburg’ flights - 1936

PTRT 14, 01.04.1936 gives the following data:

‘According to information received from the German administration, the Hindenburg airship will fly to the United States of America on May 6, 17 and June 18, 1936. The airship will depart from Frankfurt am Main and land in Lakehurst (near New York) in the United States. The flight time between Europe and America will be approximately three days. On the planned routes, the airship will carry ordinary and registered letters, postcards, samples, printed matter and business papers to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, Colombia and Venezuela. The surcharge for such items posted in Hungary is as follows:

1. Items to be transported by airship to New York and from there by ordinary mail:

- a) letters and postcards, per 5 g 2.00 P
- b) other items per 5 g 0.60 P

2. Items to be transported by airship to New York and from there by air:

- a) letters and postcards per 5 g 2.00 P
plus the regular airmail surcharge established for the country in question in the Airmail Tariff.
- b) other items per 5 g 0.60 P
plus the regular airmail surcharge established for the country in question in the Airmail Tariff.

‘The fees listed at 1. and 2. above do not include the regular postal fee (letters up to 20 g. 40 f, postcards 20 f, etc.), nor the possible registered fee, which must be paid separately. Items to be sent by Hindenburg airship can be posted at any post office or via a letter box and must be marked with the following conspicuous note. If the item is to be sent by air only to New York: ‘*Mit Luftschiff nach Nordamerika*’; if it is to be sent by air beyond New York: ‘*Mit Luftschiff nach Nordamerika und mit Luftpost ab New York*’.

Airmail surcharges - ‘Hindenburg’ flights - 1937

Commencing 03.05.1937, the airship can carry ordinary and registered letters, postcards, samples, printed matter, and business papers to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, the British, French and Dutch East Indies, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru.

The airmail surcharge for items is as follows:

1. For delivery by airship to New York and beyond by ordinary mail:

- a) Letters and postcards, per 5 g 1.50 P
- b) Other items, per 5 g 1.40 P

2. For delivery by air to New York and beyond:

- a) Letters and postcards, per 5 g 1.50 P
plus the regular airmail surcharge established for the country in question in the Airmail Tariff.
- b) Other items, per 5 g 1.40 P
plus the regular airmail surcharge established for the country in question in the Airmail Tariff.

In addition to these charges, of course, the regular postal charge and any registered mail charge must also be deducted.

The following countries are connected: United States, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Caicos Islands, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Republic of Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Dutch Guiana, Nevis, Nicaragua, Panama Canal Zone, Republic of Panama, Puerto Rico, Salvador, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad, Turks' Island, Virgin Islands.