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Birds of Prey miniature sheet

Ronnie McPartland First Ejector Pilot Irish Aer Corps.

By John Mullen

Retired Capt. Ronnie McPartland returned to Baldonnel Aerodrome to a celebration of pilots who flew the British fighter jet the "de'Havilland Vampire". Ronnie was a young cadet at the tender age of 20yrs. On May 5th 1961 he was on a training exercise with experienced pilot Brig. Gen. Jerry O'Connor when the vampire they were flying refused to respond to the controls, as a result the plane headed into a crash dive when Brig Gen Jerry O'Connor pulled the canopy lever and it released, Ronnie pulled the ejector handle and was shot into the sky, as he looked at the plane Jerry was struggling to gain control, which he eventually did and returned to base without Ronnie. Ronnie's parachute opened and he gradually returned to earth in Co. Cavan this was the only time an ejector seat was released to this day in the history of the Irish Aer Corps. Both men were present at the celebrations and posed for a photograph with a Vampire specially flown in for the celebrations which was sponsored by City Jet, present also was the chief executive of City Jet Mr. Geoffrey O'Byrne.

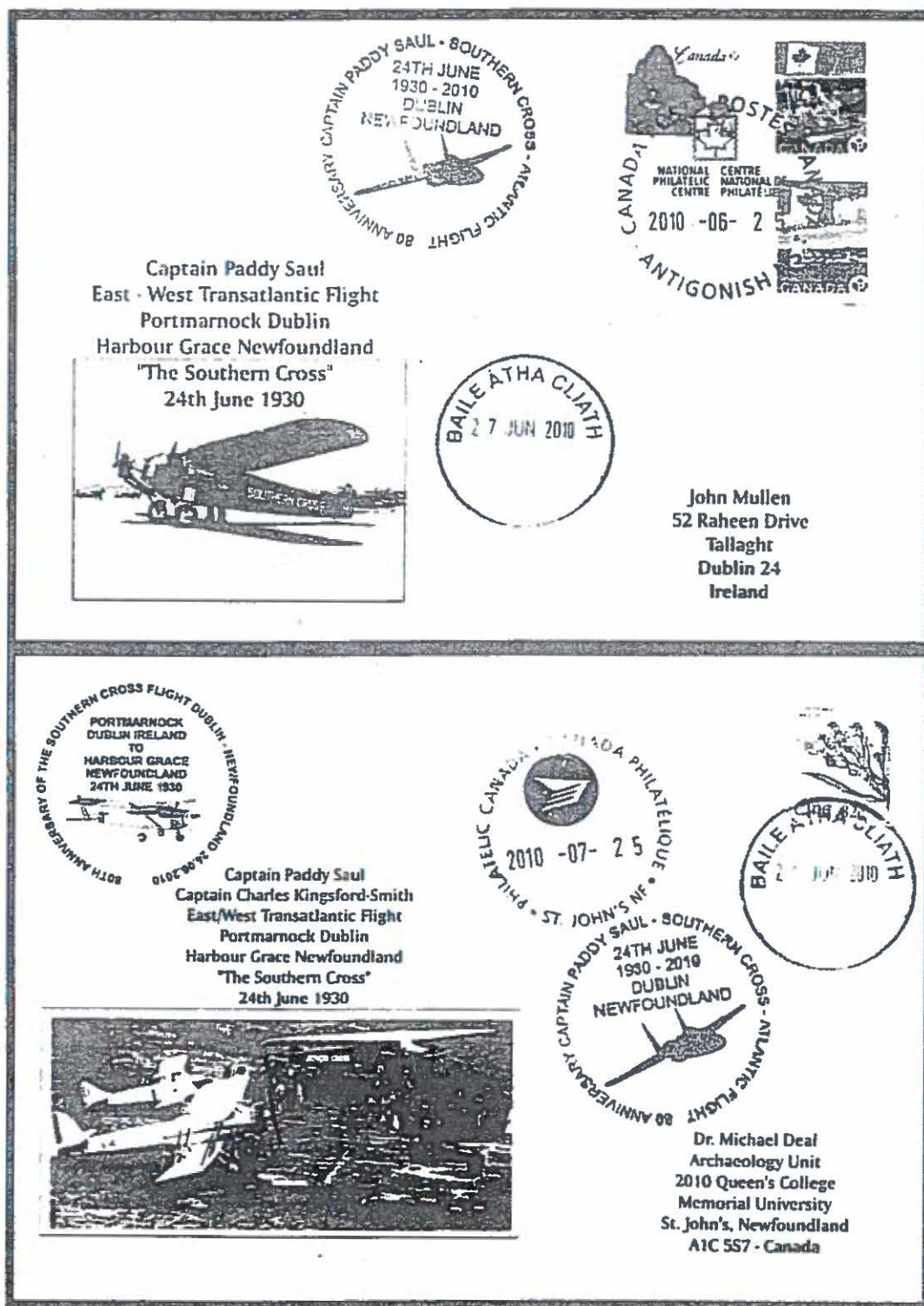


100 year of aviation in Ireland showing Brig. Gen. Jerry O'Connor and Capt. Ronnie McPartland with the de'Havilland Vampire flown in by Cityjet. 100yrs cachet and postmark.

Captain Paddy Saul Transatlantic Flight 1930

By John Mullen

On the 24th June 2010 I organised a commemorative flight cover with Dr. Michael Deal in Canada to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Capt Paddy Saul's East - West Transatlantic Flight from Portmarnock Dublin to Harbour Grace Newfoundland 24th June 1930 on board the Southern Cross.



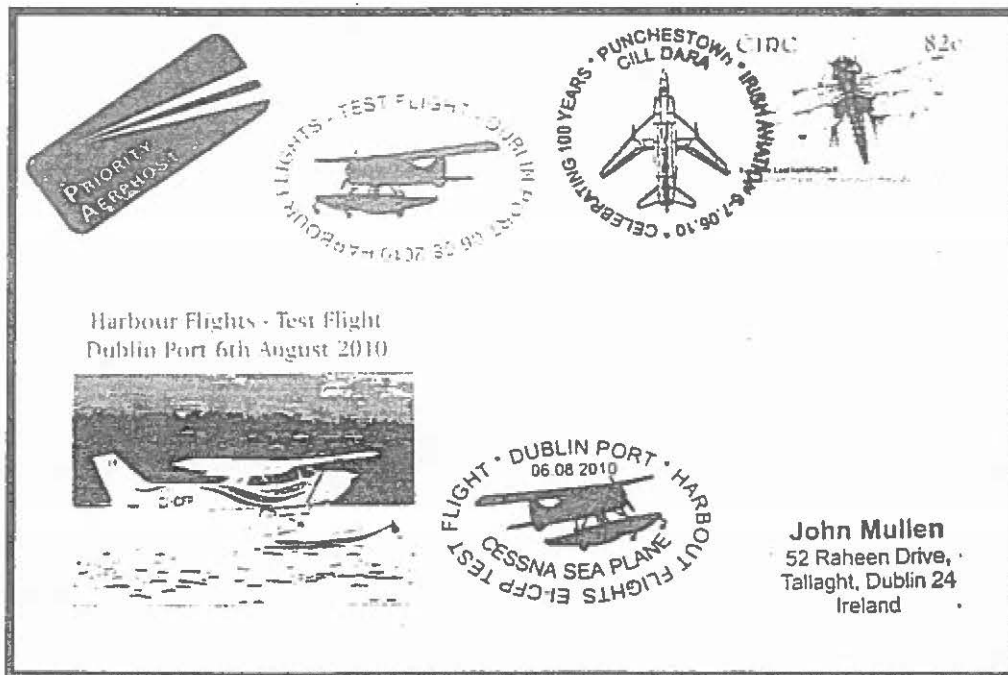
Covers showing cachets in Blue and Red

Harbour Flights Ireland Test Flight 2010

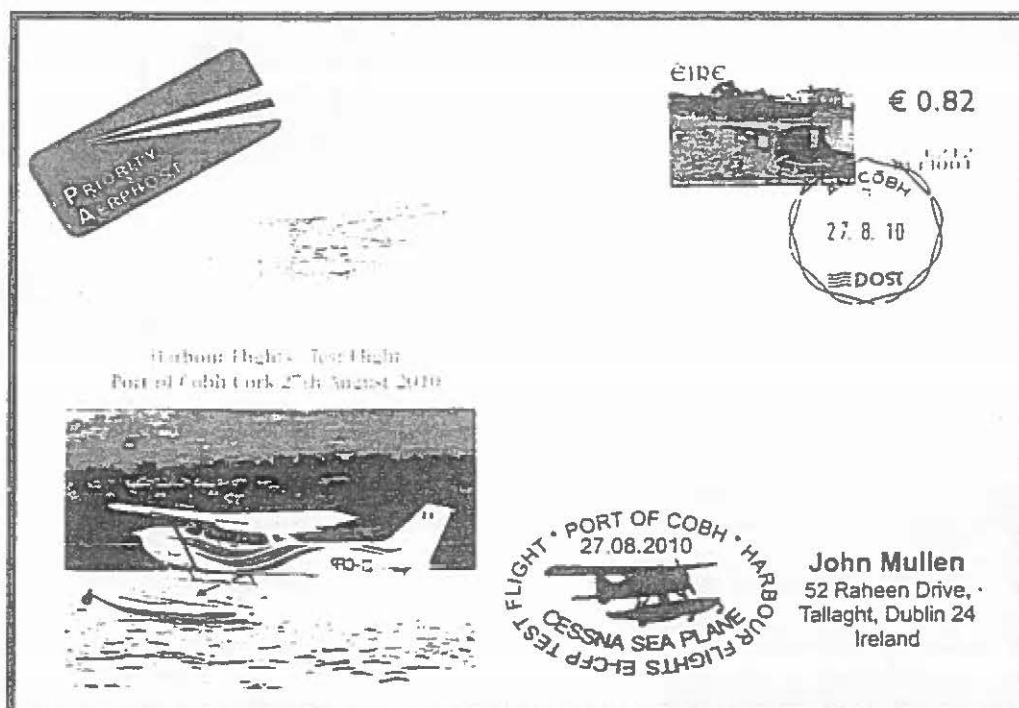
By John Mullen

On the 6th August 2010 a company by the name of Harbour Flights landed in Dublin Port on a Test Flight. The purpose of the flight is to make preparations for scheduled flights around Ireland, it is hoped that the ports involved will be, subject to planning permission, Dublin, Belfast, Galway, Inishmore, Cork, Waterford, Foynes Limerick, Athlone and Mountshannon in Co. Clare which will be the base for the seaplanes.

Emelyn Heapes who is the chief executive of the company said "the company intend to commence operations with two Cessna aircraft but will upgrade the seaplanes as Dublin, Cork and Waterford become operational. Our primary objective is to change tourism by been able to offer for the first time in the history of the state, a seaplane operation linking existing accommodation and attractions based around Ireland." Ireland will be the second European country to have such a service the other been Glasgow in Scotland. Interview by Angela Sammon of the Irish World.



Cover showing 100yrs of Irish aviation cancel, with a number of printed cachets.



Cover showing Cobh cid 27.8.10, with printed cachets.

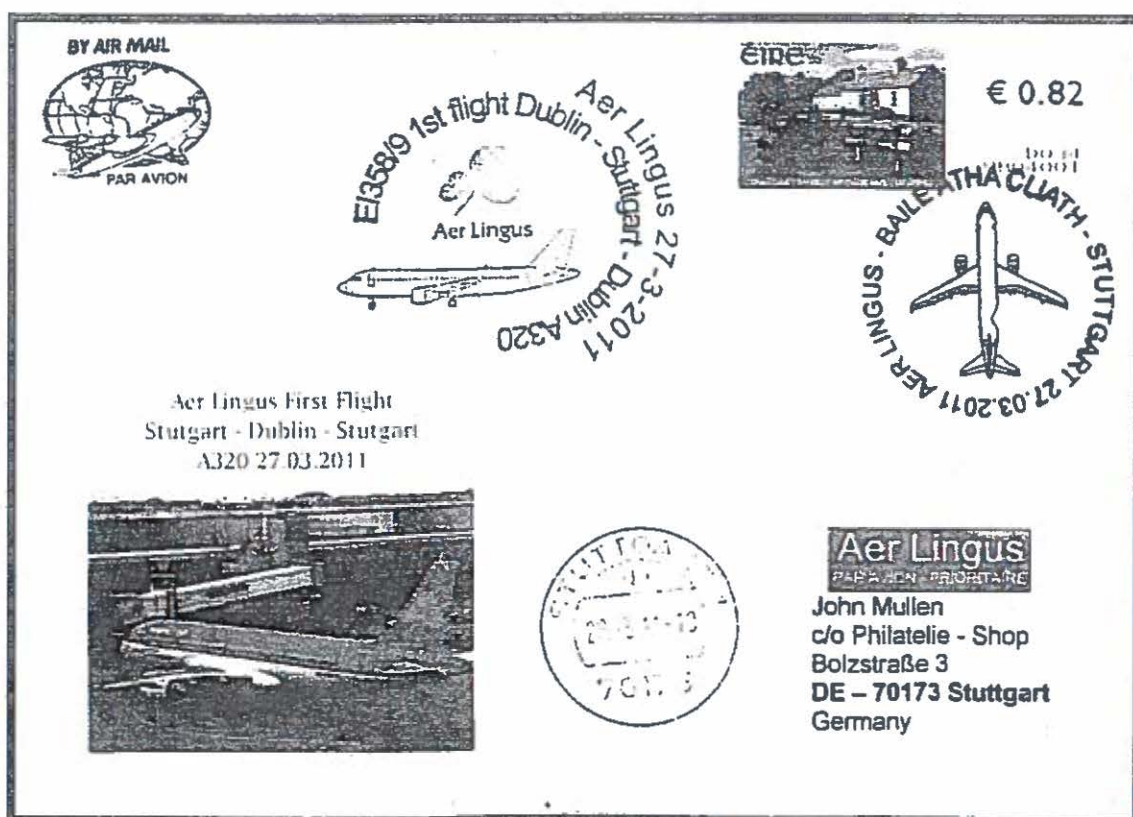
**Aer Lingus First Flight
Stuttgart – Dublin – Stuttgart
A-320 27th March 2011**

By John Mullen

On the 27.03.2011 Aer Lingus flew from Stuttgart to Dublin and returned to Stuttgart in the new Aer Lingus A-320 plane. A group from the APCD (Aero Philatelisten Club Deutschlands e.V. flight No. EI 358/9) travelled on this flight. I had the pleasure to meet the group at Terminal 2 to collect and apply the special hand stamp, which I designed, to all covers flown, and return them to the group for the return flight. An Post sponsored the special hand stamp for the occasion of the flight. This year Aer Lingus is celebrating its 75th anniversary and a special flight is planned in May of this year. The First flight took place in 1936 from Baldonnel to Bristol.



27.03.2011 Stuttgart-Dublin showing receiving commemorative hand stamp and cachet in green



27.03.2011 Dublin – Stuttgart showing Stuttgart receiving 28.03.2011, cachet in blue.