

## WRECKED MAIL

A WRECKED MAIL COVER IS A PHILATELIC TERM FOR A TYPE OF COVER, MEANING AN ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE THAT HAS BEEN RECOVERED FROM A FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, AIRSHIP OR WRECKED AEROPLANE. WRECKED, MAIL COVERS ARE A TYPE OF INTERRUPTED MAIL WRECKED OF PLANE CARRYING AIRMAIL WERE A REGULAR OCCURRENCE FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS OF MAIL TRANSPORT BY AIR. OF AIRCRAFT WRECKED, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO RECOVER SOME OR EVEN ALL OF THE MAIL BEING CARRIED, WITH PERHAPS SOME CHARRING AROUND THE EDGES OF SOME PIECES IF THERE HAD BEEN A FIRE, OR WATER DAMAGE FROM FLYING BOAT CRASHES OR SHIPWRECKS. IN SUCH CASES, THE AUTHORITIES TYPICALLY APPLY A POSTAL MARKING (CACHET), LABEL, OR MIMEOGRAPH THAT GETS AFFIXED TO THE COVER EXPLAINING THE DELAY AND DAMAGE TO THE RECIPIENT, AND POSSIBLY ENCLOSE THE LETTER IN AN "AMBULANCE COVER" OR "BODY BAG" IF IT WAS BADLY DAMAGED AND THEN SEND IT TO ITS INTENDED DESTINATION.



LETTER POSTED FROM LOS ANGELES JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 1930, 5 PM

DELAY DUE TO WRECKED MAIL PLANE JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 1930

JANUARY 10, 1930, WESTERN AIR EXPRESS, CORP. CONTRACT AIR MAIL ROUTE (CAM-4)  
BOEING 95 MAILPLANE(NC420E), NEAR CEDAR CITY, UTAH.

WEATHER WAS THE MAJOR FACTOR IN A LARGE NUMBER OF EARLY COMMERCIAL  
AVIATION ACCIDENTS AS IN THE

CRASH OF AIR MAIL PILOT MAURICE (MAURY) GRAHAM, WHO LEFT LOS ANGELES ON  
JANUARY 10, 1930 - SALT LAKE CITY.

THE PLANE WAS FINALLY FOUND JUNE 24, 1930, UTAH ONLY AFTER THE SNOW MELTED  
ONE MONTH LATER THE PILOT BODY WAS FOUND, WITH THE MAIL INTACT, SIX MILES AWAY  
FROM THE CRASH SITE, GRAHAM ATTEMPTED TO HIKE TO SAFETY IN 8 FOOT SNOWDRIGS  
AND SADLY FELL TO HIS DEATH OFF AN 800 FOOT CLIFF.