

## Double S Travel

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## Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Two Years of service to residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 – 2007

The world of air travel in 1946

So how come you know about 1946 surely you can't remember 1946!

- I have been lent a copy of the ABC (or alphabetical) Air Guide of June 1946.
- The ABC was issued monthly and continues to this day.
- It has a local history, ABC World Airways Guide was published by Thomas Skinner and Co who were based in Holborn and had editorial offices in Dunstable. Their telephone number was Dunstable 377. They moved to Dunstable next to Index Printers behind Woolworths, they then moved to Old Hill, then to Church St and are now known as OAG.
- This edition contains destinations, airlines, prices, timetables and exchange rates.

What was the ABC used for?

- Before the days of computers all travel agents who issued airline tickets had to use the ABC to find out what price to charge and how to fill in a blank airline ticket.
- We used to keep stocks of 2, 3 and 4 coupon IATA blanks which once completed and validated with an agency stamp were used for travel.
- These days of course it is rare to have a physical ticket issued, we are now used to flying with e-tickets.

So in 1946 what airlines were there?

Aer Lingus, British European Airways BEA, British Overseas Airways Corporation BOAC, British South American, Air France, Iberia, Aeroflot, *Swissair*, South African, *Pan-American*, *Trans World Airlines TWA*, *Braniff*, Continental, Delta, KLM, Northwest, United to name but a few

So what were prices and timings like in 1946?

Sydney Australia, Table 11. BOAC obtained more Shorts Sunderland Mark IIIs and gradually came up with better accommodation for 24 passengers, including sleeping berths for 16. These conversions were given the name **Hythe** and BOAC operated 29 of them by the end of the war.

The Solent was a high wing monoplane flying boat of aluminium construction. Power was, initially, four [Bristol Hercules](#) engines but later some had four [Bristol](#)

Partners: **SJ Pattenden TD & KJ Pattenden MSc. VAT Number 449 3040 53.**

Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2006, 2007, 2008

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2005, 2006, Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006

Finalist Best Specialist Website 2006 [www.railchoice.co.uk](http://www.railchoice.co.uk).

Runner-up, Corporatechoice Business Travel Agent of the Year 2005,

Runner-up, TIPTO Agent of the Year 2005, Nominated Travel Agent Achievement Awards 2005.

[Centaurus](#) sleeve-valve radial piston engines. The **Solent 2** introduced by BOAC could carry 34 passengers and 7 crew, the final TEAL (Tasman Empire Airlines) aircraft could carry 45 passengers. Both provided a great deal of space and luxury compared with contemporary or modern land-based aircraft.

Paris Table Table 100.

The ABC contains adverts doesn't it?

Yes, Aer Lingus A6, TWA A7, Hunting Air Travel A9, Grosvenor Hotel A14,

With all our baggage restrictions today, what was it like in 1946?

-A23. No cameras allowed in the cabin. Suggested packing lists, currency A24a , fountain pens A24,

How about visas?

A25 and 26

Exchange rates, what were they like in 1946?

£1 was worth:

USD 4.26 now

CAD 4.43 now

F.FRANC 479 now Euros

S.PESETA 44 now Euros

YTL 520 now

MEXICO 19.4 now

A32, Airmail stamps from the UK to

Europe 5d = 62p now

USA, Canada, Hong Kong 1/3 = £1.86 now

Jamaica 1/9 = £2.60 now

So where could you book air travel?

-Only at qualified travel agents, still true today if the agent is to issue airline tickets.

Luton. Pickfords of 17a Cheapside

Bedford. Frames Tours of 103 High St

St Albans. Travel of 8 Peahen Buildings, London Rd

Welwyn GC. Welwyn Stores of Bridge Rd

Warning about using passports as ID