

The Big Clipper Flying Boats

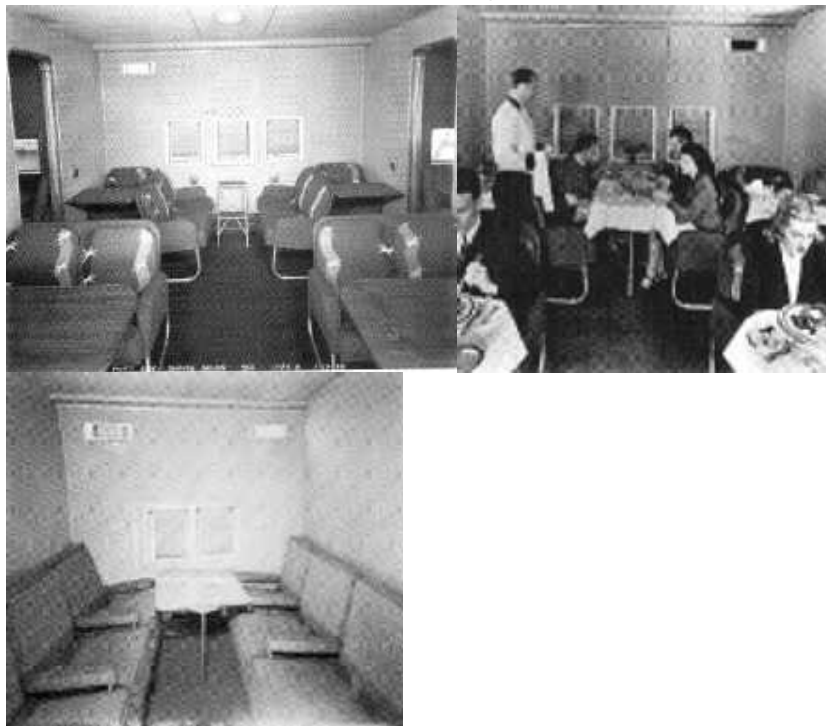


The first air crossing of the Pacific was made in 1928. An air route between America and the far east was prepared using United States Pacific islands as stepping stones. Bases were set up at Wake Island and Guam. Pan American requested aircrafts capable of flying the stages of between 1,500 and 2400 miles from San Francisco to Honolulu, to Wake, to Guam and to Manila in the Philippines.

The Martin aircraft company built three M-130 Flying Boats for Pan American. They were named China Clipper, Philippine Clipper and Hawaii Clipper. They could carry 41 passengers, although for the Pacific route only 14 seats were installed.

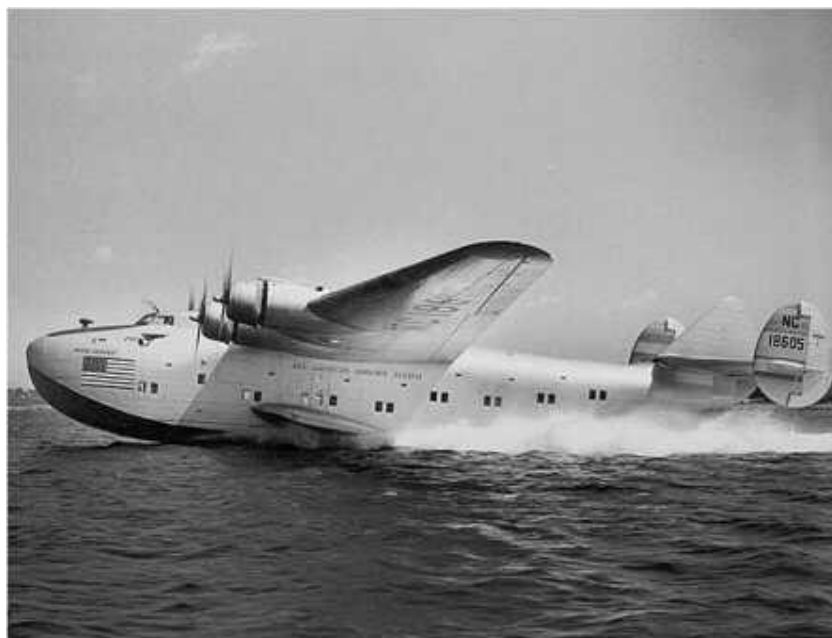
First flight on the Pacific route was on the 22 November 1935, a mail flight from San Francisco to Manila. Passengers were carried from October 1936.

In April 1937 the first Sikorsky S-42B Hong Kong Clipper made it possible to extend the Pacific route to Hong Kong. Later that year the Manila route was also extended to Auckland, New Zealand. The Boeing 314 came into service 1940.





Interior of the luxurious and spacious Boeing 314 of 1940

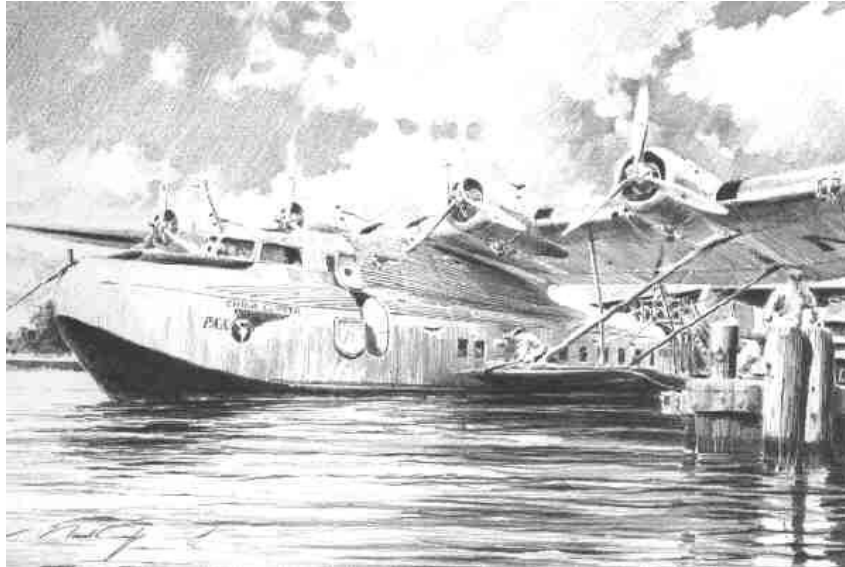


Pan American Boeing 314 "Dixie Clipper" taking off

**List of the Flying Boat Clippers
Martin M130s, Sikorsky S42s and Boeing 314s**

- Alaska Clipper NC16735 Sikorsky S42B 1940-1941 Renamed Hong Kong Clipper
- American Clipper NC18606 Boeing 314 1939-1946
- Anzac Clipper NC18611 Boeing 314A 1941-1951
- Atlantic Clipper NC18604 Boeing 314 1939-1946
- Bermuda Clipper NC16735 Sikorsky S42B 1936-1941 Renamed Alaska Clipper 1941
- Betsy Ross Clipper NC16736 Sikorsky S42B 1937-1943 Crashed in Manaus, Brazil
- Brazilian Clipper NC822M Sikorsky S42 1934-1946 Renamed Colombia Clipper
- California Clipper NC18602 Boeing 314 1939-1950 Renamed Pacific Clipper
- Capetown Clipper NC18612 Boeing 314A 1941-1946
- China Clipper NC14716 Martin M130 1935-1945 Started transpacific mail service
- Colombia Clipper NC822M Sikorsky S42 1937-1946 Scrapped 1946
- Dixie Clipper NC18605 Boeing 314 1939-1950 Started transatlantic passenger service
- Dominican Clipper NC15376 Sikorsky S42A 1936-1941 Lost in accident
- Hawaiian Clipper NC14714 Martin M130 1936-1938 Started transpacific passenger service
- Hong Kong Clipper NC823M Sikorsky S42 1937-1944 Sank in Cuba
- Hong Kong Clipper NC16735 Sikorsky S42B 1941-1941 Destroyed by Japanese bombing
- Honolulu Clipper NC18601 Boeing 314 1939-1945 Sank by US Navy
- Jamaica Clipper NC15373 Sikorsky S42A 1935-1946 Scrapped 1946
- Pacific Clipper NC18602 Boeing 314 1939-1950 Sold to World Airways
- Pacific Clipper NC18609 Boeing 314A 1941-1946

Pan American Clipper NC823M Sikorsky S42 1934-1937 Renamed Hong Kong Clipper
Pan American Clipper NC16734 Sikorsky S42B 1936-1938 Renamed Samoan Clipper
Pan American Clipper NC16736 Sikorsky S42B 1937-1943 Renamed Bermuda Clipper 1940
Philippine Clipper NC14715 Martin M130 1935-1943 Crashed in Boonville, CA
Samoan Clipper NC16734 Sikorsky S42B 1936-1938 Crashed in Pago Pago
West Indies Clipper NC823M Sikorsky S42 1937-1944 Renamed Pan American Clipper
Yankee Clipper NC18603 Boeing 314 1939-1943 Started transatlantic mail service



Artist 's impression of a Martin M-130 Flying Boat ready for embarkation
Click on the image for larger view

Martin M-130

Lenght: 90 ft
Wing span: 130 ft
Weight: 24 tonnes
Engines: Pratt&Whitney Twin Wasp, 950 hp each
Passengers: Max 41
Speed: 157 mph
Range: 3,200 miles

More on the clippers

[Pan American Historical Site](#)
[China Clipper Pages](#)

(1998-June)