

A sepia-toned photograph of a Pan American Clipper flying over a city harbor. The aircraft is a large, multi-engine flying boat with a high-wing configuration. It is shown in profile, flying from left to right. Below the aircraft, a harbor with several piers and ships is visible. In the background, a city skyline with numerous buildings and a prominent tower is visible under a hazy sky.

Today in History

May 20, 1939

▲ **Pan American Airways began the first regular airmail service across the Atlantic. A trans-Pacific service (pictured above) had been introduced in 1935**

1609: The complete collection of William Shakespeare's 154 sonnets was first published by Thomas Thorpe

1959: Parisian Guy Trebert became the first person to be arrested through an identikit picture

1979: Elton John performed in Leningrad, becoming the first Western solo artist to tour the Soviet Union

2009: An inquiry in Ireland concluded that the Catholic Church knew that sexual abuse of boys was "endemic"