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National Air and Space Museum

Admiral Alfred M. Pride Papers

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Admiral Alfred M. Pride Papers
Date:	[ca. 1910s-1970s]
Identifier:	NASM.1997.0010
Creator:	Pride, Alfred Melville, 1897-1988
Extent:	10.61 Cubic feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Carol P. Lemeshefsky, Gift, 1989, 1997-0010, NASM

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Admiral Alfred Melville Pride (1897-1988) was a retired four-star admiral who was a pioneer in Navy aviation. Born in Somerville, Massachusetts, Pride attended the Engineering School at Tuft's College before enlisting in the US Naval Reserve Force in 1917. In September 1917, Pride was appointed Ensign in the Naval Reserve Flying Corp where he served in England and France during World War I. Pride was designated a naval aviator in 1918 and was transferred to the regular Navy in November of 1921 and was commissioned a Lieutenant. In September 1921 Pride reported for duty with the aviation detachment of the USS Langley, where he developed the arresting gear to be installed on the Langley and where he carried out experimental take-offs and landings on the aircraft carrier. The Navy sent him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study aeronautical engineering. He later served with the original crews on the Navy's next two carriers --the Saratoga and the Lexington, Pride made the first landing of a rotary-wing aircraft, an autogiro (precursor to the helicopter), on an aircraft carrier in 1931 and from 1934-1936 he was commander of the flight test section at the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C. During World War II, Pride commanded the aircraft carrier Belleau Wood in the South Pacific, conducting air strikes against the Japanese in the following campaigns: Tarawa, Wake and Makin Islands, Kwajalein, Truk, Sampan and Tinian. Pride also commanded the Naval Air Center at Pearl Harbor, directing air support for amphibious landings and played a major role in planning for the invasion of Okinawa and the Japanese home islands. After World War II Pride headed

the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, DC, and in 1953 he was selected to command the Seventh Fleet. He retired in 1959.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the following types of material relating to Pride's illustrious naval aviation career: correspondence, photographs; official documents, such as Naval orders newsclippings; and certificates.

General

Additional materials: Uniform and flight were transferred to the National Air and Space Museum Aeronautics Division.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Aircraft carriers
- Periodicals
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Pacific Ocean
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Naval operations, American

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Photographs

Names:

- Lexington (Aircraft carrier : 1927-1942)
- Saratoga (Aircraft carrier : CV-3)
- USS Langley (warship)
- United States. Navy -- Aviation
- United States. Navy -- Reserve fleets
- United States. Navy -- Reserve fleets -- Flying Corps
- United States. Navy. Anacostia Naval Air Station
- United States. Navy. Bureau of Aeronautics [BuAer]

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	General (1897-1988), Official Biographies
Box 1, Folder 2	World War I (1917-18), NAS Pensacola
Box 1, Folder 3	World War I (1918), NAS Brest, NAS Moutchic and NAS Ile Tudy, France
Box 1, Folder 4	NAS Chatham, MA (1918-19)
Box 1, Folder 5	Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, FL (1919)
Box 1, Folder 6	NAS Hampton Roads, VA (1919-21), U.S. Atlantic Fleet Ship Plane Division/U. S.S. Arizona (1 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 7	NAS Hampton Roads, VA (1919-21), U.S. Atlantic Fleet Ship Plane Division/U. S.S. Arizona (2 of 2)
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Box 1, Folder 28	Navy Department, Washington, DC (1936-37), Bureau of Aeronautics, Fighter Desk
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Box 4, Folder 2	Album: January 1956 to May 1960
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Box 5, Folder 2	Black binder: Navy Shore Activities
Box 5, Folder 3	Album: Postcards
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Box 5, Folder 5	Album: Launching of the U.S.S. Hermitage
Box 5, Folder 6	Album: U.S. Navy August 1951 to January 1952
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Box 6, Folder 1	Album: 10x7
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