



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") Photo Album

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") Photo Album
Date:	Circa 1970
Identifier:	NASM.1997.0017
Creator:	Summa Corporation
Extent:	0.35 Cubic feet (1 flat box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of a photo album consisting of photographs from an inspection of the Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") in storage in San Diego, California. There is an aerial view of the hangar where it was stored as well as detailed views of various components of the aircraft and views of the aircraft's controls and interior. There is also a view of a model of the aircraft.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") Photo Album

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lee Saegesser, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) History Office, Gift, 1997, NASM.1997.0017

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") Photo Album, NASM.1997.0017, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules (NX37602) flew only one time on November 2, 1947. Conceived as a personnel and materiel carrier, the single hull prototype was designed to fly transatlantic flights to avoid World War II German submarines that were sinking Allied ships in large numbers. Completed in 1947 after the end of the war, the aircraft was nearly six times bigger than any aircraft of its time. The press insisted on calling the aircraft the "Spruce Goose," a name that its billionaire builder Howard Hughes despised. Until his death in 1976, Hughes ensured that the H-4 (HK-1) Hercules was maintained and kept in flight-ready condition.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a spiral bound photo album measuring approximately 11.5 by 14.5 inches. The photo album was prepared by Summa Corporation (previously Hughes Tool Company) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and consists of photographs from an inspection of the Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose") in storage in San Diego, California. There is an aerial view of the hangar where it was stored as well as detailed views of various components of the aircraft and views of the aircraft's controls and interior. There is also a view of a model of the aircraft.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aircraft industry
Hughes H-4 (HK-1) Hercules ("Spruce Goose")

Types of Materials:

Photograph albums