



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Admiral Albert C. Read, USN
(Curtiss NC-4) Collection

Elizabeth C. Borja

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Admiral Albert C. Read, USN (Curtiss NC-4) Collection
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0391
Date:	1919-1946 (bulk May 1919 to June 1919)
Extent:	1.74 Cubic feet (1 legal document box, three oversized boxes)
Creator:	Read, A. C. (Albert Cushing), 1887-1967
Language:	Collection is in English and Portuguese.
Summary:	Rear Admiral Albert C. Read (1887-1967) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1907 and became Naval Aviator #24 in July 1915. In 1919, Read was the commander of the Curtiss NC-4, the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic. The NC-4 covered 2150 nautical miles, from Nova Scotia to the Azores. The NC-4 was joined in the flight by the Curtiss NC-1 and Curtiss NC-3, but both the NC-1 and NC-3 were forced to land in the open sea. This collection consists of the following: black scrapbook containing photographs with US Navy numbers; newspaper front pages; reports; cable grams; signals and dispatches; the NC-4 log; biography of Read; and correspondence.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Rear Admiral Albert C. Read, gift, 1962, XXXX.0391, NASM

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Elizabeth C. Borja, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Admiral Albert C. Read, USN (Curtiss NC-4) Collection, Acc. XXXX.0391, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Rear Admiral Albert C. Read (1887-1967) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1907 and became Naval Aviator #24 in July 1915. In 1919, Read was the commander of the Curtiss NC-4, the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic. The NC-4 covered 2150 nautical miles, from Nova Scotia to the Azores. The NC-4 was joined in the flight by the Curtiss NC-1 and Curtiss NC-3, but both the NC-1 and NC-3 were forced to land in the open sea.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the following: black scrapbook containing photographs with US Navy numbers; newspaper front pages; reports; cable grams; signals and dispatches; the NC-4 log; biography of Read; and correspondence in both Portuguese (with English translations) and English.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Records
- Aeronautics, Military
- Air pilots
- Curtiss NC-1 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-Boat Family
- Seaplanes
- Transatlantic flights

Types of Materials:

- Biographies
- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Logs (records)
- Photographs
- Reports
- Scrapbooks

Names:

- Read, A. C. (Albert Cushing), 1887-1967

Container Listing

- Box 1, Folder 1 Log of NC-4 NC Seaplane Division One (Notebook, Transatlantic Flight), May 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 2 Cablegrams, Signals, and Dispatches, May 14, 1919 - June 4, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 3 Extract from Portuguese Newspaper *O Século*, May 28, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 4 Correspondence, Associação dos Engenheiros Civis Portugueses, Lisboa, May 30, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 5 "The Medal Presented to Commander Read by the City Council of Lisbon,"
Extract from *O Século*, May 30, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 6 Correspondence, Foreign Service Committee Aero Club of America, May 31, 1919 - June 2, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 7 Correspondence, Propaganda de Portugal, June 2, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 8 Correspondence, Associação Commercial de Lisboa, June 3, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 9 Correspondence, União de Agricultura Commercio e Industria, June 3, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 10 Report of Transatlantic Flight of NC-4, July 1, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 11 Invitation to Dinner Program, in honor of Albert Cushing Read, hosted by Glenn H. Curtiss, July 10, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 12 Report: Instrument Equipment of the NC-4, October 23, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 13 *The Transatlantic Flight*, by Commander Albert C. Read, undated
- Box 1, Folder 14 Service of Rear Admiral Albert Cushing Read, Retired, approximately 1946

[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 1, Folder 15 Photograph of Albert Cushing Read on a Golf Course, undated
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2, Folder 1 NC-4 Clippings [from envelope], May 19, 1919 - November 11, 1919

Box 2, Folder 2 NC-4 Clippings, May 11, 1919 - May 20, 1919

Box 3 NC-4 Clippings, May 21, 1919 - June 1, 1919

Box 4 Scrapbook, May 15, 1919 - June 1, 1919
[Image\(s\)](#)