50th Anniversary of the NC-4 Transatlantic Flight Collection [Richard K. Smith], [ca. 1918-1969]

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Collection Overview

Repository: National Air and Space Museum Archives

Title: 50th Anniversary of the NC-4 Transatlantic Flight Collection [Richard K. Smith]

Identifier: NASM.XXXX.0418

Date: circa 1918-1969

Extent: 1.9 Cubic feet (5 boxes)

Creator: Smith, Richard K.

Language: English

Summary: The 50th Anniversary of the NC-4 Transatlantic Flight Collection [Smith] Collection contains photocopies of correspondence, published materials, maps, and photographs. The collection also includes photocopies of aircraft logs, naval ship logs, weather reports, progress reports, biographies of the participants, information on the construction of the NC Aircraft and the general planning for the flight, and original material on the thirtieth and fiftieth anniversaries of the flight.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Aeronautics Division, NASM, transfer, unknown, XXXX-0418, unknown

Processing Information

Encoded by Rebecca Morgan, 2012.

Preferred Citation
50th Anniversary of the NC-4 Transatlantic Flight Collection [Smith], Acc. XXXX-0418, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions
No restrictions on access.

Reels of microfilm are available for review upon request.
Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at Permissions Requests.

Historical Note

In 1917, the United States Navy developed specifications for a flying boat of sufficient range to cross the Atlantic to England. The Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company, in conjunction with the Navy, developed a three-engine aircraft. The Navy intended that the flying boat would serve as an anti-submarine patrol aircraft. The first of the new aircraft, the NC-1, flew on October 4, 1918, followed by the NC-2 on April 12, 1919. Even though World War I had ended, the Navy decided to continue the program in an effort to make the first transatlantic crossing by air. As the program progressed, the NC-2 was dismantled for parts for the other NC aircraft. On May 16, 1919, the NC-1, the NC-3, and the NC-4 assembled at Trepassey Bay, Newfoundland, to begin the 1200 nautical-mile flight to the Azores. The NC-1 was forced down short of the islands and sank, but the Greek vessel, Ionia, rescued the crew. The NC-3 landed two hundred miles short and taxied the remaining distance to the islands. The NC-4 completed the flight successfully, reaching Plymouth, England via Lisbon, Portugal, on May 31, 1919. Following publicity tours of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States, the NC-4 was given to the Smithsonian Institution and is a part of the National Air and Space Museum collection.

Scope and Content Note

This collection was gathered by Dr. Richard K. Smith of the National Air and Space Museum, in preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of the NC-4’s transatlantic flight. It contains photocopies from microfilm of documents found in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group 24, Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and Record Group 72, Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics. The researcher will find photocopies of correspondence, published materials, maps, and photographs. The collection also includes photocopies of aircraft logs, naval ship logs, weather reports, progress reports, biographies of the participants, information on the construction of the NC Aircraft and general planning for the flight, and original material on the thirtieth and fiftieth anniversaries of the flight.

The final box of the collection (Box 5) contains 6 reels of microfilm from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Groups 24 and 72 relating to the Trans Atlantic flight of the NC-4. As the processing archivist reviewed the microfilm, it appeared that many of the documents in boxes 1-4 were copied from the microfilm. These reels of microfilm are available for review upon request.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged by subject and then 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
Curtiss NC-1 (P2N-1)
Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1)
Curtiss NC-Boat Family
Seaplanes
Transatlantic flights

Types of Materials:
Correspondence
Diaries
Manuscripts
Maps
Microfilms
Photographs
Publications

Names:
Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company
United States. Navy
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| Box 5, Roll 2 | NARA RG 72 (Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics) General Correspondence Initiated in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Box 74, File 068-A-526-550 to –654, Roll 2, NNM 68-508 (11318) |
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