



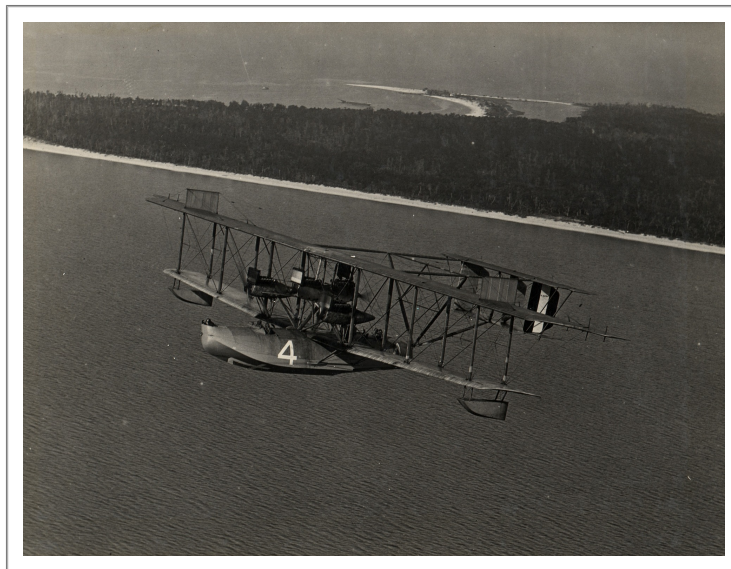
Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

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

Rodney Benson and David Robert Schwartz

2001



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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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]
Date:	circa 1918-1969
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0418
Creator:	Smith, Richard K.
Extent:	1.9 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
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

Arranged and described by Rodney Benson and David Robert Schwartz, 2001.

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

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Transatlantic Flight General Planning, 1918
Box 1, Folder 2	Transatlantic Flight General NC Planning, January to April 1919
Box 1, Folder 3	NC Flight: General Preparations, 1919
Box 1, Folder 4	Preparations: The Aircraft, January-February 1919
Box 1, Folder 5	Preparations: The Aircraft, March 1919
Box 1, Folder 6	Preparations: The Aircraft, April 1919
Box 1, Folder 7	Preparations: The Aircraft, May 1919
Box 1, Folder 8	Tests and Preparations at Hampton Roads, February-April 1919
Box 1, Folder 9	Lt. Cdr. Patrick N.L. Bellinger's Survey of Trepassey, March 1919
Box 1, Folder 10	Cdr. John H. Towers' Progress Reports, February-April 1919
Box 1, Folder 11	Cdr. George C. Westervelt's Progress Reports, February-April 1919
Box 1, Folder 12	Report: Investigation of the fire in the NC Hanger, May 5, 1919
Box 1, Folder 13	C-3 Airship: Proposed Transatlantic Flight, 1918-1919
Box 1, Folder 14	C-5 Airship: Documents, 1919
Box 1, Folder 15	C-5 Airship: Photographs, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Base Ships: Correspondence, Preparations of Base Ships, 1919
Box 1, Folder 17	Base Ships: Correspondence, Base Ship Logistics, 1919
Box 1, Folder 18	Base Ships: Correspondence, Lighters for NC Aircraft, 1919
Box 1, Folder 19	Destroyer Pickets: Correspondence, Destroyer Picket Ships, April-May 1919
Box 1, Folder 20	Destroyer Pickets: "Special Instructions" for Surface Ships etc., 1919
Box 1, Folder 21	Destroyer Pickets: Capt. Harris Laning's "Estimate of the Situation" and Operation Order No. 1, April 15, 1919
Box 1, Folder 22	Destroyer Pickets: Operation Order No. 1 and Operation Orders to Patrol Vessels, April 15, 1919

Box 1, Folder 23	Destroyer Pickets: Station Ship Sighting, May 16-17, 1919
Box 1, Folder 24	Logs of Destroyer Station Vessels #12 to #25, 1919
Box 2, Folder 1	Weather: Correspondence, January-April 1919
Box 2, Folder 2	Weather: Articles Regarding Transatlantic Weather, January, 1919 - August, 1927
Box 2, Folder 3	Weather: Weather Reports, April 30-May 6, 1919
Box 2, Folder 4	Radio: Correspondence, NC Radio Installations, 1919
Box 2, Folder 5	Navigation: Correspondence, Navigation and Navigation Instruments, 1919
Box 2, Folder 6	Diplomacy: Diplomatic Correspondence, The Transatlantic Flight, 1919
Box 2, Folder 7	Publicity: Correspondence, Publicity and NC Flight, 1919
Box 2, Folder 8	The Competition: Correspondence, The British Transatlantic Competitors, 1919
Box 2, Folder 9	Pre-Flight: Correspondence, Long Range Flights, 1919
Box 2, Folder 10	Pre-Flight: Correspondence, Requests, 1919
Box 2, Folder 11	NC Construction: Correspondence [Report], 1919
Box 2, Folder 12	NC-1: Daily Log, October 1-November 7, 1918
Box 2, Folder 13	NC-1: Daily Log, November 8-December 31, 1918
Box 2, Folder 14	NC-1: Daily Log, January 1-May 8, 1919
Box 2, Folder 15	NC-2: Daily Log, January 10-February 17, 1919
Box 2, Folder 16	NC-2: Daily Log, February 18-April 22, 1919
Box 2, Folder 17	NC-3 and NC-4: Daily Log, [1919]
Box 3, Folder 1	Daily Communications: NC's, Rockaway to the Azores, May 1919
Box 3, Folder 2	Daily Communications: NC-4, Rockaway to the Azores, May 1919
Box 3, Folder 3	Daily Communications: NC-4, To Lisbon, Portugal, May 1919
Box 3, Folder 4	Daily Communications: NC-4, To Plymouth, England, May 1919

Box 3, Folder 5	NC-1: Flight Reports, 1919
Box 3, Folder 6	NC-3: Flight Reports, 1919
Box 3, Folder 7	NC-4: Flight Reports, 1919
Box 3, Folder 8	Cdr. H.C. Richardson: Engineering Reports, Criticisms and Recommendations, May 30, 1919
Box 3, Folder 9	Cdr. H.C. Richardson: History [of U.S.N. Trans-Atlantic Flight], undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Destroyer Pickets: ComDesFor Report, June 24, 1919
Box 3, Folder 11	Post Flight: Correspondence, 1919
Box 3, Folder 12	Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation, The Flight Across the Atlantic, New York, 1919
Box 3, Folder 13	Personnel: Correspondence, 1919
Box 3, Folder 14	Biographical Data re: NC Participants - John H. Towers, Patrick N.L. Bellinger, Albert C. Read, Glenn H. Curtiss, David W. Taylor, 1919
Box 3, Folder 15	Secretary of the Navy Annual Report (1919) regarding the NC Flight, 1919
Box 3, Folder 16	Secretary of the Navy Daniels' Comments on the NC Flight at the Hearings of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, May 27, 1919
Box 3, Folder 17	Albert C. Read Manuscript re: The NC Flight, undated
Box 4, Folder 1	Articles: The Transatlantic Flight of the NC-4, 1914-1920
Box 4, Folder 2	Articles: Liberty Engine, 1919
Box 4, Folder 3	NC-1: Photographs, Garden City, NJ, 1918
Box 4, Folder 4	NC-4: Photographs of Ceremonies at Lisbon, Portugal, undated
Box 4, Folder 5	NC-4: Photographs at Lisbon, Portugal, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	NC-4: Photographs at Plymouth, undated
Box 4, Folder 7	NC-4: Photographs: Post-Flight, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	NC-4: Photographs, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	NC Photographs at Rockaway, undated

Box 4, Folder 10	NC Photographs at Trepassey, undated
Box 4, Folder 11	NC Photographs in the Azores, undated
Box 4, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Photographs, undated
Box 4, Folder 13	Correspondence: Smithsonian Exhibit of the Hull of the NC-4, 1919-1939
Box 4, Folder 14	NC-4, 30th Anniversary Ceremony, 1949
Box 4, Folder 15	National Air Museum Correspondence re: Restoration of the NC-4, 1965-1966
Box 4, Folder 16	Correspondence: Regarding Fiftieth Anniversary, 1968
Box 4, Folder 17	Correspondence: Portugal re: NC-4 First Trans-Atlantic Flight, 1969
Box 4, Folder 18	Correspondence: Newfoundland Historical Society re: NC-4 First Trans-Atlantic Flight, 1969
Box 4, Folder 19	Manuscript of NC-4 50th Anniversary Brochure, 1969
Box 4, Folder 20	Fiftieth Anniversary of the Transatlantic Flight of the Navy's NC-4 Ceremony: Smithsonian Institution, 1969
Box 4, Folder 21	National Air and Space Museum NC-4 Exhibit Labels, 1969
Box 4, Folder 22	Cdr. Ted Wilbur, The First Flight Across the Atlantic: May 1919, Washington, DC, NC-4 50th Anniversary Committee, Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, 1969
Box 4, Folder 23	Estelle Kemper Butler, "First Trans-Atlantic Flight - A Navy First-May 1919", Shipmate Volume 32, No. 5, May, 1969
Box 5, Roll 1	NARA RG 72 (Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics) General Correspondence Initiated in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Box 73, File 068-A-251-275 to 068 A 501 525, Roll 1, NNM 68-508 (11318)
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)
Box 5, Roll 3	NARA RG 72 (Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics) General Correspondence Initiated in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, File OZ1 to OZ4 Vol. 2, Roll 3, NNM 68 508 (11318)
Box 5, Roll 4	NARA RG 72 (Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics) General Correspondence Initiated in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, File OZ1 to OZ4 Vol. 2, Roll 4, NNM 68 508 (11318)

Box 5, Roll
unnumbered

NARA RG 72 (Records of the Bureau of Aeronautics) General
Correspondence Initiated number in the Office of the Chief of Naval
Operations, Box 72, File 068-301-25 to 068 A 226 250, NNO(R) 68-781
(10689)

Box 5, Roll
unnumbered

NARA RG 24 (Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel) Selected pages of
15 ships logs for May 17-20, 27, and 30, 1919, NNM 69-101 (3616)