



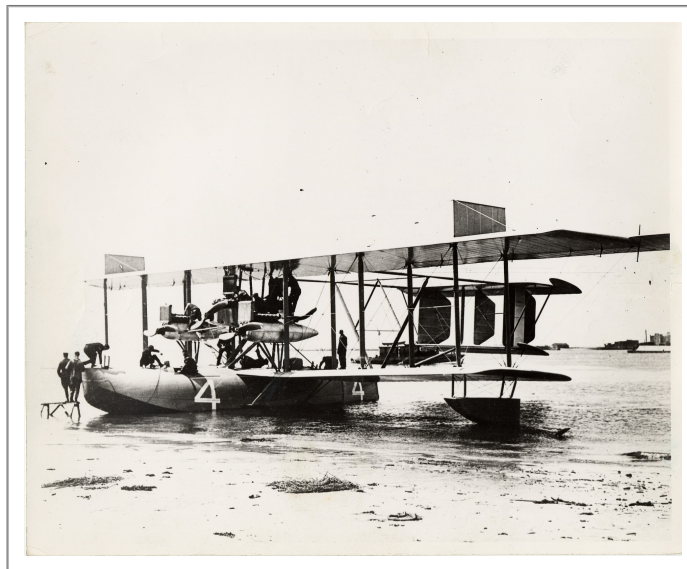
Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Curtiss NC-4 Design, Construction, and Testing Reports

Hank Brown

1999



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Curtiss NC-4 Design, Construction, and Testing Reports
Date:	1918-1969 (bulk 1919-1919)
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0422
Creator:	United States. Navy Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company
Extent:	1.51 Cubic feet (2 records center boxes) 2.27 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of reports on the design, construction, and testing of the NC series flying boats and photographs of NC-4's construction and transatlantic flight.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lee Pearson, XXXX-0422, Unknown.

Other Finding Aids

http://www.nasm.si.edu/research/arch/findaids/nc4-design/nc4d_frames.html

Other Finding Aids

http://www.nasm.si.edu/research/arch/findaids/pdf/NC-4_Design_Finding_Aid.pdf

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Hank Brown, 1999.

Encoded by Amanda Buel, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Curtiss NC-4 Design, Construction, and Testing Reports, Acc. XXXX-0422, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical Note

In 1917, during World War I, the United States Navy sent out specification for a flying boat of sufficient range to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air to Great Britain, where it would serve as an anti-submarine patrol aircraft. The Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company, in conjunction with the United States Navy, developed a three-engine aircraft to meet these specifications. The first of the new aircraft was the NC-1 that flew for the first time on October 4, 1918. This was followed by the NC-2 whose maiden flight took place on April 12, 1919 with four engines in tandem pairs. The engine arrangement of the NC-2 had been declared unsatisfactory for the mission and the wings were removed and installed on the NC-1 to replace the originals that had been damaged in a storm. By this time, World War I had ended, but the Navy decided to continue the program in an effort to make the first transatlantic flight crossing by air. The new NC-3 and NC-4 models reverted to the three-engine format, although the NC-4 had a fourth engine mounted as a pusher behind the center engine. On May 16, 1919 the NC-1, NC-3 and NC-4 assembled at Trepassy Bay, Newfoundland, under the command of Commander John H. Towers, to begin the 1400-mile flight to the Azores. The NC-1 was forced down short of the island and sank. Naval vessels stationed along the flight path rescued the crew of the NC-1. The NC-3 landed two hundred miles short and taxied the remaining distance to the island. Only 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 Curtiss NC-4 was given over to the Smithsonian Institution and is now part of the National Air and Space Museum collection.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of reports on the design, construction, and testing of the NC series flying boats and photographs and 3 negatives of the NC-4's construction and transatlantic flight. The collection is set up in a series of books with two copies of each book, except books 11 and 13. There is some water damage to book 10. Due to the fact that book 5 contained oversized materials, both copies of this book are filed out of sequence in box 4.

Arrangement

The collection is set up in a series of books with two copies of each book, except books 11 and 13. There is some water damage to book 10. Due to the fact that book 5 contained oversized materials, both copies of this book are filed out of sequence in box 4.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-Boat Family
- Seaplanes

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Financial records

Names:

Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company
United States. Navy

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Book #1 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 1, Folder 2	Book #2 on the design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 1]
Box 1, Folder 3	Book #2 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 2 with folded drawings]
Box 1, Folder 4	Book #3 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 1 with folded drawings]
Box 1, Folder 5	Book #3 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 2 with folded drawings]
Box 1, Folder 6	Book #4 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 1]
Box 1, Folder 7	Book #4 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 2]
Box 2, Folder 1	Book #5 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [both copies moved to oversize box #4] 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 2, Folder 2	Book #6 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [with folded drawings] 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 2, Folder 3	Book #7 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 2, Folder 4	Book #8 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [with photographs] 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 2, Folder 5	Book #9 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [with photographs] 2 Copies (derivative objects)
Box 2, Folder 6	Book #10 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 1 with photographs]
Box 2, Folder 7	Book #10 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 2 with photographs]

Handle carefully; water damage.

Box 2, Folder 8	Book #10 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats 3 Negatives (photographic)
Box 2, Folder 9	Book #11 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats
Box 3, Folder 1	Book #12 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats
Box 3, Folder 2	Curtiss NC Flying Boats, Navy and Smithsonian Photographs
Box 3, Folder 3	Additional Photographs Showing Various Instruments of the NC Flying Boats
Box 3, Folder 4	Curtiss NC-4 Side View Drawing, 9/26/1966
Box 3, Folder 5	Prints to be used as Patterns for 1/6 Scale Model of the NC-4 Flying Boat
Box 3, Folder 6	Main Structural Characteristics of the NC-4 Flying Boat [2 copies with drawings]
Box 3, Folder 7	Curtiss NC-5-8 Top View Drawing, Erection Plan, Drawing No. 51437, 3/3/1920
Box 3, Folder 8	Weekly Newsgram from CHINFO (Navy Internal Relations Activity (3-75), 1975
Box 4, Folder 1	Book #5 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 1 with drawings]
Box 4, Folder 2	Book #5 on the Design, Construction and Testing on the NC Flying Boats [copy 2 with drawings]