



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Expedition Glass Plates [Dietrichson]

2009

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
NASMRefDesk@si.edu  
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Expedition Glass Plates [Dietrichson]
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1925)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.XXXX.0491
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 Cubic feet (1 box (23 glass lantern slides))
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The collection consists of 23 hand-colored glass lantern slides of images taken during the 1925 Arctic expedition attempt by Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth to fly to the North Pole using a pair of Dornier Do J Wal (Whale) (Do 16) flying boats.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

P.W.K. Dietrichson, Gift, NASM.XXXX.0494

### Preferred Citation

Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Expedition Glass Plates [Dietrichson], Acc. XXXX.0491, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Roald Amundsen was an accomplished Norwegian explorer. American Lincoln Ellsworth was the son of a multimillionaire, with degrees from Columbia and Yale, trained as an aviator during World War I. Together, with four other men, they attempted to fly to the North Pole using a pair of Dornier Do J Wal (Whale) (Do 16) flying boats, simply named N24 and N25. Each aircraft had twin Rolls-Royce 365-hp water-cooled Eagle engines mounted on top of the wing structure, one facing forward, the other facing aft. The Dorniers were constructed with duralumin flat-bottomed fuselages and projecting sponsons to stabilize the craft in the water. The expedition left from King's Bay Svalbard (Spitsbergen) Norway on 21 May 1925. The N24 was piloted by Norwegian naval Lieutenant Leif Dietrichson, with Ellsworth and mechanic Osker Omdal. Amundsen was aboard the N25 with Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen as pilot and German mechanic Ludwig (also known as Karl) Feucht. After several hours of flight, the N24 engine temperature began to rise uncontrollably, and by 5:00 am on the 22nd Amundsen decided to land both planes to refill the tanks. They were still over 120 miles from

the Pole and had drifted off course, 22 degrees west. It would take 25 days of surviving the Arctic climate before they could free the planes from the ice by creating a hard ice runway using only makeshift tools. On June 15, the six men took flight aboard the N25, leaving the crippled N24 behind. Almost 24 hours later they were able to land on the choppy waters of the Hinlopen Strait, where they flagged down and were able to board the Sjoliv, a Norwegian seal-hunting ship, for their final journey back to King's Bay. By June 25th the N25 was safely recovered and on July 5th Amundsen and Ellsworth with the rest of the crew flew the N-25 to Oslo for a heroes' reception and audience with King Haakon of Norway.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 23 3.25 x 3.25 inch (8 x 8 cm) hand-colored glass lantern slides made by the Worm-Petersen studio (Oslo, Norway) of images taken during the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic expedition.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Dornier Do J Wal (Whale) (Do 16)
- North Pole -- Aerial Exploration
- Scientific expeditions -- Arctic regions

### Types of Materials:

- Lantern slides

### Names:

- Amundsen, Roald
- Ellsworth, Lincoln, 1880-1951

### Places:

- Arctic regions -- Discovery and exploration

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## Container Listing

Box 1	Lantern Slides
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06538: <a href="#">Slide 1: Dornier Do J Wal "N25" being unloaded from the Hobby, circa May to June 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [01 of 23] Right side view of Dornier Do J Wal "N25", without wings, being unloaded from the ship "Hobby", which is moored to ice at the edge of King's Bay, Spitsbergen, Norway (now known as Svalbard) probably circa the end of April 1925, in preparation for the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition.</p>
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06539: <a href="#">Slide 2: Expedition on the ice at King's Bay, 17 May 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [02 of 23] Unidentified group of men, including members of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition, on the ice at the edge of King's Bay, Spitsbergen, Norway (now known as Svalbard); 17 May 1925.</p>
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06550: <a href="#">Slide 3: Man using a speedometer, circa May to June 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [03 of 23] Full-length view of unidentified man, possibly Norwegian naval Lieutenant Lief Dietrichson (pilot of "N24", navigator of "N25" on return flight) using a speedometer to make deviation measures, probably before the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition departed from King's Bay, Spitsbergen, Norway; circa May-June 1925.</p>
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06540: <a href="#">Slide 4: Dornier Do J Wals taxiing at King's Bay, circa May to June 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [04 of 23] Long view of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats "N24" and "N25" taxiing on the water at King's Bay near Spitsbergen, Norway (now known as Svalbard), probably at the start of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition on May 21, 1925.</p>
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06551: <a href="#">Slide 5: Dornier Do J Wals trapped in the ice, circa May to June 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [05 of 23] Long one-half right front view of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25" (far right, with Norwegian flag posted on wing) and the Dornier Do J Wal "N24" (center background) trapped in the Arctic ice during the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition. Possibly June 4, 1925, when the two aircraft were within sight of each other.</p>
Box 1	<p>NASM-9A06547: <a href="#">Slide 6: Dornier Do J Wal "N25" at rest on the ice, circa May to June 1925</a></p> <p>Notes: [06 of 23] Front (head-on) view of of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25", Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight</p>

Expedition, at rest on the ice. An unidentified member of the expedition is seen on skis standing in front of the aircraft; circa May-June 1925.

Box 1

NASM-9A06542: [Slide 7: "N25" on the ice, with men and smoke bomb, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [07 of 23] One-quarter front right side view of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25" resting on the ice, with five of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition's members standing near the fuselage. Large smoke bomb in foreground being used to indicate position. Probably taken after May 26, 1925, when the "N24" was abandoned and all six men continued in the "N25."

Box 1

NASM-9A06544: [Slide 8: Large smoke bomb used by the crew of the "N25", circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [08 of 23] Large smoke bomb used by the crew of the "N25" of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition in an effort to indicate their position to the crew of the "N24"; circa May 26, 1925.

Box 1

NASM-9A06545: [Slide 9: Smoke device with unidentified equipment, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [09 of 23] Smoke device sitting on the ice (right foreground) with unidentified survey or navigational equipment in the background. The smoke device used by Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition was possibly to indicate wind direction in preparation for take off from the polar ice, probably some time after May 26, 1925.

Box 1

NASM-9A06537: [Slide 10: Central section of one of the Dornier Do J Wals, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [10 of 23] One-half right front close-up view of central section of one of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats used by the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May to June 1925. Expedition member seen at center is probably Roald Amundsen.

Box 1

NASM-9A06543: [Slide 11: Roald Amundsen with unidentified man, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [11 of 23] Roald Amundsen (left) with unidentified member of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition. Both men are holding bulb sextants. Circa May to June 1925.

Box 1

NASM-9A06553: [Slide 12: Roald Amundsen sitting with bulb sextant, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [12 of 23] Full-length view of Roald Amundsen standing, sitting with a bulb sextant, during the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May-June 1925.

Box 1 NASM-9A06552: [Slide 13: Roald Amunsen standing up in hatch of Dornier Do J Wal, circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [13 of 23] Close-up right side view from slightly to the rear of Roald Amunsen standing up in the forward hatch in the nose of one of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats used on the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May-June 1925.

Box 1 NASM-9A06549: [Slide 14: Nose of Dornier Do J Wal, circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [14 of 23] Close-up view three-quarter right forward view of nose of one of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats used for the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May-June 1925. Man standing at left foreground is probably Norwegian naval Lieutenant Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, pilot of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25".

Box 1 NASM-9A06557: [Slide 15: Man standing in forward hatch of Dornier Do J Wal, circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [15 of 23] Unidentified member of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition standing in the forward (nose) hatch of one of the expedition's two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats; circa May-June 1925. Close-up right side view of aircraft.

Box 1 NASM-9A06541: [Slide 16: Men on the rear of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25", circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [16 of 23] Two unidentified members of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition pose seated atop the rear fuselage of the Dornier Do J Wal (Whale) (Do 16) "N25" (right side view); circa May-June 1925.

Box 1 NASM-9A06536: [Slide 17: Partial close up of two men, circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [17 of 23] Partial close up view of two unidentified members of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May-June 1925. Unidentified metal objects in foreground.

Box 1 NASM-9A06546: [Slide 18: Two men standing on ice beside sledge, circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [18 of 23] Long view of two unidentified members of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition standing on the ice beside a sledge containing blocks of ice used to create a makeshift runway; circa May to June 1925.

Box 1 NASM-9A06548: [Slide 19: Equipment with the Dornier Do J Wal "N25", circa May to June 1925](#)  
Notes: [19 of 23] View of unidentified member of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition, standing under the right wing of the Dornier Do J Wal "N25" next to some

expedition equipment, probably one of the collapsible canvas boats; circa May-June 1925. View is from a point to the right of the aircraft's tail, looking forward across the right wing.

Box 1

NASM-9A06554: [Slide 20: Nose of Dornier Do J Wal, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [20 of 23] Close-up view of the right side of the nose of one of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats used by the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition, circa May-June 1925. One unidentified member of the expedition stands in the forward (nose) hatch facing a second man seated in the cockpit.

Box 1

NASM-9A06555: [Slide 21: Two men at nose of aircraft, view under wing, circa May to June 1925](#)

Notes: [21 of 23] Three-quarter right rear view, close up from beneath the right wing, of one of the two Dornier Do J Wal flying boats used by the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition; circa May-June 1925. Two unidentified members of the expedition are seen at the nose of the aircraft, one seated in the cockpit, the other either seated on the nose or standing up in the forward (nose) hatch.

Box 1

NASM-9A06556: [Slide 22: Three-masted ship, circa 16 June 1925](#)

Notes: [22 of 23] Long view of a three-masted ship, possibly the Sjoliv, a Norwegian seal-hunting vessel, which aided in the rescue of the six members of the Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition by towing their remaining aircraft from its landing area in the Hinlopen Strait to King's Bay, Spitsbergen, Norway, June 16, 1925.

Box 1

NASM-9A06535: [Slide 23: Parade celebrating safe return of the expedition, 5 July 1925](#)

Notes: [23 of 23] Long high-angle view of two horse-drawn open carriages, proceeding along a street; crowds line the street. Men waving from the front carriage are presumably Ronald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth, seen during events in Oslo, Norway, on Oslo, Norway, 5 July 1925, celebrating their safe return from Amundsen and Ellsworth 1925 Arctic Flight Expedition.

Box 1

NASM-9A06558: [Reflective light view of lantern slides showing Worm-Petersen \(Oslo, Norway\) mounts, circa 1925](#)