



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Curtiss NC-3 (P2N-1) and NC-4 (P2N-1) Photographs

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Curtiss NC-3 (P2N-1) and NC-4 (P2N-1) Photographs
Date:	1919
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0903
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of eight black and white photographs, mounted on album pages, documenting the flight of the Curtiss NC-1, the Curtiss NC-3, and the Curtiss NC-4 aircraft in their effort to make the first trans-Atlantic crossing by air.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Frederick M. Thompson, Gift, Unknown, NASM.XXXX.0903

Processing Information

Arranged and described in 2009 by Jessamyn Lloyd, encoded in 2020 by Jessamyn Lloyd.

Preferred Citation

Curtiss NC-3 and NC-4 Photographs, NASM.XXXX.0903, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

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 trans-Atlantic crossing by air. As the program progressed, the NC-2 was dismantled to provide 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-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 Contents

This collection consists of eight black and white photographs, each approximately 2.25 x 3 inches, mounted on two 7 x 6 inch pages (four to each page) with caption information. The Curtiss NC-3 is shown anchored to a buoy, landing, and beached with damaged wings at Ponta Delgada, Azores Islands. The Curtiss NC-4 is shown landing, on the water, and taking off for Lisbon, Portugal. There is also an image taken from a ship of Naval personnel watching for an aircraft.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Curtiss NC-3 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1)
- Transatlantic flights

Types of Materials:

- Photographic prints

Names:

- United States. Navy -- Aviation