



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

US Navy 1919 Transatlantic Flight (NC-4 Flight) Post Cards

Melissa A. N. Keiser

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	US Navy 1919 Transatlantic Flight (NC-4 Flight) Post Cards
Date:	May 1919
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.1102
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder; 11 photographs; 3.5 x 5.4 inches)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of eleven gelatin-silver photographs printed by the International Film Service as commercial post cards of the US Navy NC Transatlantic expedition of 1919, showing various stages of the flight, from the departure from NAS Rockaway (New York, USA) to shots of the Curtiss NC-4 at anchor in Lisbon, Portugal, and its crew being congratulated on arrival in Plymouth, England (UK).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Paul E. Garber, gift, 1982, NASM.XXXX.1102

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Allan Janus, 2012; revised and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2023.

Preferred Citation

US Navy 1919 Transatlantic Flight (NC-4 Flight) Post Cards, Acc. NASM.XXXX.1102, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On May 8, 1919, the Curtiss-built flying boat NC-4, in company with the NC-1 and NC-3, departed from the Naval Air Station Rockaway (New York) on the first leg of a transatlantic flight. Intermediate legs were planned for Naval Air Station Chatham (Massachusetts); Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Trepassey, Newfoundland. On May 16, the three aircraft began the longest leg of their mission -- from Newfoundland to the Azores. Naval vessels were stationed

along the route to indicate the route to the aviators. NC-1 became disabled, and its crew was rescued by the Greek freighter SS *Ionia*. NC-3 was forced down but was able to taxi in to harbor in the Azores. NC-4 arrived safely in Horta (Ilha do Faial), in the Azores on May 17. After delays for repairs, NC-4 took off on May 27 and landed at Lisbon, Portugal, 9 hours later, becoming the first aircraft to make a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. The NC-4 continued via Ferrol, Spain, to Plymouth, England, arriving on May 31, 1919.

After service during World War I with the US Navy, commercial photographer Norbert George Moser partnered for a short time with the International Film Service (IFS) to publish photo post cards of Navy-related subjects. This group of US Navy "Transatlantic Flight May 14th 1919" post cards likely reproduces scenes captured by several different photographers. Note that the last card in the collection (NASM-9A19927), despite being titled as "Congratulating crew of the N.C.4 on arrival in England" is a US Navy photograph of officers of the seaplane tender USS *Shawmut* congratulating the crew of the Curtiss NC-4 at Lisbon, Portugal, on May 28, 1919.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of eleven gelatin-silver photographs printed by the International Film Service as commercial post cards of the US Navy NC Transatlantic expedition of 1919, showing various stages of the flight, from the departure from NAS Rockaway (New York, USA) to shots of the Curtiss NC-4 at anchor in Lisbon, Portugal, and its crew being congratulated on arrival in Plymouth, England (UK).

Arrangement

Post cards have been arranged in chronological order based on the card titles and assigned NASM Archives image reference numbers NASM-9A19917 through NASM-9A19927.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Airplanes
- Curtiss NC-1 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-3 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1)
- Curtiss NC-Boat Family
- Naval aviation
- Seaplanes

Types of Materials:

Photographs -- 1910-1920 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Names:

United States. Navy

Places:

Azores

Lisbon (Portugal)
Long Island (N.Y.)
Trepassey (N.L.)

Container Listing

Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19917	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The NC-4 getting ready for the flight.", circa May 3-8, 1919</p> <p>Notes: Left side view of the Curtiss NC-4 on a beaching cradle outside a hangar at Naval Air Station Rockaway, Long Island, New York, circa May 3-8, 1919. The Curtiss NC-3 can be seen at left background.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19918	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. U.S. SQUADRON of N. C. PLANES starting on their history making flight.", May 8, 1919</p> <p>Notes: Three Curtiss NC flying boats taxi away from the ramp at Naval Air Station Rockaway, into Jamaica Bay, Long Island, New York, on the morning of May 8, 1919, en route to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Left to right: Curtiss NC-4, Curtiss NC-3, and Curtiss NC-1. US Navy personnel watch from the shore at right foreground; view from roof of a hangar.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19919	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 1 leaving Rockaway Naval Air Station.", May 8, 1919</p> <p>Notes: Three-quarter right rear view of the Curtiss NC-1 taxiing away from NAS Rockaway, into Jamaica Bay, Long Island, New York, on the morning of May 8, 1919, en route to Halifax, Nova Scotia.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19920	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The three N.C. planes riding at anchor in Trepassey Bay N.F.", circa May 15-16, 1919</p> <p>Notes: One-half left front view of the Curtiss NC-1 at anchor in Trepassey Bay, Newfoundland, on May 15 or 16, 1919. The Curtiss NC-4 and NC-3 can be seen in the background with a US Navy ship.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19921	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 4 off for the Azores.", May 16, 1919</p> <p>Notes: Distant right side view from below of the Curtiss NC-4 in flight over Trepassey Bay, Newfoundland, on May 16, 1919, en route to the Azore Islands. Farm buildings in foreground.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19922	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 4 arriving at anchor in the Azores.", May 17, 1919</p> <p>Notes: One-half left front view of the Curtiss NC-4 on the water in the harbor at Horta (Ilha do Faial), Azores, May 17, 1919. Airmen standing in the nose of the NC-4 work with US Navy sailors in boat at left to secure the aircraft.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19923	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 4 arriving at Ponta Delgada.", May 20, 1919</p> <p>Notes: Long left side view of the Curtiss NC-4 taxiing across the water at Ponta Delgada (Ilha de São Miguel), Azores, May 20, 1919.</p>
Folder 1, Item NASM-9A19924	<p>"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 4 with the Shawmutt in Lisbon harbor.", May 27, 1919</p>

Notes: One-half left rear view of the Curtiss NC-4 (P2N-1) at anchor alongside the US Navy seaplane tender USS *Shawmut* (ID 1255) in the harbor at Lisbon, Portugal; May 27, 1919. Several small local boats are seen in the water at right.

Folder 1, Item
NASM-9A19925

"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. The N-C 4 taking on oil at Lisbon for final flight to England.", May 30, 1919

Notes: Right side view of the Curtiss NC-4 moored to an unidentified US Navy ship (right) taking on supplies at Lisbon, Portugal, May 30, 1919. Small local boat in foreground.

Folder 1, Item
NASM-9A19926

"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. Arrival at Plymouth Eng. of the N-C 4.", May 31, 1919

Notes: Three-quarter right front view from above of Curtiss NC-4 moored in shallow water, supposedly at Plymouth, England (UK), May 31, 1919. Sailors can be seen working on the engines and tail of the aircraft.

Folder 1, Item
NASM-9A19927

"TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT May 14th 1919. Congratulating crew of the N.C.4 on arrival in England.", May 28, 1919

Notes: Unidentified officers (left and third from right) of the US Navy seaplane tender USS *Shawmut* (ID 1255) congratulate the crew of the Curtiss NC-4 at Lisbon, Portugal; May 28, 1919. Left to right: Chief Machinist's Mate (Air) Eugene S. Rhodes, USN, Engineer; Lt. (jg) Walter K. Hinton, USNRF, Pilot; Lt. J. L. Breese, USNRF, Engineer; Lt. Elmer F. Stone, USCG, Pilot; Lt. Commander Albert C. Read, USN, Commanding Officer and Navigator.