

NON-STOP ACROSS THE POND:

The 1919 Transatlantic Flight of Alcock and Brown

On 1 April 1913, Alfred Harmsworth (Lord Northcliffe), owner of the London Daily Mail newspaper, offered £10,000 to the first pilot who could fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. They were allowed 72 hours and had to finish in the same aircraft in which they started. Because of WWI, the competition did not get underway until the spring of 1919.



While at least seventeen aircraft and their crews registered for the competition, only four became airborne. Of these, three machines made the crossing, one being an ineligible dirigible. The first across was the US Navy NC-4 but it was an interrupted trip. The winners were Royal Air Force officers Capt. John Alcock (pilot) and Lt. Arthur Brown (navigator). This display exhibit is their story.

Above: Art card of Alcock and Brown's Vickers Vimy aircraft, personally signed by the artist, Kenneth Young.