

Fokker C-2 'General Machado'
NC53 or NC55?

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| Pan American Airways C-2 'General Machado' | 15 August 1928 Gulf of Mexico (forced landing) |
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- Was this aircraft registered as NC53 or as NC55?
- * What caused the confusion about the registration number of the 'General Machado'?
 - * What was the registration number of the 'General Machado'?
 - * Why are aerophilatelists not confused about the registration number of the 'General Machado'?

confusion

- (1994) Fokker Commercial Aircraft
C-2 (c/n 704; r/n NC55) to Pan American Airways
- (1996) World Directory of Airliner Crashes; Terry Denham
1928.08.15 NC53 force landed Gulf of Mexico
1928.08.15 NC55 crashed off Egmond Key, Florida
<http://airhistory.org.uk> (Golden Years of Aviation)
NC53 'General Machado' ditched Gulf of Mexico
<http://baaa-acro.com> (Bureau of Aircraft Accident Archives)
NC53 emergency landing off Egmond Key

solution

- (2013) Fokker F.VII (Noord-Amerika); Theo Wesselink [my translation - JB]
NC55 received a Certificate of Airworthiness (although NC53 was painted on the tail).
'General Machado' showed the correct r/n NC55 (instead of NC53) since April 1928.
- (2014) The Bulletin of the Metropolitan Air Post Society
..... the aircraft had received the wrong registration number (NC53) when sold to PAA.
The error was corrected in April 1928 and the correct registration (NC55) was applied.

table of events

date	r/n NC55		r/n NC53	
1926.11.____	c/n 701	Colonial Air Transport		
1927.06.17			c/n 704	Colonial Air Transport
1927.06.18	c/n 701	heavily damaged		
1927.06.____	c/n 701	registration deleted		
1927.06.____			c/n 704	registration deleted
1927.08.____			WACO.9	
1927.09.____	c/n 704	Pan American Airways		
1927.09.30	c/n 704	PAA (NC53 on tail)		
1928.04.____	c/n 704	PAA (NC55 on tail)		
1928.08.15	c/n 704	crashed near St. Petersburg		

crash cachet

REC. ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.
AUG. 16, 1928
FR. WRECKED PLANE NC55

conclusion

- * The confusion was caused by the reassignment of r/n NC53 to a WACO.9.
- * The registration number of the 'General Machado' was NC55.
- * Aerophilatelists use the registration number (NC55) mentioned in the crash cachet.