

Our aircraft was manufactured by Douglas Aircraft as a C-47-DL and test flown on July 22, 1942 when it was received by the Army Air Forces. Over the next few years it was based in 10 different states, and according to official Army Air Force records, it may have briefly served in Europe.

After the war it was classified as *Surplus Property* by the War Assets Administration and converted from a C-47 to a DC-3 S1C3G with a registration number of NC15585. Over the next years the aircraft was sold to over 15 different organizations.



New owners would often change the registration number and ours is no exception. Before N44V, our aircraft registrations included: NC15585, N1916, N555CR, C-GQHK (Canada), and N46BF. It was upgraded in virtually all areas and finally in 1986 it was bought by Piedmont Aviation in Winston-Salem, NC where it was restored to Piedmont Airlines markings. The final registration number of N44V was assigned in 1987. In 1992 it was sold to USAir Leasing and finally to Carolinas Historic Aviation Commission.

The aircraft has been a showpiece and icon of the museum. It was a flying history exhibit winning awards at various airshows...until 2011. The last airshow was in October 2010 in Atlanta and the last flight was April 2011. Although an annual inspection would make the aircraft flyable again, the cost of insurance and of maintaining the aircraft in flightworthy condition has become prohibitive for the museum. It is now preserved as a beautiful example of our aviation history.

