

VH-EAG

LOCKHEED 1049C CONSTELLATION

Construction Number: 4539

It was also registered as: NIL

History Of This Aircraft ...

This aircraft was built as a Lockheed L-1049C-55-81 for Qantas Airways - 1954

Entered onto the Australian Aircraft Register as VH-EAG - February 09, 1954

Registered to Qantas Airways Ltd, Sydney

First flown at Burbank - March 18, 1954

The United States Certificate of Export Certificate 'E-27609' was issued - March 26, 1954

Accepted by Qantas Airways at Burbank - March 28, 1954

Utilised by Qantas for crew training in the United States and Canada - April 06 - 10, 1954

Departed Burbank, California on the delivery flight to Australia - April 12, 1954

It arrived at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) on completion of the delivery flight - April 15, 1954

Delivery route: San Francisco - Honolulu - Nadi - Sydney

Flight crew: Captain K. G. Jackson

Flight time: 29 hours 57 minutes

The aircraft was named 'Southern Constellation'

Operated the inaugural Qantas L-1049 Sydney (Kingsford Smith) - Vancouver service - May 15, 1954

Route: Sydney - Nadi - Canton Island - Honolulu - San Francisco - Vancouver

Flight crew: Captains K. G. Jackson, J. Connolly

This was the inaugural trans-Pacific service on what was to be known as the 'Southern Cross' route

Qantas took over all British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines services on this day

Operated the inaugural Qantas L-1049 Sydney (Kingsford Smith) - Singapore service - February 04, 1955

Operated the inaugural Qantas L-1049 Sydney (Kingsford Smith) - Manila - Tokyo service - May 03, 1955

Operated the inaugural Qantas L-1049 Sydney (Kingsford Smith) - Christchurch service - November 19, 1955

Withdrawn from service for 'D' check and fitment of weather radar - September 23, 1957

Returned to service - October 20, 1957

Operated the final Qantas L-1049 service to Port Moresby (Captain J. G. Morton) - July 07, 1960

Leased to Tasman Empire Airways Ltd (TEAL) - December 16, 1960

Leased to Tasman Empire Airways Ltd (TEAL) - January 1961 to March 1961

The lease to TEAL was to cover the conversion of their Lockheed Electra fleet in the United States
under the Lockheed Electra Action Program

Operated its final Qantas revenue service - April 7, 1963 to April 15, 1963

This was a migrant charter flight Sydney - Malta - Sydney

Withdrawn from use and sold to Boeing - May 03, 1963

Total flying time to date - 21,844 hours

Sold to Airmotive Inc for parts

Departed Sydney (Kingsford Smith) in the basic livery on the ferry flight to the United States -
May 06, 1963

Ferry route: Sydney - Nadi - Honolulu - San Francisco - Burbank

This Constellation was the first Super Constellation to be operated by Qantas and it was the last to
leave the company

The aircraft was painted up with an apt sign that read:

‘Very good performer / Held her reputation / Entered service first / Always reliable / Going out last
(VH-EAG)’

Flight crew: Captains R. Simons, B. Gosbell

Scrapped - 1965



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - somewhere over California - March 1954.

Standard livery

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-051)



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VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - somewhere over California - March 1954.

Standard livery

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-052)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - somewhere over California - March 1954.

Standard livery

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-053)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - somewhere over California - March 1954.

Standard livery

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-054)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Burbank Airport - March 1954.

Standard livery

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-150)



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VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Burbank Airport - March 28, 1954.

Standard livery - the official 'christening ceremony'

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-192)



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Lady Spender, (wife of Sir Percy Spender - the Australian Ambassador to the United States) broke the bottle of champagne over the nose landing gear to christen the aircraft.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-193)



R to L: Sir Percy Spender; Lady Spender; Mr C. O. Turner (General Manager, Qantas); Capt K. Jackson; Capt B. Yates; F/O B. Fawcett; E/O K. Stark; E/O E. Manning

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-103)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - May 15, 1954.

The official ceremony to mark the launch of the 'Southern Cross' service to Canada.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-148)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - May 15, 1954.

The departure of the inaugural 'Southern Cross' service to Canada.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-119)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Vancouver Airport, Canada - May 17, 1954.

Sir Hudson and Lady Fysh at the arrival ceremony.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-085)



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VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Vancouver Airport, Canada - May 17, 1954.

Official guests at the arrival ceremony.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-084)



VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Vancouver Airport, Canada - May 17, 1954.

Lady Fysh at the arrival ceremony of the inaugural 'Southern Cross' service to Canada.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-086)



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VH-EAG. 'Southern Constellation' - at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - date unknown.

Standard livery - the aircraft now has weather-radar fitted.

R. N. Smith Collection (1802-011)



VH-EAG - at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - May 05, 1963.

Basic livery - no titles.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-140)



VH-EAG - at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport - May 06, 1963.

Basic livery - Qantas staff gather to say 'farewell' to the last Super Constellation.

Qantas Heritage Collection (1802-194)

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