



Jaime Gonzáles Grocier

Born in Cienfuegos, Las Villas, Cuba on February 13, 1895.

At a time when aviation was virtually unknown in Cuba he began to experiment with small airplanes his own construction. They were so well and ingeniously constructed that he was able to fly them to considerable heights.

After accompanying the American aviator, James Ward, on several flights, Gonzalez Crocier y Crocier left for France to study at Bleriot's school in Chateaufort. In December, 1913 the International Aeronautical Federation granted him pilot's certificate Number 1566.

After he returned to Cuba, his first flight was at Perla del Sur, and after that he flew in many parts of the Republic. On May 20, 1914 he left Cienfuegos carrying a letter pouch and a Cuban flag. He fought through a heavy fog and passed Constancia, Abreus, Rodas, Colon, Jovellanos, Matanzas, and finally he reached his destination at Morro Castle. For this he won the national prize for the first flight over 200 kilometers.

In 1915 he entered the air force as a lieutenant. A flight which he began from Havana on May 20, 1915 to the destination of San Francisco, California could not be completed because of lack of resources.

Grocier died in a plane crash on July 4, 1920 after taking off from Baracoa to Jaguey Grande - Cuba". However, other historical sources assert that Jaime Gonzalez Grocier was killed during takeoff from the farm "La Bien Aparecida", in Luyano, Havana, falling in the farm "La

Fernanda", by the bridge Alcoy.

This accident was the first fatal accident of the Cuban Civil aviation. Today its name carries th Cienfuegos airport, Capt. Jaime Gonzalez Grocier.

Note: The biographical notes above were taken verbatim from the page of the philately.com website.