

सत्यमेव जयते

1965

AF Safety Directorate Library

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS IN 1965

This Survey deals with notifiable accidents involving 15 aircraft, including three gliders and four rotary wing aircraft. Five of these accidents proved fatal resulting in the loss of 18 lives.

2. No aircraft engaged in scheduled passenger services was involved in an accident.

3. Two aircraft were engaged on non-scheduled flights, three on aerial spray operations, three on training flights, one on a Ferry Flight, one on a test flight and two on private flights. The three gliders involved in accidents were on local flights.

4. A brief description of the fatal accidents is given below:—

(i) A Rohini glider was involved in an accident while landing at Patiala aerodrome on 11th April 1965. The glider, piloted by an instructor with a passenger on board, was, engaged on giving joy rides. During the final stages of approach, the glider undershot and hit two Flight Cadets who were standing outside the barbed wire fencing surrounding the landing area. One of the Flight Cadets received fatal injuries while the other was seriously injured. The glider was damaged.

(ii) An Expedito aircraft with a crew of three on a flight from Ahmedabad to Mithapur with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, his wife and two others on board crashed after it was struck by bullets fired at it by hostile fighter aircraft. There were no survivors.

(iii) A DC-3 aircraft engaged on a supply dropping mission crashed 23 miles north of Mohanbari aerodrome. Complete loss of control was experienced by the pilot after a sleeping bag ejected as part of an air-drop consignment, got lodged and ballooned over the port tail-plane. All the eight persons on board the aircraft (3 flight crew and 5 ejection crew) were killed and the aircraft was destroyed.

(iv) A Gawron aircraft was involved in an accident on 29th November 1965 at Sholapur. Whilst being flown at a low height in a steep turn, soon after take-off, the aircraft struck and killed a boy who had strayed into the aerodrome boundary. Minor damage was caused to the aircraft.

(v) A MU-1A type helicopter was involved in an accident on 24th December 1965 while taking-off at Lalgunj in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar. The tail rotor of the helicopter struck and caused fatal injuries to a person. Three others sustained minor injuries by the flying splinters of the rotor.

5. Tables I and II list the probable causes of the accidents.

6. Table III classifies the accidents according to the type of operation.

TABLE I

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MISCELLANEOUS

⑦	1	<i>Ferry Flight</i> 17-7-65 Meerut	Beaver VT-DRS	 1	 1		Substantial	Landing gear collapsed	Swung during take-off.
⑫	1	<i>Test Flight</i> 29-11-65 Sholapur	Gawron PZL 101 VT-DSE		 1	1	Minor	Struck a person	The aircraft struck and killed a boy who had strayed into the aerodrome boundary.
①	1	<i>Training</i> 22-2-65 Near Patiala	Pushpak VT-DQP		 1		Substantial	Forced Landing	The engine stopped when the throttle was opened abruptly with the engine idling in a glide.
②	2	11-4-65 Near Patna	Tiger Moth VT-CUJ		 2		Substantial	Stall	The aircraft stalled during the course of a steep turn executed by the Instructor during intentional low flying.
⑦	3	4-5-65 Jullundur Aerodrome	Pushpak VT-DLD		 1		Substantial	Heavy Landing	Levelled off too high.

*Includes 5 ejection crew

F—Fatal
 S—Serious
 M—Minor
 N—Nil

TABLE I—contd.

S. No.	Date/Place of accident	Type/Regn. of aircraft	Injuries												Damage to aircraft	Type of accident	Probable Cause
			Passengers				Crew				Others						
			F	S	M	N	F	S	M	N	F	S	M	N			
1	PRIVATE 19-9-65 Suthri 43 miles north of Mithapur near Bhuj	Expeditor VT-000	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Destroyed	Miscellaneous	The aircraft was forced down by fire from hostile fighter aircraft. It impacted the ground at high speed, broke up and caught fire.
2	24-12-65 Lalganj	Helicopter MU-LA VT-DOA	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	Substantial	Collision with person	Inadequate safety precautions to control crowds near an improvised helipad. A man, who approached dangerously close, was struck and killed by the tail-rotor.

TABLE II
 Accidents to Indian Registered Gliders

S. No.	Date/Place of accident	Type/Regn. of Glider	Fatalities	Major Injuries	Damage to Glider	Probable Cause
③ 1	JOY RIDE 11-4-65 Patiala Aerodrome	Rohini PAC-001	1	1	Substantial	The accident was caused by undershooting of the glider due to the failure of the pilot to compensate for gusty wind conditions encountered at the time of accident.
⑤ 1	INSTRUCTIONAL 3-6-65 Lucknow Aerodrome	Olympia GAC-004	..	..	Substantial	The accident was caused by a heavy landing effected on uneven ground after an approach under gusty wind conditions.
⑥ 2	22-6-65 Amritsar	Rohini RG1-001	..	..	Substantial	The accident was caused by the undershooting of the glider while landing.

TABLE III
 Classification of Accidents to Aircraft (including Gliders) by Nature of Flight

Nature of flight	No. of accidents	No. of fatal accidents	Crew		Passengers		Third party killed	Aircraft		
			Killed	Seriously injured	Killed	Seriously injured		Destroyed	Substantially damaged	Minor damage
Scheduled Passenger Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Scheduled Freight Services	2	1	8	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Non-Scheduled Passenger Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Training	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Private	2	2	3	..	4	..	1	1	1	..
Aerial Work	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Miscellaneous {	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Gliders {	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Total	15	5	11	..	4	..	3	2	12	1