

No. 26

Panair do Brasil S. A., Lockheed Constellation 049, PP-PDE,
accident near Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil on
14 December 1962. Report released by the
Brazilian Air Ministry (SIPAer)

1. Historical1.1 Circumstances

The aircraft departed Belem at 0231 hours GMT on a scheduled domestic flight to Manaus carrying a crew of 7 and 43 passengers. It was flying on Amber 1 Airway in accordance with an approved flight plan. The trip was expected to take three hours and the flight carried enough fuel for 11-1/2 hours. At 0504 hours the flight contacted radio Manaus, reporting it was six minutes out. It received landing instructions and was asked to report again when in the traffic pattern. At 0519 the aircraft again contacted Manaus and asked whether its engines could be heard by the station. Radio Manaus replied in the negative and asked the reason for the question. No further messages were exchanged. Shortly thereafter the "uncertainty" and "alert" phases were declared. The wreckage was found approximately 45 km from Manaus.

1.2 Damage to aircraft

It was destroyed.

1.3 Injuries to persons

All 7 crew and 43 passengers were killed.

2. Facts ascertained by the inquiry2.1 Aircraft information

None available.

2.2 Crew information

None available.

2.3 Weather information

None available.

2.4 Navigational Aids

The non-directional beacon at Manaus was operating normally.

2.5 Communications

The aircraft was communicating with radio Manaus on VHF, frequency 126.7. The VHF transmitter was checked and found to be in satisfactory condition.

2.6 Aerodrome Installations

The night marking was adequate, and operating faultlessly.

2.7 Fire

There is no mention of fire in the report.

2.8 Wreckage

The wreckage of the aircraft was located at 1425 hours GMT, the day after the accident.

3. Comments, findings and recommendations

3.1 Discussion of the evidence and conclusions

Based on a reconstruction of the accident, it was concluded that the aircraft had struck trees when in level flight. At the time of impact the landing gear and flaps were up, and the carburettor mixtures for the engines were set at auto lean.

3.2 Probable cause

The cause of the accident was not determined.

3.3 Recommendations

No recommendations are made in the report.
