

No. 39

DC-3, PP-CBY, crashed at Serra do Caparao, State of Espírito Santo on 26 August 1955. Brazilian Commercial Accident Report No. 3-C-55 published 1 November 1955.

Circumstances

The aircraft took off from Rio for Caravelas with an IFR flight plan specifying flight at 1 500 metres along airway Vd-1, carrying 4 crew members and 9 passengers. After 58 minutes of flight the aircraft reported that it was over Campos at 1 500 metres. There was no further news from the aircraft whose wreckage was later discovered on the summit of Forno Grande in the State of Espírito Santo. There were no survivors and the aircraft was destroyed.

Investigation and Evidence

The weather conditions between Rio and Campos were good. There was an alto-stratus layer at 2 000 metres and 4 to 6/8 of cumulus and strato-cumulus between 400 and 600 metres.

The Forno Grande peak is more than 1 500 metres high but is not marked on current navigation charts which represent the whole of that area as having an elevation lower than 1 200 metres. It is situated a little to the right (10 km) of the direct Rio-Caravelas route and, according to reports obtained locally, was covered by cloud at the approximate time (0800 hours) of the accident.

The appearance of the marks made by the aircraft in crashing shows that it was flying at an altitude of 1 500 metres and heading for Caravelas. It may, therefore, be assumed that the pilot-in-command, instead of following airway Vd-1 along the coast, decided to cut directly across from Rio to Caravelas. He reported flying over Campos when in fact he was only abreast of this location. Finally, pursuing the flight on instruments, he crashed unexpectedly into the uncharted peak.

Probable Cause

The accident was due to the Forno Grande peak not being indicated on current charts, the flight being conducted outside the airway and failure to adhere to the approved flight plan.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the following be shown on navigation charts:

20° 25'S - 41° 06'W, spot elevation above 1 500 m.