

No. 35

Turkish Airlines, Fokker F-27, TC-TAY, accident at Ankara Airport, Turkey, on 23 September 1961. Findings released by The Minister of Communications, Turkey.

Circumstances

The flight was scheduled Nicosia-Adana-Ankara. No mechanical difficulties were reported en route. While approaching Ankara, the aircraft descended from flight level 165 to 90, was cleared to land and reported to Esenboga Tower (Ankara). At 1801 Z the pilot reported leaving the Ankara radio range. One minute later the aircraft crashed and burned, fatally injuring 4 crew and 24 passengers. One passenger survived the accident with minor injuries. The accident site was 18 km from the left side of the extended centreline of runway 03.

Investigation - Findings

The crew members were properly licensed.

The aircraft had a valid certificate of airworthiness, and maintenance on the aircraft and inspections had been carried

out satisfactorily and at the required times. The centre of gravity of the aircraft was within limits, and its gross weight was below the maximum allowable for this flight.

All ground radio navigation aids in the area were serviceable. The pilots reported nothing out of the ordinary.

Air-ground communications were carried on according to normal procedures, and communications were recorded in the tower on tape recorders.

The aircraft's actual position was not on the line between the Ankara range and the air navigation beacon where it should have been.

Probable Cause

During the approach to the airport the aircraft was not in the normal pattern and was below the normal altitude.