

# AVIATION SAFETY NETWORK

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Date: Saturday 2 May 1953  
Time: 16:35



Type: [de Havilland DH-106 Comet 1](#)  
Owner/operator: British Overseas Airways Corporation - BOAC  
Registration: G-ALYV  
MSN: 06008  
Year of manufacture: 1952  
Total airframe hrs: 1649 hours  
Engine model: de Havilland Ghost 50 Mark I  
Fatalities: Fatalities: 43 / Occupants: 43  
Other fatalities: 0  
Aircraft damage: Destroyed, written off  
Category: Accident  
Location: 32 km NW of Calcutta-Dum Dum Airport (CCU) - [India](#)  
Phase: En route  
Nature: Passenger - Scheduled  
Departure airport: Calcutta-Dum Dum Airport (CCU/VECC)  
Destination airport: Delhi-Safdarjung Airport (VIDD)  
Confidence Rating: Accident investigation report completed and information captured

## Narrative:

A de Havilland DH-106 Comet 1 passenger plane, operated by BOAC, was destroyed in an accident near Calcutta, India. All 43 on board were killed.

The airplane operated on a return flight from London, UK to Singapore.

On its return leg from Singapore it landed at Calcutta-Dum Dum Airport at 15:10 hrs local time. Intermediate stops were made at Bangkok and Rangoon before arriving at Calcutta.


The flight took off from runway 19L at 15:29 and was cleared to climb under Visual Flight Rules and report when passing 7500 feet. The aircraft encountered a severe squall with thunderstorm shortly after takeoff when climbing to its cruising altitude, and suffered structural failure in the air which caused fire. The pilots lost control and the Comet crashed.

PROBABLE CAUSE: "Structural failure of the airframe during flight through a thunder squall. In the opinion of the Court, the structural failure was due to overstressing which resulted from either:- (1) Severe gusts encountered in the thunder

squall, or (2) Overcontrolling or loss of control by the pilot when flying through the thunderstorm."

Accident investigation:

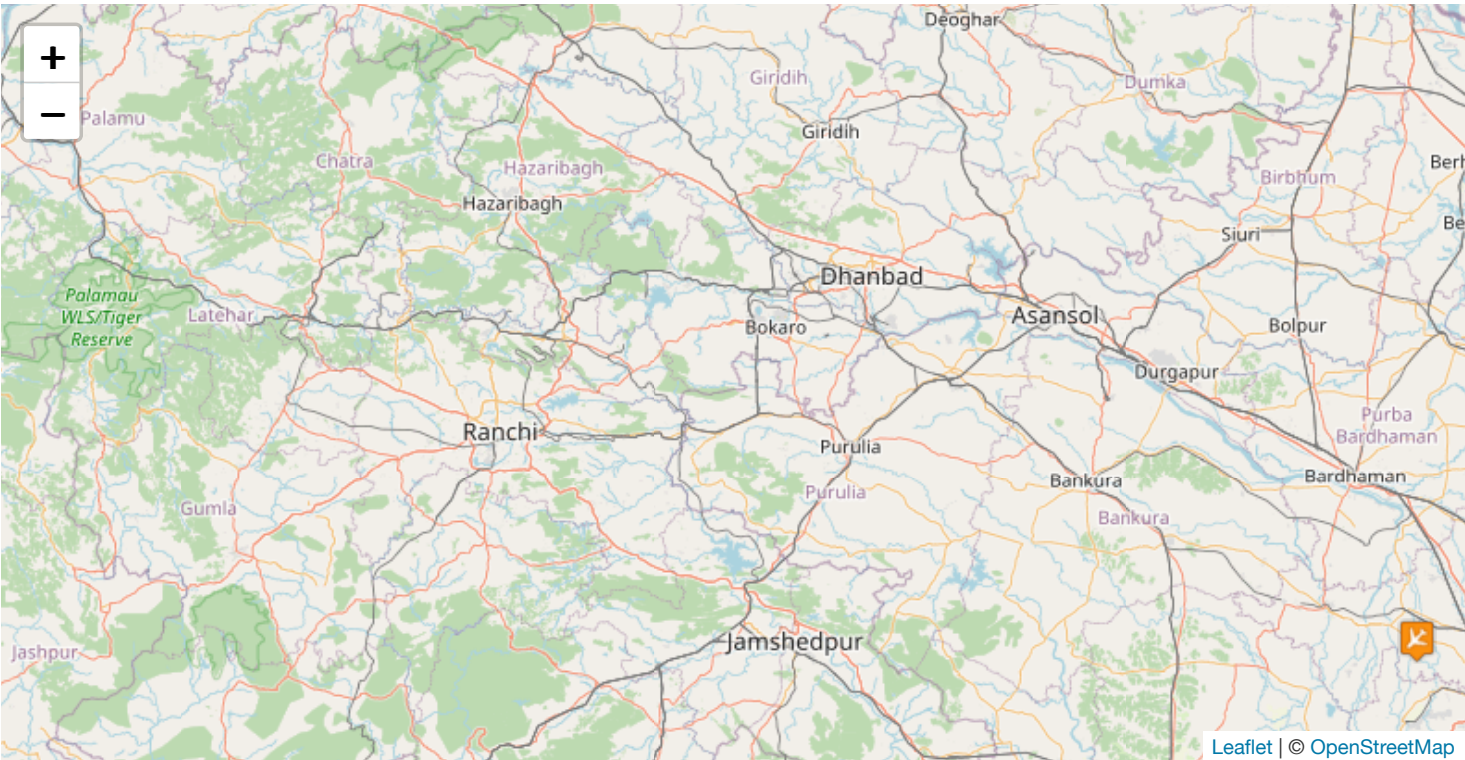


Report number:  
Status: Investigation completed  
Duration:  
Download report:  [Final report](#)

Sources:

CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT Report of the Court Investigation on the Accident to COMET G-ALYV on 2nd May, 1953

Location



Revision history:

Date/time	Contributor	Updates
03-Jan-2025 13:04	ASN	Updated [Accident report, ]

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