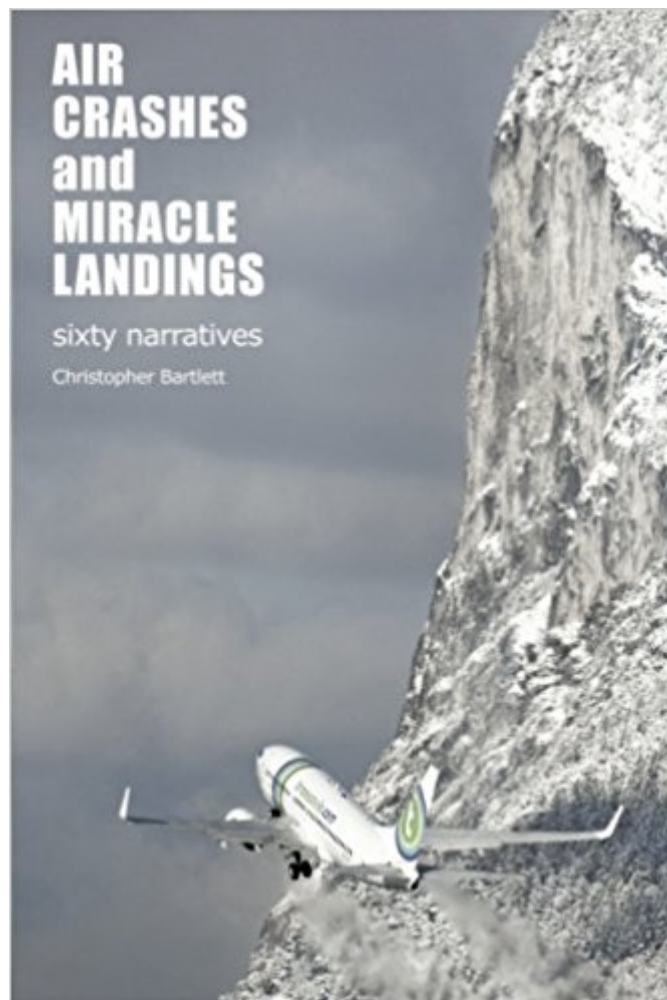




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# Air Crashes And Miracle Landings: 60 Narratives: (How, When ... And Most Importantly Why)



## Synopsis

Major update September 2012 with proofreader specializing in aviation. The Colgan Air disaster was added and the Air France AF447 crash rewritten with a unique countdown timeline. These two accidents show how pilots, having become dependent on automation, may may not be able to cope with certain situations unless trained in a new way. As before, includes Tenerife (the worst-ever multi-aircraft disaster), Japan Airlines JL123 (the worst single-aircraft disaster), the de Havilland Comet (the first jetliner), DC-10, supersonic Concorde, Kegworth air disaster (where pilots mistakenly shut down the good engine), PichÃf's 80-mile glide to a safe landing on an island in the Atlantic after his fuel ran out, a mid-air collision where a father subsequently assassinated the air traffic controller he presumed was responsible, AA587 NYC, Avianca NYC, Sully's Hudson River ditching ... The lessons from these and the other accidents narrated and analysed here helped make flying so safe today. Those lessons are applicable in medicine and many other fields.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Got it. Read it. Want more. I think the book is excellent--interestingly presented and gripping to read. --Phillip Knightley, author and prize-winning journalist AVIATION ACCIDENTS INVARIABLY attract media speculation on their causes, but it is sometimes months before the official investigators issue their reports, by which time anyone without a specific interest in a crash will have forgotten how they have often blamed the pilot who was probably not to blame anyway. This new book sets out to answer how, when, and why accidents happened, such as the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus

A300 by an American warship; the clearing of fog at Zurich Airport by a Caravelle taxiing up and down the runway, overheating the brakes and causing the aircraft to crash on takeoff; and even more weird, the pre-programming of a DC-10 flight to hit Mount Erebus on a sightseeing trip. There are chapters on the Amelia Earhart mystery, the shooting down of von Richthofen, the worst-ever aircraft accident at Tenerife when two Boeing 747s collided on the runway, and many other incidents. All are cataloged in detail and make very interesting reading, although not just before you board your holiday jet. It is good that these facts are published and not just forgotten. -- Mike Hooks, AEROPLANE Magazine, September 2010

The accurate details the author painstakingly assembled make it such a valuable reference for all the "classic" international jet accidents. It reads beautifully, with excellent and clear expression avoiding the tiresome clichés that unfortunately so often mar a book on this fascinating subject. --Macarthur Job OAM, Aviation Writer and Air Safety Consultant

Christopher Bartlett initially trained as a mining engineer, a field where ensuring compliance with safety standards is of prime importance. His passion, however, has been flying, and notably air safety. This was engendered as an Air Cadet during his youth, as a member of the British Interplanetary Society, and as a pupil breaking the sound barrier on fighter simulators at the Air Ministry. After his two years' military service in the British Royal Air Force, he took a degree in Modern Chinese and Japanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and became amongst other things a professional translator of Japanese scientific and technical material. This included Japanese rocket tests. He also wrote for magazines in the Far East. His understanding of English, French, and Japanese has enabled him to some five years research for this book based on material published in its original format and note opinions and facts not previously widely publicized. His chance presence in countries at times when headline air crashes occurred there has also enabled him to add local color and extra details to a number of these accounts. He saw the need for a book such as this while residing in Bangkok, when a 100 M.P.H. runway overrun by a Boeing 747 operated by the world's so-called safest airline (Qantas) was dismissed as a mere mishap. It was subsequently found that the airline had allegedly spent A\$100,000,000 on having the aircraft repaired and was thus able to continue to claim it had never suffered a hull loss.

Bear in mind the following: this is no Macarthur Job line of work. Much on the contrary. And that's the reason you have SIXTY accidents covered here. So, given the intention and scope of the book, each accident is covered very briefly, without detailed or elaborated graphics, time lines and such. It

is more like a friendly chit-chat between the author and the reader. Each of the cases (some of them covering only one page) gives a summary of the events. Not all of them are tragic, since the focus of the work is to enlighten, not to gain money from tragedies. A good book, although once again I feel the need to warn: this is no Macarthur Job work (as a note, the writer quotes Macarthur Job a lot in this book).

My dad survived an airline crash before I was born and he occasionally talked about it. He led us to believe that you could survive a mishap on the runway so always be careful about where you sit on a plane. So, when I saw this book on Kindle, I picked it up and have been so reminded of what my dad said. It is really readable and the more you read, the more you are amazed how anyone survives a crash because of the ensuing chaos in the plane, even in relatively minor incidents. Definitely read this book, it reads like a novel, in that you can't put it down! I've read other books on plane travel and crash survival and they, for the most part, were pretty dull and textbook-ish. Sully's book about the Miracle on the Hudson is an exception, really a good book. But this book, *Air Crashes and Miracle Landings*, despite the off-putting title, is fascinating, if not disturbing in some cases, reading.

This is a very good summary of a selection of important air incidents. I am a fan of the "Air Disasters" series on the Smithsonian channel, and several of these summaries match up with the incidents dramatized in that series. Each of those episodes is an hour long, and sometimes the story seems stretched out to fill the hour. Here, the chapters are compact and generally contain most of the key information -- and where there is more information available, the author points you to web sites (including his own) where you can find more information / links. The incidents are grouped into chapters by type (e.g., "Loss of Power over Land," and "Loss of Power over Water"). Why didn't I rate it 5 stars? Well, as other reviewers have noticed, there still are some annoying typos -- the author was poorly-served by his copy editor / proofreader. Also, I would have liked the chapters to have more of a "standard" feel -- for example, putting some information in the same place of each review (date, aircraft type, location, time-of-day, ...). All in all, this is a very good book, and I will be recommending it to my friends. I don't write many reviews on , so I am voting with my time in writing this, too.

I'm an airline pilot and picked this up for light reading during flights. Having just finished it, I find it is really quite good. Assuming the writer is not an aviation professional, I'm actually quite surprised

and impressed after reading several other books of the sort written by actual pilots or aviation safety experts, to note the writer has got quite a good understanding of airline cockpit culture, operations, and indeed even the technical side of things. His extensive research in this area I expect would put most others less impassioned to sleep, but he writes well and in an engaging manner. Though some have complained in other reviews, I find that the personal opinions and conjecture he injects into each narrative to be what actually ENHANCES the reading experience. Case in point Pan Am/KLM jumbo at Tenerife. Read about it a hundred times, but he presents a very plausible new angle, with the KLM pilots' backgrounds fleshed out. It's not what you've heard. SQ006 at Taipei, he describes in detail the aftermath and conveys the feeling of helplessness of the pilots at the hands of the Taiwanese system and media trying to crucify them. As an outsider, given the available information, his grasp of the pertinent issues is both accurate and enlightening. I would recommend it, even for pilots who may have read most of the cases before. Many new points are brought up, with points of view that may surprise you. My copy had none of the so-called grammatical errors or spelling mistakes which caused the book to earn an unfortunate 1-star from a couple of reviewers.

The Smithsonian Channel Show, Air Disasters, is one of my favorite two shows on TV but they don't have any DVDs or books of their actual shows. So I buy whatever is close and this is one excellent book of similar investigations. Air Disasters are really mysteries that the National Transportation Safety Board solves and then uses their findings to make air travel world wide safer. I love to watch / read about competent investigators figure out what happened. This book is just a written version of these crashes.

A truly amazing book whose title speaks for it so well, documenting in well-researched detail the events that led to air crashes and the miraculous landings that were achieved by the skills of pilots, against all odds and often to the disbelief of those who do not have glider pilot training. This book is a "must-read" for all who fly and who are in aviation.

A great source book and should be required reading for pilots - both commercial and private. Entire entries are only a couple of pages but get the facts right and diagnose the causes of the near- and fatal-crashes. Not a book to read through from front to back but more of a fact book to be digested in sips or gulps. And definitely not for the fear of flying group.

The book is separated into the different causes of many crashes and the author utilizes FDR and/or CVR plus NTSB final reports to illustrate the causes and effects of some of the most memorable and tragic events in commercial aviation. It's an educational and interesting read for those with some basic, non-professional, aviation knowledge or even perhaps for the curious reader. Loaded with details.

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