

**The Legacy of Douglas Corrigan:  
"Wrong Way" Landings by Commercial Airliners**

*Jol A. Silversmith*

Aviators have been landing aircraft at wrong airports since at least Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan flew to Ireland instead of California (although his flight is widely regarded to have been an intentional stunt). Despite the tremendous advances in navigational technology since 1938, such incidents continue to occur - most often when two airfields are located in close proximity, and a pilot relies on what he sees out the cockpit window rather than his instruments and charts (although air traffic control sometimes shares at least some of the blame).

This paper briefly summarizes "wrong way" landings by commercial airliners – not including deliberate/emergency landings; landings on the wrong runway at the correct airport; military operations; and approaches aborted before the wheels touched the runway.

There is no comprehensive source for this information. However, an October 14, 1973 article in the Los Angeles Times, "Wrong-Airport Landings: the Pilots Blush," asserted that "Federal Aviation Administration statisticians list some two dozen wrong-airport landings by airliners in the last five years." Additionally, a 1988 article published by the Flight Safety Foundation listed various airports at which air carriers had made approaches or landings, relying on an unpublished NTSB report, but did not identify specific incidents. See [http://www.flightsafety.org/ap/ap\\_mar88.pdf](http://www.flightsafety.org/ap/ap_mar88.pdf). In March 2014, the NTSB issued a "safety alert" - highlighting the need for pilots to "[c]heck and confirm destination airport" - which mentioned two recent incidents. See [http://www.nts.gov/doclib/safetyalerts/SA\\_033.pdf](http://www.nts.gov/doclib/safetyalerts/SA_033.pdf). In May 2015, the NTSB issued additional safety recommendations to the FAA. See <http://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-recs/reclatters/a-15-009-010.pdf>.

### **2010s**

- July 7, 2016 – A Delta Air Lines A320, bound for Rapid City, South Dakota (RAP), mistakenly lands at Ellsworth Air Force Base. [Link](#).
- January 12, 2014 - A Southwest Airlines 737, bound for Branson Airport in Taney County, Missouri (BKG), mistakenly lands at M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport (PLK). [Link](#).
- December 18, 2013 - An Ethiopian Airlines 767, bound for Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), mistakenly lands at Arusha Airport (ARK). [Link](#).
- November 20, 2013 - A Boeing Dreamlifter, bound for McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, mistakenly lands at Jabara Airport (AAO). [Link](#).
- October 13, 2012 - A Sriwijaya Air 737, bound for Minangkabau International Airport in Padang, Indonesia (PDG), mistakenly lands at Tabing Airport, a military airfield. [Link](#).
- August 7, 2012 - A Silver Airways Saab 340B, bound for Clarksburg, West Virginia (CKB), mistakenly lands at Fairmont Municipal Airport (4G7). [Link](#).
- October 30, 2011 - An Azul Linhas Aereas E-195, bound for Teresina, Brazil (THE), mistakenly lands at Domingos Rego Airport in Timon. [Link](#).
- September 7, 2011 - A Colgan Air Saab 340, bound for Lakes Charles, Louisiana (LCH), mistakenly lands at Southland Field (L75) in Carlyss. [Link](#).
- September 13, 2010 - An Aeromexico MD-83, bound for Tuxtla, Mexico (TGZ), mistakenly lands at Francisco Sarabia/Teran Military Airport. [Link](#).

### **2000s**

- April 17, 2009 - A TAAG Angola 737, bound for Lusaka, Zambia (LUN), mistakenly lands at Zambia Air Force City Airport. [Link](#).
- April 8, 2009 - A Turkish Airlines 737, bound for Tbilisi, Georgia (TBS), mistakenly lands at Tbilisi Vaziani, a military airfield. [Link](#).

- August 16, 2006 - A Turkish Sky Airlines 737, bound for Poznan, Poland (POZ), mistakenly lands at Krzesiny, a military airfield. [Link.](#)
- March 29, 2006 - A Eirjet A320, bound for Derry, Northern Ireland (LDY), mistakenly lands at Ballykelly, a military airfield. [Link.](#)
- December 16, 2005 - A Pakistan International Airlines 737, bound for Karachi, Pakistan (KHI), mistakenly lands at Faisal, a military airfield. [Link.](#)
- September 5, 2005 - A Wings Air MD-80, bound for Minangkabau International Airport in Padang, Indonesia (PDG), mistakenly lands at Tabing Airport, a military airfield. [Link.](#)
- June 19, 2004 - A Northwest Airlines A319, bound for Rapid City, South Dakota (RAP), mistakenly lands at Ellsworth Air Force Base. [Link.](#)
- January 9, 2004 - A Shuttle America Saab 340, bound for University Park Airport in State College, Pennsylvania (SCE), mistakenly lands at Mid-State Regional Airport in Philipsburg (PSB). [Link.](#)
- January 22, 2003 - A Chatauqua Airlines Embraer 145, chartered by the University of Notre Dame basketball team and bound for South Bend, Indiana (SBN), mistakenly lands at Elkhart Municipal Airport (EKI). See Tom Coyne, "Irish land at wrong airport because of pilot mistake," Associated Press, January 24, 2003.
- July 30, 2002 - A LOT Polish Airlines aircraft, bound for Kaliningrad, Russia (KGD), mistakenly lands at Chkalovsk, a military airfield. [Link.](#)
- June 27, 2001 - A TAM Fokker 100, bound for Teresina, Brazil (THE), mistakenly lands at Timon. See "Brazilian pilot mistakes private airstrip for urban airport," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, June 27, 2001.
- March 14, 2001 - A TWA MD-80, bound for Yampa Valley Airport (HDN), in Steamboat Springs, Colorado mistakenly lands at Craig-Moffat Airport (CIG). [Link.](#)
- December 8, 2000 - A BAX Global DC-8, bound for Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport (OSC) in Oscoda, Michigan, mistakenly lands at Iosco County Airport (ECA) in East Tawas. [Link.](#)
- June 17, 2000 - An Air Nova Dash 8, bound for Mont Joli, Quebec (YYY), mistakenly lands at Rimouski Airport (YXK). See "Pilots land at wrong airport," The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec), June 20, 2000.

### **1990s**

- June 22, 1999 - An Avensa 727, bound for Latacunga Airport (LTX) in Ambato, Venezuela, mistakenly lands at Izamva Airport. [According to some reports, the pilot did not complete the landing but did make contact with the ground.] See "Pilot Attempts Wrong Airport Landing," Associated Press, June 24, 1999.
- July 16, 1997 - A Continental Express Embraer 120, bound for Lake Charles, Louisiana (LCH), mistakenly lands at Southland Field (L75) in Carlyss. See T.J. Milling, "A familiar landmark? Another Continental plane sets down at same, wrong airport," Houston Chronicle, July 19, 1997.
- June 2, 1997 - A Saudi Arabian Airlines 747, bound for Madras International Airport (MAA) in Chennai, India, mistakenly lands at Tambaram Air Force Base. [Link.](#)
- May 11, 1997 - A Continental Airlines 737, bound for Corpus Christi, Texas (CRP), mistakenly lands at Cabaniss Field, an abandoned Navy airfield. [Link.](#)
- March 27, 1997 - A Sun Pacific International Airlines aircraft, chartered by the Arkansas Razorbacks and bound for Fayetteville, Arkansas (FAY), mistakenly lands at Springdale Municipal Airport (SPZ). [Link.](#)
- December 24, 1996 - An Atlas Air 747 bound for Pinal Airpark (MZJ) in Marana, Arizona, mistakenly lands at Avra Valley Airport (AVW). [Link.](#)

- October 15, 1996 - A Nations Air 737, bound for Orlando, Florida (MCO), mistakenly lands at Sanford Airport (SFB). [Link](#). See also "Airline's inaugural flight lands at wrong airport in Orlando," Tampa Tribune, October 16, 1996.
- October 3, 1996 - A Continental Express aircraft, bound for Lake Charles, Louisiana (LCH), mistakenly lands at Southland Field (L75) in Carlyss. [Link](#).
- October 17, 1995 - An aircraft chartered on behalf of the White House press corps, bound for Kelly Air Force Base in Texas, mistakenly lands at San Antonio International Airport (SAT). [Link](#). See also "Press plane lands at wrong airport," United Press International, October 17, 1995.
- September 5, 1995 - A Northwest Airlines DC-10, bound for Frankfurt, Germany (FRA), mistakenly lands in Brussels, Belgium (BRU), approximately 200 miles off course. [In this case, air traffic control has been blamed for providing incorrect flight plan data to the pilots.] [Link](#). See also Don Phillips, "U.S. Jet Bound for Germany Mistakenly Lands in Belgium," Washington Post, October 1, 1995.
- March 21, 1995 - A Great China Airlines Dash-8, bound for Taipei, Taiwan (TPE), mistakenly lands at Penghu Island. [In this case, the airline has been blamed for providing incorrect instructions to the pilot.] See "Misinformed Pilot Lands at Wrong Airport," Associated Press, March 22, 1995.
- May 5, 1993 - A Jet Airways 737, bound for Coimbatore, India (CJB), mistakenly lands at Sullur Air Force Base. [Link](#). See also "You have arrived at err..." The Advertiser, May 6, 1993.
- December 21, 1991 - A United Airlines 757, bound for San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU), mistakenly lands at Fernando Ribas Dominicci Airport (a/k/a Isla Grande Airport; SIG). [Link](#).
- March 28, 1991 - An Emerald Airlines 727, bound for Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) in Mosinee, mistakenly lands at Wausau Municipal Airport (AUW). See Robert Imrie, "Pilot, Co-Pilot of 727 That Landed at Wrong Airport Suspended," Associated Press, May 7, 1991.
- November 24, 1990 - A Wings West Fairchild Metro, bound for San Luis Obispo, California (SBP), mistakenly lands at Santa Maria Airport (SMX). [Link](#). See also David Dietz, "Bay Airliner's Landing at Wrong City Probed: Plane Missed Destination By 36 Miles," San Francisco Chronicle, November 27, 1990.
- November 8, 1990 - A Continental Express ATR-42, bound for Jackson, Mississippi (JAN), mistakenly lands at Hawkins Field (HKS). [Link](#). See also "National Digest," St. Petersburg Times, November 10, 1990.
- May 7, 1990 - A Continental Express aircraft bound for Farmington, New Mexico (FMN), mistakenly lands at Aztec Municipal Airport (N19). See "Runway of Choice Was at Wrong Airport," Rocky Mountain News, May 11, 1990.

## **1980s**

- March 2, 1989 - A Dan Air BAe 748, bound for Aldergrove Airport (BFS) in Belfast, Northern Ireland, mistakenly lands at Langford Lodge Airport. [Link](#). See also "Flight ends at wrong destination," Independent, March 3, 1989.
- September 17, 1988 - A Canadian Airlines 737, bound for Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories (YCB), mistakenly lands at Churchill, Manitoba (YYQ). [According to some reports, the pilots mis-applied the magnetic variation factor from true north necessary for navigation in high latitudes.] See "Canadian jetliner flew 750 miles off course," Miami Herald, September 25, 1988.
- January 21, 1988 - A Piedmont Airlines F-28, bound for Wilmington, North Carolina (ILM), mistakenly lands at Albert J. Ellis Airport (OAJ) in Jacksonville. [Link](#). See also "Piedmont Jet Lands at Jacksonville Instead of Wilmington," Associated Press, January 23, 1988.
- December 19, 1987 - An aircraft, bound for San Luis Obispo, California (SBP), mistakenly lands at Santa Maria Airport. (SMX). [Link](#).

- October 6, 1987 - A United Express BAe 31, bound for Tri-Cities Airport (PSC) in Pasco, Washington, mistakenly lands at Vista Field Airport (S98) in Kennewick. [Link](#).
- July 7, 1987 - A Delta Air Lines 737, bound for Lexington, Kentucky (LEX), mistakenly lands at Capital City Airport (FFT) in Frankfort. [Link](#).
- July 5, 1987 - A Linjeflyg F-28, bound for Ronneby, Sweden (RNB), mistakenly lands at Emmaboda. [Link](#).
- November 3, 1986 - An Air France 727, bound for Eliat, Israel (ETH), mistakenly lands at Aqaba Airport (AQJ) in Jordan. [Link](#). See also "Sorry, Wrong Airport," Associated Press, November 3, 1986.
- August 6, 1986 – A Flying Tigers aircraft, bound for Columbus Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK), mistakenly lands at Boltan Field (TZR). See "Jet lands at wrong airport," Newark Advocate, August 6, 1986.
- February 3, 1986 - A Piedmont Airlines 737, bound for Bush Field in Augusta, Georgia (AGS), mistakenly lands at Daniel Field (DNL). [Link](#). See also "Piedmont Airlines Flight Lands at Wrong Airport in Augusta," Associated Press, February 4, 1986.
- May 1984 – A Britt Airways aircraft, bound for Williamson County Airport (MWA), mistakenly lands at Southern Illinois Airport (MDH). See "Oops! Wrong Airport," Southern Illinoisian, June 12, 1984.
- October 19, 1983 - An Interstate Airlines 727, bound for Redmond, Oregon (RDM), mistakenly lands at Prineville (PRZ). [Link](#).
- September 7, 1983 - A Pacific Express aircraft, bound for Redmond, Oregon (RDM), mistakenly lands at Prineville (PRZ). [Link](#).
- November 16, 1982 - A Wein Air Alaska 727, bound for Deadhorse, Alaska (SCC), mistakenly lands at Prudhoe Bay Airport. See *Mark F. Bohms v. Administrator*, 1983 WL 43433 (N.T.S.B. April 13, 1983) and 1982 WL 44972 (N.T.S.B. September 14, 1982).
- September 24, 1982 - An Aero Airways DC-8, bound for Stewart International Airport (SWF) in Newburgh, New York, mistakenly lands at Dutchess County Airport (POU). See *Administrator v. Kurt E. Holter, Clyde E. Strong, and Philip B. Zane*, 5 N.T.S.B. 826 (December 9, 1985). See also Edward Hudson, "Jets Mistake Tiny Airport for Another," New York Times, October 13, 1985.
- March 18, 1982 - A Frontier Convair 580 bound for Farmington, New Mexico (FMN), mistakenly lands at Aztec Municipal Airport (N19). [Link](#).
- October 23, 1980 - A Republic Airlines Convair 580 bound for Golden Triangle Municipal Airport (GTR) in Columbus, Mississippi, mistakenly lands at Columbus-Lowndes County Airport (UBS). [Link](#). See also "FAA Investigating Errant Landing," Associated Press, November 14, 1980.
- July 14, 1980 - A Delta Air Lines 727, bound for Miami (MIA), mistakenly lands at Fort Lauderdale (FLL). [In this case, air traffic control has been blamed for providing incorrect flight plan data to the pilots.] [Link](#). See also "Controller Reprimanded in Wrong Airport Landing," Associated Press, July 25, 1980.
- June 20, 1980 - A Delta Air Lines 727, bound for Tampa, Florida (TPA), mistakenly lands at MacDill Air Force Base. [Link](#). See also Tom Zucco, "The Official Tampa Bay Map of the Weird," St. Petersburg Times, October 18, 1991.
- March 1, 1980 - A Republic Airlines DC-9 bound for Golden Triangle Municipal Airport (GTR) in Columbus, Mississippi, mistakenly lands at Starkville Municipal Airport (STF). See "FAA Investigating Errant Landing," Associated Press, November 14, 1980.

## **1970s**

- July 31, 1979 - A Western Airlines 737, bound for Sheridan, Wyoming (SHR), mistakenly lands at Johnson County Airport (BYG) in Buffalo. [Link](#). [Buffalo subsequently honored the pilot with a

"Lowell Ferguson Days" celebration. [Link.](#)] See also David Bird and Albin Krebs, "Wyoming Town Fondly Remembers a Mistake," New York Times, July 7, 1981.

- April 22, 1978 - A Maverick Air aircraft, bound for Tel Aviv, Israel (TLV), mistakenly lands at Beirut, Lebanon (BEY). See "Cargo Pilot Finds Wrong Airport," Washington Post, April 24, 1978.
- March 24, 1977 - A Pan Am 707, bound for Las Americas Airport in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (SDQ), mistakenly lands at San Isidro Air Force Base. [Link.](#) See also "Wrong Airport," Aviation Week and Space Technology, April 4, 1977.
- August 11, 1976 - An Iraqi Airways 747, bound for Orly Airport (ORY) in Paris, France, mistakenly lands at Le Bourget Airport (LBG). [Link.](#) See also "Right City, Wrong Airport," New York Times, August 12, 1976.
- May 4, 1976 - An SAS DC-9, bound for Norrkoeping, Sweden (NRK), mistakenly lands at Linkoeping (LPI). See "SAS Flight Perfect; Oops. Wrong Field!" Los Angeles Times, May 5, 1976.
- May 25, 1975 - An Aviaco DC-9, bound for Aldergrove Airport (BFS) in Belfast, Northern Ireland, mistakenly lands at Langford Lodge Airport. [Link.](#)
- December 3, 1974 - A Frontier Airlines 737, bound for Salt Lake International Airport (SLC) in Salt Lake City, Utah, mistakenly lands at Salt Lake Airport No. 2 (U42). [Link.](#) See also "Jet Lands at Wrong Field," New York Times, December 4, 1974.
- June 10, 1973 - A United Airlines 727, bound for Miami (MIA), mistakenly lands at Opa Locka (OPF). [Link.](#)
- March 3, 1973 – A Canadian Transair 737, bound for Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (YAM), mistakenly lands Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (CIU). See "Lands in Wrong City," Ironwood Daily Globe, March 3, 1973.
- December 14, 1972 - An Interflug Ilyushin-18, bound for Bomaby, India (BOM), mistakenly lands at Juhu Aerodrome. [Link.](#)
- September 24, 1972 - A Japan Airlines DC-8, bound for Bombay, India (BOM), mistakenly lands at Juhu Aerodrome. [Link.](#)
- July 22, 1971 – An Eastern Air Lines DC-9 bound for Dorval Airport in Montreal, Quebec (YUL), mistakenly lands at Cartierville (YCV). See Orlando Evening Star, July 23, 1971.
- March 10, 1971 – An Iberia Airlines DC-8 bound for Jorge Chavez International Airport (LIM) in Lima, Peru mistakenly lands at Las Palmas Military Airbase. See "Jetliner Pilot Lands At Wrong Airport," Pittsburgh Press, March 10, 1971.

## **1960s**

- May 2, 1969 - A Northwest 727, bound for Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL), mistakenly lands at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). [Link.](#) [A later-dated source claims that the flight landed at Pompano Beach Executive Airport (PPM). See "Beautiful Airplane, A Perfect Landing, But Wrong Airport," St. Petersburg Times, June 12, 1973.]
- January 3, 1969 - A United Airlines 727, bound for Omaha, Nebraska (OMA), mistakenly lands at Council Bluffs (CBF). [Link.](#)
- November 19, 1968 - A North Central DC-9, bound for Oshkosh, Wisconsin (OSH), mistakenly lands at Fond Du Lac Airport (FLD). See "Jet Is Put Down At Wrong Airport," Oshkosh Northwestern, November 20, 1968.
- October 1, 1968 – A Braniff aircraft, bound for Brownsville, Texas (BRO), mistakenly lands in Harlingen, Texas (HRL). See "Airliner down in wrong airport," Redlands Daily Facts, October 1, 1968.
- June 29, 1968 - A Pan Am 707, bound for Karachi (KHI), mistakenly lands at a military airfield in Barrackpore. [Link.](#)

- December 3, 1967 - An American Flyers L-188, bound for Kansas City, Missouri (MKC), mistakenly lands at Fairfax Airport (KCK). See *Administrator v. Joseph C. Howell*, 1 N.T.S.B. 564 (July 15, 1969).
- November 16, 1967 - An Ozark Airlines FH-227, bound for Whiteside County Airport (SQI) in Rock Falls, Illinois, mistakenly lands at Dixon (C73). [Link](#).
- July 4, 1967 - A TWA 707, bound for Columbus, Ohio (CMH), mistakenly lands at Don Scott Field at Ohio State University (OSU). [Link](#). See also Bob Thomas, "Columbus Recollections: From Stunt to Kangaroo, Aviation Has Rich History," Columbus Dispatch, January 5, 1997.
- May 31, 1967 - A Spantax CV990, bound for Fuhlsbuttel Airport (HAM) in Hamburg, Germany, mistakenly lands at Finkenwerder Airport (XFW). See "Personalien Rodolfo Bay Wright," Sueddeutsche Zeitung (October 4, 2000).
- December 21, 1966 – A Continental aircraft, bound for San Antonio (SAT), mistakenly lands at Randolph Air Force Base. See "Wrong Airport," The Daily Notes (Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania), December 21, 1966.
- May 2, 1966 - A LOT Polish Airlines aircraft, bound for Linate Airport (LIN) in Milan, Italy, mistakenly lands at Malpensa Airport (MXP). See "Airliner Lands at Wrong Field," New York Times, May 3, 1966.
- April 18, 1965 – An Air France 707, bound for Phenom Penh, Cambodia (PNH), mistakenly lands at Kompongchan (KZC). See "Wrong Airport," The Tennessean, April 18, 1965.
- September 15, 1964 - An Aer Lingus Viscount, bound for Lulsgate Airport in (BRS) in Bristol, England, mistakenly lands at Filton Airport (FZO). [Link](#).
- February 10, 1964 - A Delta Convair 880, bound for Jackson, Mississippi (JAN), mistakenly lands at Hawkins Field (HKS). [Link](#).
- November 1963 – A Trans-Texas aircraft, bound for Carlsbad, New Mexico (CNM), mistakenly lands at Artesia, New Mexico (ATS). See "New Airline Starts Right, Lands Wrong," November 9, 1963.
- June 5, 1963 - An Eastern Air Lines DC-7, bound for Broward International Airport (FLL), mistakenly lands at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). [Link](#).
- August 25, 1962 - A Delta Air Lines DC-7, bound for Jackson, Mississippi (JAN), mistakenly lands at Yazoo County Airport (87I). See "2d Plane Lands at Wrong Field," Boston Globe, August 26, 1962.
- August 12, 1962 - A United Airlines DC-8, bound for Portland, Oregon (PDX), mistakenly lands at Troutdale (TTD). [Link](#). See also "Jet Lands on Short Runway at Wrong Oregon Airport," New York Times, August 13, 1962.
- April 19, 1962 – A 707, bound for El Paso, Texas (ELP), mistakenly lands at Biggs Air Force Base. See "A 'Corrigan' In El Paso," San Francisco Examiner, April 20, 1962.
- December 26, 1961 - An Eastern aircraft, bound for Idlewild Airport (IDL), mistakenly lands at Mitchel Air Force Base. [Link](#).
- October 18, 1961 - A North Central DC-3, bound for Oshkosh, Wisconsin (OSH), mistakenly lands at Fond Du Lac Airport (FLD). [Link](#).
- October 12, 1961 - A North Central aircraft, bound for Big Rapids, Michigan (WBR), mistakenly lands at Reed City (RCT). [Link](#).
- October 25, 1960 - A Pan Am 707, bound for Heathrow Airport (LHR) in London, England, mistakenly lands at RAF Northolt. [Link](#). See also "Taxis fit for war veterans," Daily Mail, January 18, 1995.

- October 6, 1961 – An Air France Constellation, bound for London Heathrow Airport (LHR), mistakenly lands at London Gatwick Airport (LGW). [See](#) “Oops – Wrong Airport,” Atlanta Constitution, October 7, 1961.
- July 27, 1960 - A Pan Am 707, bound for Dorval Airport in Montreal, Quebec (YUL), mistakenly lands at Cartierville (YCV). [Link](#). [See also](#) "Jet Lands Safely at Wrong Airport," New York Times, July 28, 1960.
- March 3, 1960 - A Capital Airlines DC-3, bound for Willow Run Airport (YIP) in Detroit, Michigan, mistakenly lands at Muskegon County Airport (MKG). [See](#) "F.A.A. Suspends Pilot," New York Times, March 4, 1960.
- January 19, 1960 – An aircraft bound for Muskegon, Michigan (MKG) mistakenly lands at Grand Haven, Michigan (3GM). [See](#) “Pilot Lands at Wrong Airport,” Ironwood Daily Globe, January 21, 1960.

### **1950s**

- December 28, 1959 - A United Airlines DC-6, bound for Omaha, Nebraska (OMA), mistakenly lands at Council Bluffs (CBF). [Link](#).
- May 21, 1959 - A Pan American World Airways aircraft, bound for Honolulu, Hawaii (HNL), mistakenly lands at Hickam Air Force Base. [Link](#).
- December 8, 1957 - A Delta Air Lines aircraft, bound for Greenwood Municipal Airport in Greenwood, Mississippi, mistakenly lands at Yazoo County Airport (87I). [Link](#). [See also](#) “Plane Mired Up at Wrong Airport,” Los Angeles Times, December 9, 1957. (According to “Wrong-Airport Landings: the Pilots Blush,” Los Angeles Times, October 14, 1973, Delta aircraft twice mistakenly landed at Yazoo County Airport in 1957.)
- October 15, 1953 – An Air France Skymaster, bound for Heathrow Airport (LHR) in London, England, mistakenly lands at RAF Northolt. . [See](#) “Airline Landed Safely At Wrong Airport,” Ottawa Journal, October 15, 1953.
- July 15, 1953 - A BOAC Comet, bound for Santa Cruz Airport in Bombay, India (BOM), mistakenly lands at Juhu Aerodrome. [Link](#). [See also](#) "British Comet Off Safely From Small Bombay Field," New York Times, July 25, 1953.
- March 13, 1952 – An American Airlines DC-6, bound for Weir Cook Airport (IND), mistakenly lands at Stout Field. [See](#) “Pilot Lands At Wrong Airport,” Princeton Clarion-News, March 13, 1952.
- March 25, 1950 - A Greek four-engined aircraft, bound for Northolt Airport in London, England, mistakenly lands at Hendon Field. [The aircraft may have been a C-47 operated by Hellenic Airlines, but I have not been able to confirm this information.] [See](#) "Perfect Landing, Wrong Airport," New York Times, March 25, 1950.

### **1940s**

- June 29, 1948 – A Constellation, bound for Boston Logan Airport (BOS), mistakenly lands at Squantum Naval Air Base. [See](#) “Right Runway, but Wrong Airport,” Boston Globe, June 30, 1948.

### **Selected Non-Commercial Incidents**

- April 2, 2017 - A delegation of Olympics corporate sponsors, bound for Pyeongchang, South Korea (YNY), mistakenly lands in Pyongyang, North Korea (FNJ), supposedly due to a flight planning error. [Link](#).
- March 22, 2014 - A Chinese IL-76, bound for RAAF Base Pearce, mistakenly lands at Perth, Australia (PER). [Link](#).
- July 20, 2012 - An Air Force C-17, bound for MacDill Air Force Base, mistakenly lands at Peter O. Knight Field (TPF). [Link](#).

- August 29, 2008 - Two parachutists, intending to deliver the opening football to a North Carolina-McNeese State game at Chapel Hill, mistakenly land at Duke University's Wallace Wade Stadium. [Link.](#)
- November 6, 2007 - A private aircraft, bound for Cedar Rapids (CID), mistakenly lands at Des Moines International Airport (DSM). [The aircraft was transporting presidential candidate Barack Obama.] [Link.](#)
- August 8, 2006 - A Nordic Airways MD-80, chartered to operate a Spanair flight to Santiago, Spain (SCQ), is provided incorrect instructions and instead flies to Sevilla Airport (SVQ), approximately 400 miles off course. [Link.](#)
- July 20, 2004 - A U.S. Air Force B-52, bound for Farnborough, England (FAB) to perform a low pass at an air show, instead performs the low pass at Blackbushe Airport (BBS). [Link.](#)
- May 5, 1997 - A Cyprus Airways aircraft, bound for Larnaca, Cyprus (LCA), lands at Paphos International Airport (PFO). [The pilot, reported to have been working strictly to rule, stated that the landing was necessary to avoid exceeding the total working hours allowed by international regulations.] [See](#) "Government blasts pilots union for working to rule," Associated Press, May 7, 1997.
- April 2, 1997 - A private aircraft, bound for Guatemala City, Guatemala (GUA), mistakenly lands at a military airfield in San Jose. [The aircraft was transporting United Nations Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali.] [See](#) "U.N. chief lands at wrong airport," The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec), April 3, 1997.
- March 5, 1997 - A private aircraft, bound for Americus, Georgia (ACJ), mistakenly lands at Peachtree-Dekalb Airport (PDK) in Atlanta. [The aircraft was transporting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In this case, air traffic control has been blamed for providing incorrect flight plan data to the pilots] [See](#) "Arafat's plane lands at wrong airport," United Press International, March 6, 1997.
- May 10, 1976 - A private aircraft, bound for Hopkins Airport in Cleveland, Ohio (CLE), mistakenly lands at Burke Lakefront Airport (BKL). [The aircraft was transporting Paul McCartney and Wings to a show at the Coliseum.] [See](#) "Memorable Moments: A Quick Look Back at Cleveland History Shows the Events and People Who Helped Make This City a Happening Place," Plain Dealer, August 27, 1995.
- September 29, 1972 - An U.S. Air Force FB-111A, bound for Plattsburgh AFB, mistakenly lands at Clinton County Airport (PLB). [Link.](#)
- May 14, 1972 - A private aircraft, bound for Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), mistakenly lands at Detroit City Airport (DET). [The aircraft was transporting presidential candidate George McGovern.] [Link.](#)
- October 22, 1970 - A private aircraft, bound for Kars, Turkey mistakenly lands at Leninakan, Armenia, then part of the Soviet Union. [The aircraft was transporting two U.S. Army generals.] [See](#) "U.S. Blames Pilot and Wind For Landing in Armenia," Washington Post, October 28, 1970.
- 1969 - A Seaboard World Airways DC-8, operating a military charter flight, bound for Da Nang, Vietnam, mistakenly lands at Marble Mountain Air Facility. [Link.](#)
- October 14, 1955 - A U.S. Air Force B-47, bound for Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Georgia, mistakenly lands at Naval Air Station Atlanta. [Link.](#)
- December 18, 1953 - A U.S. Air Force B-29, bound for Hill Air Force Base in Utah, mistakenly lands at Ogden Municipal Airport (OGD). [One of the eight members of the crew was killed; this is the only "wrong way" fatality that I have confirmed.] [See](#) "B-29 Crashes in Smog," New York Times, December 19, 1953.
- March 31, 1952 - A private aircraft, bound for Teterboro Airport (TEB) in New Jersey, mistakenly lands at Newark Airport (EWR). [The aircraft was piloted by Merrill C. Meigs, who was at that time



a consultant to the Civil Aeronautics Administration, and was the namesake of now-closed Meigs Field in Chicago, Illinois.] See "Newark Has Air Visitor," New York Times, April 1, 1952.

- May 7, 1942 - During the Battle of Coral Sea, a group of Japanese Aichi Type 99 bombers mistake the U.S.S. Yorktown for a Japanese carrier and attempt to land. [Link](#).
- April 12, 1935 - The dirigible Graf Zeppelin, bound for an airdrome in Pernambuco, Brazil, mistakenly lands in a football field. See "Airship Is Damaged: Lands in Wrong Field," New York Times, April 13, 1935.