

Aircraft type and registration: Boeing 747-211B G-GLYN

No & Type of engines: 4 General Electric Co CF6-50E2 turbo jet engines

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (UTC): 18 January 1988 at 2250 hrs

Location: Approximately 80 nm West of Dubai

Type of flight: Airline scheduled pax

Persons on board: Crew — 22 Passengers — 141

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — 1 (serious)

Nature of damage: Nil to aircraft

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 21,000 hours (of which 1,500 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the Company General Manager Flight Safety and Technical Services.

The aircraft was climbing out through FL 240 after taking off from Dubai at night. No weather returns were being painted on the aircraft's radar, or on the Dubai area radar at this time.

The aircraft suffered a short burst of moderate turbulence during which a passenger who was on his way to the toilet, fell against a seat and cracked his patella. As there was no apparent weather, the seat belt signs were off.

The aircraft returned to Dubai and after dumping fuel to maximum landing weight, landed, and off-loaded the casualty and his wife.

During the return to Dubai a bank of cumulus type cloud was seen highlighted against the lights of the city, and approximately 1 hour later showed as a weather return on Dubai's radar. It is believed that the turbulence encountered by the aircraft was caused when the aircraft inadvertently flew through the top of a cumulus cloud.