

The Board regret to report three fatal accidents during the year under review, resulting in thirty deaths of passengers and crew.

These accidents were :—

Douglas freighter ZK-AOE, 9th August, 1948, crashed on Scraggy Ridge, Point Underwood, with loss of two crew. The finding of the Board of Inquiry was that the aircraft entered cloud, contrary to visual flight regulations, and was flown at insufficient altitude to clear terrain.

Lockheed Electra ZK-AGK, 23rd October, 1948, crashed on Mount Ruapehu, with the loss of two crew and eleven passengers. The Board of Inquiry found that the aircraft was flown on an erroneous course through error in navigation.

Lockheed Lodestar ZK-AKX, 18th March, 1949, crashed at Waikanae, with the loss of two crew and thirteen passengers. The recommendation of the Board of Inquiry was as follows: "The captain's election to go V.F.R. was a fundamental error of judgment from which flowed cumulative errors terminating in a critical situation from which the aircraft could not be extricated."

STATISTICS

	Year Ended 31st March, 1947.	Year Ended 31st March, 1948.	Year Ended 31st March, 1949.	Percentage Increase on Last Year.
Route mileage—				
New Zealand internal	1,918	2,201	2,580	17·22
Pacific	..	5,273	5,273	..
Daily scheduled mileage—				
New Zealand internal	7,044	11,509	15,023	30·53
Pacific (average)	..	1,146	1,146	..
Mileage flown—				
(a) Revenue—				
New Zealand internal	1,407,583	3,116,124	4,298,922	23·8
Pacific	..	133,046	412,442	210·0
(b) Non-revenue, including training	107,474	288,013	419,297	..
Passengers carried : Revenue—				
New Zealand internal	80,807	147,253	174,836	18·73
Pacific	..	1,831	6,390	249·00
Passenger-miles : Created—				
New Zealand internal	16,019,896	40,681,963	55,690,283	36·89
Pacific	..	2,294,176	7,237,822	215·49
Passenger-miles : Revenue—				
New Zealand internal	14,764,385	33,808,603	44,323,199	31·1
Pacific	..	1,499,509	5,341,620	256·2
Average passenger journey (miles)—				
New Zealand internal	179	225	253	..
Pacific	..	819	836	..
Freight and mail (lb.)—				
New Zealand internal	965,265	1,809,118	2,593,087	43·3
Pacific	..	28,463	89,380	214·02
Freight (ton-miles)—				
New Zealand internal	38,877	91,569	319,170	248·5
Pacific	..	8,998	21,691	141·06
Mail (ton-miles)—				
New Zealand internal	71,178	97,310	108,580	11·58
Pacific	..	5,866	15,599	165·9
Load factor—				
New Zealand internal	76·75	70·85	67·48	..
Pacific	..	65·85	67·90	..

NOTE.—Pacific service operated five months only in year ended 31st March, 1948.