

On 21st July, 1935, a D.H. Moth ZK-ABM was reported missing on a flight from Akitio to Hastings, under conditions of bad visibility. After extensive searching by Air Force and aero-club machines, working in co-operation with ground parties, the aircraft was finally found on the 4th August in a slightly damaged condition on high country in the Wakarara Ranges. The search had been considerably hampered by continuous bad weather with clouds over the ranges. No trace was found of the pilot.

On 19th February, 1936, a Miles Falcon, owned by Union Airways, Ltd., struck an anemometer mast on the boundary of Rongotai Aerodrome, Wellington, whilst landing in misty rain and a strong gusty wind. The passenger was uninjured, but the pilot received fatal injuries.

On 28th March, 1936, a parachutist was killed at Rongotai Aerodrome, Wellington, when his parachute failed to open. It was subsequently found that a packing wire had not been removed.

4. AIRCRAFT INSPECTION.

With the growth of aviation in the Dominion, the inspection of civil aircraft for the purpose of granting certificates has been increased. The number of inspections made last year totalled 150. During this period fifty-five certificates were renewed, and sixteen new certificates were issued. The number of new aircraft added to the register was sixteen, making the total of registered aircraft at 31st May, ninety-four. During the past year official investigation was made into five accidents affecting civil aviation.

An increasing number of the larger types of commercial aircraft is now operating in the Dominion, and, in order that the modern instruments and apparatus with which these machines are equipped may be periodically checked for accuracy, it has been necessary to obtain further specialized testing-equipment from abroad.

5. GROUND ENGINEERS.

The number of applicants offering themselves for examination for ground engineers' licences was in excess of the number that could be dealt with at each of the two examinations held during the year. The method of conducting these examinations is under revision, and an endeavour will be made to hold them at more frequent intervals. New licences issued amounted to twenty-eight, making the total current in all categories at 31st May, eighty-five.

CIVIL AVIATION.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES FROM 1ST APRIL, 1935, TO 31ST MARCH, 1936.

Company.	Route.	Aircraft.	Hours flown.	Miles flown.	Paying Passengers.	Freight.	Mail.	Number of Trips.		
								Sched-ule.	Com-pulsory.	Regu-lar.
Air Travel (N.Z.), Ltd.	Hokitika-Haast-Okuru-Inchbonnie-Hokitika-Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers	2 D.H. 83	872	87,233	1,030	lb. 10,774	lb. 17,568	189	185	Per Cent. 97·8
East Coast Airways, Ltd.	Gisborne-Napier ..	2 D.H. 84	1,322	129,363	3,808	53,398	..	1,301	1,253	96·3
Cook Strait Airways, Ltd.*	Wellington-Blenheim-Nelson	2 D.H. 89	464	58,000	3,056	3,981	710†	850	808	95·0
Union Airways of New Zealand, Ltd.	Palmerston North-Blenheim-Christchurch-Dunedin	2 D.H. 86	562	71,575	1,212	861	1,055‡	154	154	100·0

* Commenced service 29th December, 1935. † Granted mail contract 16th March, 1936. ‡ Commenced service 15th January, 1936.

CIVIL AVIATION.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF LIGHT AERO CLUBS AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1936 : TRAINING.

Aero Club.	Members.		Aircraft in use.†	Pilots trained.	Hours flown.		Licences valid.	
	Associate.	Flying.*			Training.	By Members.	Private.	Com-mercial.
Auckland	572	111	7	15	2,060	471	65	6
Western Federated (North Island)	300	67	3	12	715	270	47	1
Hawke's Bay and East Coast ..	122	57	3	11	939	222	33	..
Marlborough	103	38	3	9	501	162	14	1
Canterbury	107	87	3	26	1,399	604	58	3
Otago	157	44	4	9	774	356	32	1
Southland	85	43	4	13	944	417	32	1
Middle Districts	185	37	2	10	513	152	22	1
Wairarapa and Ruahine	240	32	3	4	494	196	21	1
West Coast United	435	22	2	6	356	118	11	..
Wellington	256	75	5	14	923	426	40	4

* Training or with valid licences.

† Excludes aircraft used for commercial purposes only.