

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199402857**

**de Havilland Canada
Twin Otter**

02 October 1994

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199402857 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: 80km NNE Bundaberg
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 02 October 1994
Time: 0900 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: de Havilland Canada
Aircraft Model: DHC-6 SERIES 200
Aircraft Registration: VH-ATK **Serial Number:** 226
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Lady Elliott Island QLD
Departure Time: 0850 EST
Destination: Bundaberg QLD

Crew Details:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	240.0	600

Approved for Release: Wednesday, February 15, 1995

An emotionally disturbed young woman was allowed to board the aircraft as the sole passenger for the 25 minute flight. At top of climb, the passenger attacked the pilot and made an attempt to exit through the pilot's side window. In the process, she disturbed the aircraft and engine controls. The aircraft descended out of control from 4,500 ft and after pushing the passenger out of the cockpit, the pilot regained control by 3,000 ft. After being threatened by the pilot, the passenger remained subdued for some time. However, approaching Bundaberg, she again became agitated and harrassed the pilot. The aircraft landed safely.

Resort staff allowed the passenger to board the aircraft unescorted despite the availability of suitable staff. The passenger had been "playing up" all weekend had caused problems at the resort.