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## Arrow Air Flight 1285

The worst aviation disaster ever to take place in Canada happened on December 12, 1985. Arrow Air Flight 1285 was a chartered plane flying US troops home from Cairo. It made a number of stop-offs en route including one at Newfoundland. Shortly after takeoff on its final leg to Kentucky, the plane stalled and crashed into the ground. Everyone onboard was killed, including eight crew members and 248 US troops.

The Canadian Aviation Safety Board was unable to determine a definitive cause for the crash. Their report suggested the most likely cause was buildup of ice on the wings, though four of the investigation team's nine members filed an opinion that "detonations of undetermined origin brought about catastrophic system failures."

An Islamic terrorist group is reported to have claimed responsibility for destroying the aircraft. Witnesses in Cairo claim to have seen the troops' luggage left unattended, and the plane was loaded by non-US military personnel. A Canadian Press journalist received an anonymous phone call from someone with a Middle Eastern accent stating that there were diplomatic rumors that the plane had been destroyed by the bomb.

Les Filotas, one of the dissenting investigators, wrote a book about the crash in 1991. Filotas believes that so much went wrong onboard the plane at once that only an explosion fits. He believes that the US showed an "incredible lack of curiosity" given the scale of the disaster. He also thinks that the US authorities may have known things that were kept from the investigation team. Despite so many unanswered questions, the crash was overshadowed by the Challenger space shuttle disaster, which would follow about six weeks later.