

Aircraft used wrong route for approaching airport when landing

During flight

- When descending to an airport, approval was received from the control tower for approach to BACON ARR (landing route for Haneda Airport)
- An approach was made to ADDUM (an air route point) using autopilot in accordance with the instrument landing course
- As we saw that the preceding aircraft was guided by radar to BLITZ (an air route point), we thought that we were also being guided by radar based on that course
- In addition, flying based on LNAV (instrument landing) was thoroughly forgotten for being guided by radar
- Direct (instrument entry for advancing on a direct route) to BLITZ were put in the CDU (input-output device)
- Immediately after that, the mistake was pointed out by the PM (pilot that is mainly responsible for tasks other than flying) who was the captain at that time
- Subsequently, the captain corrected the input to the ADDUM direct and STAR (re-input of the standard instrument arrival route)
- Thanks to the guidance by the captain, there was no deviation from the route

This case was introduced on the ATEC website (Page 2, 03).
<http://www.jihatsu.jp/news/feedback/FEEDBACK%202014-02.pdf>

(Only available in Japanese)

One point that differs from the previous case of wrong approaches is whether the check function of the flight crew members functioned during the flight.

In Case 1, the captain who is in a position that should provide guidance to the copilot with less experience was not able to continue providing correct guidance to the First Officer, and they were slow to notice that their aircraft had approached the wrong runway.

In contrast, in Case 2, when the First Officer made a mistake with the course of their aircraft, the check function by the captain was fulfilled, and it was possible to continue the flight without problem as a result of the error of the copilot being pointed out.

These cases of a wrong approach suggest that it is also necessary to always have mutual checks of operations and to make it easy for the captain and copilot to communicate each other.