

FRONTIER AIRLINES INCIDENT
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (SNA) AIRPORT
JAN 23, 1984



Facebook post re Eddy Morgigno

Joe Aguirre

I'm pretty sure it your Dad was the Capt. on this story.

This was on MD-80. Take off out of John Wayne airport, Santa Ana, CA.

As the gear came up, the right engine completely shut down, the computer added emergency extra thrust to the left engine. In my own reckoning, if Capt. Morgigno had not been at the controls, FAL would have lost that aircraft. 1st, to lose all that thrust, all at once, and 2nd, then the computer kick in more, I can just imagine what was going on in wheel house. He did a magnificent amazing job.

What caused the problem. Mechanic forgot to secure a door that protects equipment in main gear wheel well in case rubber pieces come off the main gear tires.

There's no indicator warning lights to tell the doors are secured.

When the right gear came up, it squashed the door up into the control cables to the right engine. Consequently it shut it down.

Because of that incident those doors were removed off all MD-80s.

(4/8/20)

Lisa Morgigno Jaworski

That was Dad for sure! He got FAA Pilot of the year for that feat. He told me that if he hadn't of known that entire airplane inside and out he wouldn't have been able to pull it off. It was only 250 ft above the ocean when he got it started and pulled the nose up.

One thing is for sure, he was extremely intelligent, shrewd and quick on his feet. He also landed a full flight without wheels once.

The landing gear wouldn't come down and they sprayed foam on the runway and hoped for the best. He landed it no problem. That was here in Denver. Thanks for your account of that amazing recovery!

(4/8/20)

Facebook

You got a good memory, Joe!

Here are some news items about it.

January 23, 1984

The Los Angeles Times from Los Angeles, California

The Region Airliner Lands Safely After

A jet airliner with 120 people on board landed safely at John Wayne Airport in Orange County after developing engine and landing gear problems shortly after takeoff. Frontier Airlines spokesman Bob Schulman said flight 670, a two-engine DC-9 flying to Denver, lost power in its right engine 10 seconds after takeoff and Capt Eddie Morgigno subsequently could not retract the landing gear.

Morgigno, a 26-year veteran with Frontier, managed to restart the engine and then with emergency crews and fire equipment standing by extended the rest of the landing gear and flew the airliner to a safe and normal landing, 20 minutes after takeoff. Cause of the malfunctions was under investigation.

-<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/401697462/>

Mechanical problems force jetliner to land IRVINE (AP) -

A Frontier Airlines DC-9 with 120 people aboard was forced to return to John Wayne Airport during the weekend when it experienced engine and landing gear problems after taking off for Denver, the airline says.

The twin-engine DC-9 Super 80, or MD 80, landed safely Sunday with 114 passengers and six crew members, an airline spokesman said. "After takeoff from Orange County it was found that the main landing gear could not be moved from the down position, so the plane was brought back to the airport and landed 20 minutes later without incident," said Bob Schulman, spokesman for the Denver-based airline.

"There was also an engine problem with the right engine," Schulman said in a telephone interview from Denver. "He (the pilot) did lose some power but he regained it before landing." Asked if the 8:50 a.m. return was primarily due to the landing gear problem or the engine trouble, Schulman replied: "Either one alone would have been reason for returning."

There were no injuries to the 114 passengers or six crew members aboard Frontier's nonstop flight 670 to Denver, Schulman said. He said the airline was managed to book most passengers on other Frontier flights. Airline officials were investigating the cause of the landing gear and engine difficulties, he added.

An FAA duty officer in Los Angeles, who declined to give his name, said an FAA inspector was investigating the incident. The Orange County Fire Department crash unit, consisting of three engines, and two medical teams were standing by, and 10 more ambulances and several fire vehicles were on their way to the airport when the plane landed, county communications center Sgt. Chuck Pierce said. He said the county's Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio Network or HEARNET was also activated briefly until it was determined that no one was injured.

Frontier serves 78 cities in 27 states, Mexico and Canada, Schulman said. It runs the only non-stops to Denver from John Wayne, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

-Santa Cruz Sentinel from Santa Cruz, California @ <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/62680956/>

There is nothing in the Frontier Airlines NTSB database about this incident:

https://www.nts.gov/_layouts/ntsb.aviation/Results.aspx?queryId=429c3c0f-6358-47b2-9153-808db7d53d9b

-Jake Lamkins

(4/8/20)

Fidel Aguirre

Thanks, Jake. Appreciate all that material you dug up. Bob Schulman was a heck of a good rep for FAL. You should have seen him handle the fuel crisis. He made the dispatchers earn their money.

Lisa Morgigno Jaworski

Thanks for sharing that. I'm amazed you could find it.

(4/8/20)