

Adopted: February 2, 1944

File No. 3370-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
on the
Investigation of an Accident Involving Aircraft
During a Local Practice Flight

Robert Clyde McDermaid was fatally injured in an accident which occurred approximately 1 mile northwest of Riverside Airport, Carlsbad, New Mexico, about 7:40 p.m. on July 23, 1943. McDermaid held a student pilot certificate and had flown approximately 11 dual and 3 1/2 solo hours, all in the type of airplane involved. The aircraft, a Taylorcraft BC-65, NC 24016, owned by the Carlsbad Flying Service, was demolished.

After a 15-minute check flight with his instructor, McDermaid took off solo from the Riverside Airport about 7:15 p.m. to practice maneuvers in an area near the airport. About 25 minutes later he was observed flying toward the airport at an altitude estimated to have been from 100 to 200 feet. After passing low over some farm buildings the airplane was seen to zoom twice and at the top of the second zoom it stalled. It dived to the ground and crashed in an almost vertical position.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident and the manner in which the propeller was broken indicated that considerable power was being developed at the time of impact. The pilot apparently did not have his safety belt fastened. One witness, who was standing in a field about 1/4 mile north of where the accident occurred, stated that after the plane passed over the buildings it flew over him low enough that he could see the pilot's face.

This accident was due to the pilot's inexperience, poor judgment and recklessness in executing unnecessary maneuvers at an extremely low altitude, during which he inadvertently stalled the aircraft.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary