

Adopted: March 17, 1944

File No. 3520-43

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

Russel. Dewey Miller was fatally injured in an accident which occurred at the Crabill Airport, Springfield, Ohio, about 2:50 p.m. on August 8, 1943. Miller held a student pilot certificate and had flown approximately 360 solo hours, around 150 of which were in the type of airplane involved. The aircraft, a Monocoupe 113 Special, NC 8951, owned by the pilot, was destroyed by impact and fire.

Pilot Miller, age 45, took off from the Crabill Airport at approximately 2:48 p.m. on a local pleasure flight. Following the take-off the pilot climbed very steeply until he had reached an altitude of about 400 feet near the north boundary of the airport, and at this point the aircraft was stalled with power on. It fell off into a right spin and crashed nose first just inside the north boundary of the airport. Fire followed immediately.

The aircraft was so demolished by impact and fire that nothing of its condition prior to the accident could be learned by examination of the wreckage. According to witnesses and friends of the pilot, Miller had made a practice of pulling up abruptly immediately following take-off. He had been cautioned concerning his reckless flying upon several occasions by the airport owner and operator.

This accident was due to the pilot's poor judgment and recklessness in executing a very steep climb immediately following take-off, resulting in a stall and spin from which recovery was not effected.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary