

Accepted February 3, 1944

File No. 3522-43

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

Stafford Dewey Westall and his two passengers, Ross B. Yingling and R. H. Theis, were fatally injured in an accident which occurred about 5 miles northeast of the Municipal Airport, Houston, Texas, at approximately 6:20 p.m. on August 14, 1943. Westall held a student pilot certificate and had flown about 200 solo hours, 25 of which were in the type airplane involved. Yingling and Theis were not certificated as airmen. The aircraft, a Piper J5A, NC 32902, owned by the pilot and Charles A. Toce, was demolished.

Student Pilot Westall, with clearance for a solo flight, took off at approximately 5:20 p.m. on a local pleasure flight, accompanied by Yingling and Theis. Mrs. Yingling, wife of one of the passengers, stated that about 6:00 p.m. the plane flew over her house several times so low that she could recognize the occupants. The aircraft was later observed approximately 5 miles northeast of the airport at an altitude of between 100 and 200 feet, headed in an easterly direction. The pilot then entered a climbing turn to the left, during which the plane was stalled and fell off. It struck the ground on the nose and left wing tip, and remained in a nearly vertical position.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no 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. Weather conditions were good and had no bearing on the accident.

The probable cause of this accident was the pilot's recklessness and poor flying technique which resulted in a stall at a low altitude.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary