

Adopted April 5, 1944

File No. 3503-43

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

John Henry Stover was seriously injured in an accident which occurred near the Russellville, Arkansas Airport about 6:25 p.m. on August 20, 1943. Stover held a commercial pilot certificate with single-engine land and sea, 0-675 h.p. and flight instructor ratings. He had flown approximately 9000 solo hours, 75 of which were in the type of airplane involved. The aircraft, a Luscombe 8A, NC 41909, owned by the pilot, was extensively damaged.

Pilot Stover took off from the Russellville Airport about 6:15 p.m. on a cross-country flight to Little Rock, Arkansas. At an altitude of approximately 300 feet, about 1000 feet beyond the end of the runway, he discovered that the fire extinguisher had become dislodged from the bracket and was restricting use of the right rudder pedal. He immediately reached down to remove the extinguisher and in so doing inadvertently rolled the plane into an inverted position. The pilot righted the aircraft but was unable to avoid high trees on a hill beyond the airport. Following impact with the trees the plane fell to the ground and came to rest in an upright position. Pilot Stover stated that full responsibility for the accident should be placed on him as it was not necessary for him to attempt to remove the fire extinguisher until he had gained a safe altitude.

While the loose fire extinguisher was a contributing factor, the probable cause of this accident was poor judgment on the part of the pilot, resulting in loss of control at an altitude too low to effect complete recovery.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary