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

William Jeremiah Newton was seriously injured in an accident which occurred near the A. I. Martin Airport, Montour Falls, New York about 10:20 a.m. on August 21, 1943. Newton held a student pilot certificate and had flown approximately 17 hours, 6 of which were solo. The aircraft, a Piper J-2, NC 19523, owned by the Seneca Eagles Flying Club, Inc., was demolished.

Newton, flying solo from the rear seat, took off from the A.I. Martin Airport for a local practice flight. According to witnesses, the take-off was nose-high and flight was continued for approximately 600 yards with the plane in a nearly stalled condition until an altitude of about 150 feet was reached. At this point a steep, nose-high turn to the left was made, during which the plane was seen to waver and control appeared to be momentarily lost. However, recovery was effected and shortly thereafter another left turn was attempted at an altitude of approximately 100 feet. The plane was stalled and fell off, rotated to the left about 160° and struck the ground nose-first.

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 power was being developed at the time of impact. Pilot Newton weighed 284 pounds, and was occupying the rear seat. Evidence indicated that the aircraft was in tail-heavy trim. The pilot's memory concerning this accident was very hazy. He stated that the plane did not seem to climb as fast as it should and that it just fell out of control.

This accident was apparently caused by the inexperienced pilot stalling the plane at an altitude too low to effect recovery.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Tooibs  
Secretary