

Adopted: April 24, 1944

File No. 4179-43

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

Francis Junior Beebe was fatally injured in an accident which occurred near New California, Ohio, about 1:45 p.m. on September 21, 1943. Beebe, a War Training Service Navy trainee, had flown approximately 53 hours, about 16 of which were solo. He had flown 5 hours and 40 minutes dual and 1 hour and 20 minutes solo in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, a Howard DGA-18, NC 31614, owned by the Lane Aviation Corporation, was demolished.

Beebe took off from University Airport, Columbus, Ohio, at approximately 1:15 p.m. on a local practice flight, with instructions to proceed to practice area No. 1 and practice various maneuvers including turns, stalls, and spins. Sometime later several farmers working in their fields observed the aircraft in a series of spins. During recovery from the final spin, at approximately 1500 feet, the nose was pulled up higher than usual and the plane fell off to the right, nosing down into an almost vertical dive. After about one-half of the altitude had been lost, power was applied and the aircraft struck the ground nose-first in an almost vertical attitude, 5 1/2 miles outside the practice area. The pilot's safety belt was unbuckled and his body was thrown 25 feet beyond the point of impact, his parachute shroud lines strung along the ground to the partially open parachute which was draped over the engine.

The aircraft was so completely demolished by impact that little could be learned from an examination. Two of the witnesses stated that they observed objects falling from the aircraft just before it struck the ground, while others did not observe this. An area of several hundred acres surrounding the scene of the accident was searched for such objects but nothing was found. A study of the pilot's record indicated that he was often tense and slow to react.

It appears probable that Beebe, in effecting recovery from the final spin, again stalled the aircraft and failed to recover from the resultant dive.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary