

Adopted. April 24, 1944
File No. 4571-43

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

Pilot Clair Foster Morrill and his passenger, Donald Isensee, were seriously injured in an accident which occurred at Carleton Airport, Stanton, Minnesota, about 5 45 p.m. on October 17, 1943. Morrill held a commercial pilot certificate with a flight instructor rating. He had flown approximately 2905 solo hours, around 11 of which were in the type aircraft involved. Isensee, an apprentice mechanic employed by the Hinck Flying Service, was not certificated as an airman. The aircraft, a Howard DGA-18, NC 31620, owned by the Defense Plant Corporation and being operated by the Hinck Flying Service in the War Training Service Army program, was demolished.

Morrill and Isensee took off from Carleton Airport on a test flight following engine overhaul. After the take-off run had been continued to a point slightly beyond the center of the field, the plane became airborne and assumed a fairly steep angle of climb. At an altitude of from 75 to 100 feet, near the west boundary of the field, the engine stopped and the aircraft was stalled. It fell off, completed about 180° of a right spin, and struck the ground on the right wing and nose.

The aircraft was so completely demolished that an examination revealed little as to its condition prior to impact. Witnesses were not agreed as to whether the engine had sputtered or cut out without warning and neither of the occupants could recall what had happened. The engine was disassembled and examined but no definite reason for stoppage was found.

There seems to be no reason why a pilot of Morrill's experience should stall and lose control of the plane following engine stoppage in a straight climb. While he stated that he did not recall anything pertaining to the accident, he was certain that he would never have attempted a turn under these conditions.

This accident was due to poor piloting technique which, following engine stoppage on take off, resulted in a stall.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary