

Adopted: May 19, 1944

File No. 4846-43

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

Fay Wilcot Murray was fatally injured in an accident which occurred about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Osmond, Nebraska, about 5:00 p.m. on October 26, 1943. Murray held a private pilot certificate with a single-engine land, 0-80 h.p. rating. He had flown approximately 237 solo hours, 106 of which were in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, a Luscombe 8, NC 22019, owned by the pilot, was demolished.

Murray took off from Fairbury, Nebraska, on a hunting trip October 26 and landed at Wayne, Nebraska at 4:00 p.m. He refueled the plane, secured a clearance to the Weingartner farm $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Osmond, Nebraska, and took off from the Wayne Airport at 4:30 p.m. Approximately one-half hour later the aircraft was observed circling the Weingartner farm buildings at an altitude estimated to have been 300 feet. The pilot then descended to about 100 feet in a left turn. At a point directly over the farmhouse he reduced power and the aircraft was stalled, following which it dived to the ground in the backyard of the farmhouse. Miss Vera Weingartner, who was standing in the yard, suffered a fractured ankle, apparently inflicted by flying fragments of the left wing as it struck the ground.

There was no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident. The manner in which the propeller was broken indicated that little or no power was being developed at the time of impact. A shotgun and a supply of shells were found in the wreckage but there was nothing to indicate that this equipment had in any way interfered with the operation of the aircraft.

This accident was due to the pilot's poor judgment and technique which resulted in a stall at an altitude too low to effect recovery.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary