

Adopted: May 5, 1944
File No. 4569-43

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

An accident which occurred approximately 12 miles northeast of Monroe, Louisiana, about 12:35 p.m. on October 31, 1943, resulted in fatal injury to Pilot William Fred Hemler and serious injuries to his passenger, LeRoy Allen West. Hemler, age 37, held a private pilot certificate with a single-engine land, 80-135 h.p. rating. He had flown approximately 260 solo hours, about 15 of which were in the type aircraft involved. West, age 32, held a student pilot certificate. The aircraft, a Rearwin 9000L, NC 19447, owned by the pilot and K. S. Elliott, was demolished.

Hemler, accompanied by West, took off from Turner Airport, Monroe, Louisiana at approximately 12:30 p.m. on a local pleasure flight. Several minutes later the plane was observed about 4 miles south of the airport, approaching Black Bayou Lake at an altitude estimated to have been between 500 and 1000 feet. One witness, who was in a boat on the lake, next observed the plane in a spin which continued until it crashed nose-first in the water. No one could be found who saw the plane immediately prior to the spin but the passenger stated that the pilot had made a steep dive toward the lake, followed by a zoom, at the top of which the plane was stalled and fell off into a spin.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no indication of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to impact. Whether or not power was being developed at the time of impact was not determined. Dual controls were installed and operative. The occupants were not equipped with parachutes.

The probable cause of this accident was the pilot's recklessness and poor technique which resulted in a stall and spin at a low altitude from which recovery was not effected.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred H. Toombs
Secretary