

Adopted: May 31, 1944

File No. 5171-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
on the
Investigation of an Aircraft Propeller Accident

Harold Thies, age 18, was seriously injured when he was struck by an aircraft propeller at the Carleton Airport, Stanton, Minnesota, about 12:55 p.m. on November 19, 1943. The airplane, a Howard DGA-18K, NC 39656, owned by the Defense Plant Corporation and being operated by Hinck Flying Service, Inc., received minor damage.

Thies, an employee of the Hinck Flying Service, was assisting Howard Leon Carter, a War Training Service Army trainee, in starting the engine of NC 39656. After trying unsuccessfully for several minutes to start the engine, Thies called for "switch off" and Carter repeated, "switch off." Thies then swung the propeller again, whereupon the engine kicked backward and the propeller struck Thies on the left arm and right hand.

A subsequent check of the engine did not reveal any indication of failure or malfunctioning of any part of the impulse coupling, magnetoes, or ignition switch.

The probable cause of this accident was carelessness on the part of both Carter and Thies; Carter for not determining that the ignition switch was in the full "off" position before calling "switch off," and Thies for failing to turn the propeller in such a manner as to be in the clear in the event the engine started.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary