

No. 8

Piper J3, CF-EGC aircraft crashed near Sturgis, Sask.,
on 4 July 1951. Dept. of Transport, Air Services Branch,
Civil Aviation Division, Serial No. 51-22.

Circumstances

At approximately 2030 hours CST on 4 July 1951, the aircraft, flown by a commercial pilot took off for the purpose of crop spraying. Two runs were carried out, however, during the turn into the third run, the aircraft stalled, did one turn of a spin, and struck the ground at a 75° angle from the horizontal. The pilot was instantly killed.

Investigation and Evidence

The pilot had 150 hours flying time. The weather was clear, temperature - 66°F., visibility - 15 miles.

No evidence of malfunctioning was found. The aircraft was overloaded by 63 lbs. at take-off, but this was not, however, considered a contributory factor to the accident because both fuel and crop spraying solution were used during two runs prior to the accident which would bring the weight of the aircraft down to that permissible.

Recently, a Continental C90-8F engine had been installed. The carburettor heat system was not modified as required. However, this was not considered to be a contributing factor either, in view of the air temperature at the time and also because power was being developed at the moment of impact.

Probable Cause

For undetermined reasons the pilot failed to maintain adequate flying speed and the aircraft stalled in a turn and commenced to spin at too low an altitude for recovery to be made.