

Adopted January 12, 1944

File No. 3281-43

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

Henry Tilton Seay, age 40, was fatally injured in an accident which occurred at Zieger Field, near Warrenton,, Virginia, at approximately 8:15 p.m. on July 16, 1943. Seay held a student pilot certificate and had flown about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  solo hours, all in the type of airplane involved. The aircraft, a Stinson SM-8A, NC 427Y, owned by the pilot, was demolished.

Pilot Seay had engaged in take-off and landing practice at intervals throughout the day at Zieger Field, totaling about 15 flights and approximately 2 1/2 hours of flying time. About 8:10 p.m., he took off again toward the southeast, made a steep climbing left turn of approximately  $180^{\circ}$ , and headed in a northwesterly direction on the downwind leg of the traffic pattern. When the aircraft had reached an altitude of about 400 feet, at a point some 700 to 800 feet beyond the airport boundary, Seay throttled the engine to about half cruising power and made a  $90^{\circ}$  left turn, followed by a steep left turn for a landing approach. During this last turn he stalled the plane and it whipped over into a right spin, then crashed nose-first to the ground.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident and the manner in which the metal propeller blades were bent indicated that partial power was being developed at the time of impact. Weather conditions were ideal for the flight and did not contribute to the accident. It is possible that fatigue and over-enthusiasm of a student pilot contributed to the accident.

The probable cause of this accident was poor piloting technique which resulted in a stall and spin during a landing approach.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary