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

Pilot Darrel George Butz received serious injuries and his passenger, Maurice Vollp, was fatally injured in an accident which occurred about 1/4 mile southwest of the Elgin-Kane Airport, Hampshire, Illinois, at approximately 6 10 p.m. on August 7, 1943. Butz held a student pilot certificate and had flown about 80 hours, of which 70 hours had been accumulated in the aircraft involved. The aircraft, an Aeronca K, NC 17770, owned by William Powers, Beverly Kenyon and the pilot, was demolished.

Pilot Butz, who was one of four persons authorized to act as clearance officer at the airport, issued his own clearance to fly solo and took off from the Elgin-Kane Airport on a local flight about 6 00 p.m. with Vollp as passenger. Shortly thereafter the airplane was observed circling over farms in the vicinity of the airport at an altitude of around 200 feet. Butz then dived to an altitude of about 100 feet and zoomed sharply to between 400 and 500 feet where the aircraft was stalled. It fell off and crashed to the ground on the left side of the landing gear and left wing tip almost simultaneously.

Examination of the wreckage disclosed no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident and the condition of the propeller indicated that power was being applied at the time of impact. The dual rudder control pedals were connected and operative, but the dual control wheel had been removed prior to the flight.

It is apparent that the recklessness and inexperience of the pilot contributed to his failure to recover from a stall resulting from a steep climb at a low altitude.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary