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

Stanley Casimir Limanowski was seriously injured in an accident which occurred at Blue Island, Illinois, at approximately 4:30 p.m. on August 10, 1943. He held a student pilot certificate and had flown about 1½ dual and 2½ solo hours, all in the type of airplane involved. The aircraft, a Piper J3C-50, NC 23115, owned by the Howell Flying Service, was extensively damaged.

Student Limanowski, accompanied by his instructor, took off from Howell Airport at approximately 3:00 p.m. After one take-off and landing the instructor left the plane, instructing the student to practice solo take-offs, landings, stalls and spins. After about 45 minutes of take-off and landing practice, the student proceeded to a practice area, did several stalls and spins, and then decided to practice a few simulated forced landings. Two of these were completed successfully but during the third, the student executed a steep left turn at a low altitude and stalled the plane. It crashed to the ground nose-first, telescoping the entire front section of the fuselage.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident. A safe landing could have been made at any spot within a radius of 2500 feet from the point of impact. Weather conditions were good and apparently did not contribute to the accident. The pilot stated, "I attempted 180° steep turn for the purpose of getting into wind. During this turn the ship lost speed and stalled, striking the ground nose first."

The probable cause of this accident was an inadvertent stall at an altitude too low to effect recovery.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Loonbs
Secretary