

Adopted: May 17, 1944

File No. 4042-43

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

Pilot John Albert Jackson, age 35, was seriously injured in an accident which occurred at Pittsburgh-Butler Airport, Butler, Pennsylvania, at approximately 1 20 p.m. on September 5, 1943. Jackson held a student pilot certificate and had flown about 175 solo hours. The aircraft, an Aeronca K, NC 17757, owned by John W. Rider, received major damage.

Jackson took off from the Pittsburgh-Butler Airport about 1:15 p.m. on a local practice flight. After a normal take-off, he circled the field to the left and while on the base leg of the traffic pattern, the aircraft was observed in a shallow glide which was steepened as the plane turned to the left onto the approach leg. During recovery from this turn, at an altitude of about 200 feet, the pilot applied power and the plane was seen to start a spin to the right, which continued until it struck the ground on the right wing tip and landing gear.

Examination of the wreckage disclosed no failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident and the manner in which the propeller was broken indicated that power was being developed at the time of impact. The elevator tab was found set in the full "nose-up" position, which would necessitate considerable forward pressure on the control wheel to counteract the climbing tendency of the aircraft upon application of power. Jackson had had three hours of dual instruction on the wheel type control but this was his first solo in the subject type airplane. Due to injuries sustained in the accident he was unable to recall any details of the flight.

The probable cause of this accident was poor piloting technique which resulted in an inadvertent spin at a low altitude, from which recovery was not effected.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary