

Adopted: May 19, 1944

File No. 4169-43

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

Edgar Clarke Vickers, Jr., was seriously injured in an accident which occurred two miles northwest of Jacksonville, Texas, about 2:15 p.m. on September 13, 1943. Vickers, a War Training Service Navy trainee, had flown approximately 35 hours, 14 of which were solo and all in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, an Aeronca 65-TL, NC 34466, owned by the Defense Plant Corporation and being operated by the Jacksonville Flying Service, was extensively damaged.

Vickers took off from the Jacksonville Airport about 1:05 p.m. for a one-hour solo practice flight. Approximately one and one-half hours later an instructor from the same airport flying in the vicinity observed the aircraft on the ground in a wrecked condition, the pilot lying nearby, and landed to render assistance. There were no known witnesses to the accident. The pilot stated that he remembered taking off and flying to the practice area but could not recall the type of flying he was engaged in at the time or any details of the accident.

The condition of the wreckage indicated that the plane had struck the ground nose-first, at a steep angle while spinning. There was no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to impact. The throttle was closed and the switch was on; there was ample fuel; and the manner in which the propeller was broken indicated that little or no power was being developed at the time the plane struck the ground. Due to the absence of witnesses and the pilot's lapse of memory, the type of maneuvers being practiced was not determined. The accident occurred on level terrain about 200 feet from a pylon in a practice area where low sequence maneuvers were ordinarily practiced at an altitude of 600 feet.

The cause of this accident was not determined.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary