

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

An accident which occurred at Indianapolis,, Indiana, about 4.45 p.m., October 1, 1943, resulted in serious injuries to Instructor George Ephram DeVan and his student, Robert H. Buckner. DeVan held a commercial pilot certificate with single-engine land, 0-80 h.p., and flight instructor ratings. He had flown approximately 1350 hours, about 700 of which were in the type airplane involved. Buckner had received approximately 10 hours of dual instruction. The aircraft, an Aeronca 65TL, NC 31427, owned by Sky Harbor, Inc., was demolished.

DeVan and Buckner took off from Sky Harbor Airport about 4.00 p.m. on a local instruction flight. After practicing several landings and take-offs at the airport they proceeded to a practice area where the student made a simulated forced landing approach. In an effort to improve his student's technique, the instructor took over the controls and started a normal climb. At an altitude of approximately 300 feet, on the crosswind leg of his course, he made a right turn into the wind. During this turn he stalled the plane and it went into a dive which continued to the ground.

There were no known witnesses to the accident, other than the instructor and student. The instructor recalled taking over the controls and climbing the aircraft crosswind preparatory to demonstrating a simulated forced landing but stated that he remembered nothing thereafter. The weather was ideal for contact flying and had no bearing on the accident.

This accident was due to the instructor's poor technique which resulted in a stall while making a turn prior to demonstrating a simulated forced landing.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Ired A. Toombs
Secretary