

Adopted April 5, 1944

File No. 4295-43

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

Poland Palmer Russell was seriously injured in an accident which occurred approximately one-quarter mile northeast of the Municipal Airport, Le Mars, Iowa, about 1:40 p. m. on October 4, 1943. Russell, age 25, a War Training Service Navy trainee, had flown approximately 14 dual and 3 solo hours. The aircraft, a Taylorcraft PC12-05, NC 29854, owned by the Defense Plant Corporation and being operated by Beacon Airways, was extensively damaged.

Trainee Russell, on his first solo flight in the subject type aircraft, was practicing take-offs and landings at Le Mars Airport while his instructor watched him from the runway. He made four normal take-offs and landings. During his fifth landing, while on the downwind leg of the traffic pattern, he closed the throttle at approximately 600 feet and entered a 45° bank to the left. The plane continued turning, in a tightening spiral, until it crashed on the left wing and nose in a plowed field.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no indication of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to impact.

Four days prior to this accident Russell had changed from a stick-control Porterfield to a side-by-side wheel control Taylorcraft. His present instructor stated that he had given the student stall recovery instruction, prior to soloing him in the Taylorcraft, but that he had not given him any instruction in spin recovery. There were no entries in the student's log or the operator's records to indicate that Russell had ever received any instruction in stalls or spins. It appears probable that Russell's changing from a stick control to a wheel control, without first receiving adequate instruction, might have been a contributing factor to this accident.

This accident was apparently due to poor piloting technique resulting from inadequate training.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Frederic J. Poole
Secretary