

Adopted: May 19, 1944

File No. 4630-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
on the
Investigation of a Propeller Accident

Instructor Frederick Snow Dexter was seriously injured by an aircraft propeller at the Tahoe Douglas Airport, Minden, Nevada, about 10 15 a.m. on November 10, 1943. Dexter held a commercial pilot certificate with single-engine land, 0-325 h.p. and flight instructor ratings. He had flown about 422 solo hours, 48 of which were in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, a Meyers OTW-160, NC 34347, owned by the Defense Plant Corporation, was not damaged.

Instructor Dexter and Student James Robert Mabe were preparing for a routine instruction flight. Mabe, occupying the front seat, had primed the engine preparatory to starting and was standing by to operate the throttle. The switch, located in the rear cockpit, was operated by the instructor. Instructor Dexter placed the wheel chocks in place, pulled the propeller through several revolutions, turned on the left magneto switch and swung the propeller. The engine was equipped with an impulse starter and at the beginning of the downward swing, the engine started, snapping the propeller away from the instructor. He was thrown off balance and as he swung around to the right, his left arm was struck by one of the propeller blades.

The propeller was in an almost horizontal position when the engine was cranked and due to its high position above the ground it was necessary for Dexter to stand dangerously close to the propeller arc in order to reach the propeller and swing it through.

This accident was apparently due to the instructor's carelessness in attempting to swing the propeller from such a high position that he was unable to keep himself clear of the path of the revolving blades.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary