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

Richard Lee Harvey was seriously injured when he was struck by an aircraft propeller at the Municipal Airport, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, about 1.35 p.m. on December 11, 1943. The airplane, a Taylorcraft BL-65, NC 26655, owned by Harry C. Phillips, received minor damage.

Harvey, a War Training Service Navy trainee, was assisting Instructor Conrad Hansen and WTS Navy Trainee Orlo Frederic Hall in starting the engine of NC 26655. After priming the engine, Harvey called "contact," which was repeated by Hall. Harvey swung the propeller several times but the engine failed to start. Deciding to prime the engine again, Harvey called "switch off," then immediately swung the propeller, whereupon the engine started and the propeller struck him on the left leg.

Harvey stated that he thought he heard either Hansen or Hall answer when he called for "switch off." However, both Hansen and Hall stated that Harvey turned the propeller before they had time to answer him or turn the switch to the off position.

The probable cause of this accident was carelessness and lack of experience on the part of Harvey in the technique of starting an engine.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary