

[illegible]

Accident No. 45-4-17-527

Date 6-1

Checked by DA

Analysed by _____

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

522284450PS

5-28

WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
AAF STATION 139 APO #539
REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Accident No.

Two planes

90

(1) Place AAF Station 139 (2) Date 19 April 1945 (3) Time 1540
Aircraft: (4) Type and model B-17G (5) A. F. No. 44-6817 (6) Station AAF Station 139
Organization: (7) 8th AF; 3rd A.D. (8) 100th (9) 418th Bombardment (H)

PERSONNEL

DUTY	NAME (Last name first)	RATING	SERIAL NO.	RANK	PERSONNEL CLASS	BRANCH	AIR FORCE OR COMMAND	REPLY TO PERSONNEL	USE OF PARACHUTE
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
P	Goldsmith, Donald F.	P	0-835634	2nd Lt.	18	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
CP	Kilby, Lake L.	P	0-930606	2nd Lt.	18	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
N	Smith, James L.	N	0-2075818	2nd Lt.	18	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
B	Zaricor, Joe Jr.	B	0-783387	2nd Lt.	18	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
E	Pollard, Morris V.	E	32944781	Cpl.	38	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
R	Tifft, Frank B.	R	35297802	Cpl.	38	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
WG	Wheatley, George D.	AG	37703418	Cpl.	38	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
BTG	Gordon, Charles A.	G	39726937	Cpl.	38	A.C.	8th AF	None	No
TG	McBride, John F.	G	42058710	Cpl.	20	A.C.	8th AF	None	No

NOTES CHANGED WITH ACCIDENT

(20) Goldsmith, Donald F. (21) 0-835634 (22) 2nd Lt. (23) 18 (24) A.C.
(Last name) (First name) (Middle Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Personnel class) (Branch)
Assigned (25) 8th AF, 3rd A.D. (26) 100th B.G. (27) 418th Bomb (28) AAF 139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Attached for flying (29) 8th AF, 3rd A.D. (30) 100th B.G. (31) 418th Bomb (32) AAF 139
(Command and Air Force) (Group) (Squadron) (Station)
Original rating (33) Pilot (34) 4-8-44 Present rating (35) Pilot (36) 4-8-44 Instrument rating (37) 11-4-45
(Rating) (Date) (Rating) (Date) (Date)
FIRST PILOT HOURS:
(of the time of this accident)
(38) This type B-17 141:45 (42A) Link Trainer Time Last 90 days 1:00
(39) This model B-17G 52:30 (42B) " " " " 30 " 1:00
(40) Last 90 days All Types 18:15 (43) Instrument time last 6 months 4:10
(41) Total All Types 141:55 (44) Instrument time last 30 days 4:10
(41A) Total Pilot Hours 515:15 (45) Night time last 6 months 49:30
pumps AIRCRAFT DAMAGE NF (46) Night time last 30 days 28:00

DAMAGE	(40) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft M M M M	Left outer wing panel, Chin Turret and structural damage to bulkhead number five.
(47) Engine(s) - - - -	
(48) Propeller(s) - - - -	

(50) Weather at the time of accident 2/10 - 3/10 base clouds at 3,000'; visibility 15 miles;
wind S E 3 MPH

(51) Was the pilot flying on instruments at the time of accident No
(52) Cleared from 139 (53) To 139 (54) Kind of clearance Control
(55) Pilot's mission Combat Practice Mission.

(56) Nature of accident Landing Accident.

(57) Cause of accident 100 % Pilot Error.

(58) No AAF form 54 will be submitted.

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#3

Sister

5-28

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U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
AAF STATION 139 APO #539
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Accident No.

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(1) Place AAF Station 139 (2) Date 19 April 1945 (3) Time 1540
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DAMAGE	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49) LIST OF DAMAGED PARTS
(46) Aircraft	M	M	M	Left outer wing panel, Chin Turret and structural damage to bulkhead number five.
(47) Engine(s)	-	-	-	
(48) Propeller(s)	-	-	-	

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(55) Pilot's mission Combat Practice Mission.

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DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

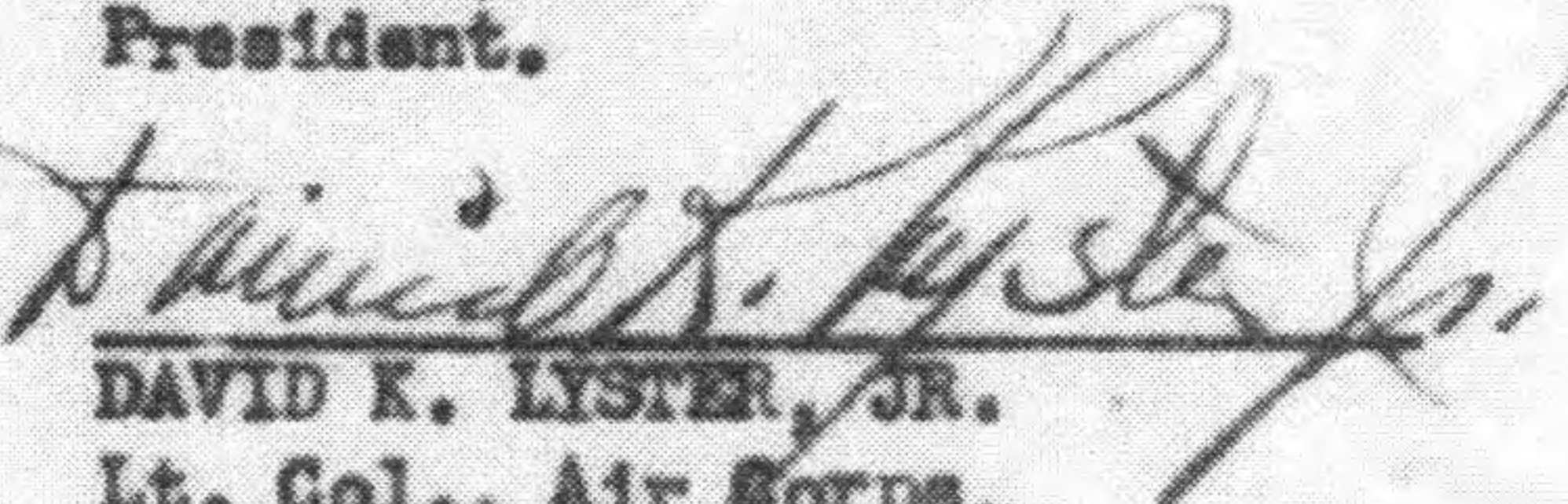
Brief narrative of accident. Include statement of responsibility and recommendations for action to prevent repetition.

On 19 April 1945, Lt. Donald F. Goldsmith was assigned as pilot of B-17G aircraft #44-46817 on a local practice mission. After a normal peel-off for landing, Lt. Goldsmith came in too close behind the aircraft landing ahead of him and landed after receiving a red flare from the caravan and control officer. After landing, Lt. Goldsmith's aircraft overtook the aircraft which had landed ahead of him and collided with the rear end of it.

Investigation and actual witnessing of the accident by two members of this Board discloses that Lt. Goldsmith used extremely poor judgement in attempting to land so close behind another aircraft and that even though red flares were fired ordering him to go around, he continued his landing and the accident resulted.

The Board is of the opinion that the accident is attributable to 100% Pilot Error because of poor judgement and failure to follow visual instructions not to land.


JOHN B. WALLACE,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
President.


DAVID K. LYSTER, JR.
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Member.


JOHN S. ROBINSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Member.

INCLOSURES:

- Exhibit "A" - Pilot's Statement.
- Exhibit "B" - Photos.
- Exhibit "C" - Flying Control Officer's Statement.
- Exhibit "D" - Convening Authority.

Signature _____
(Investigating Officer)

Date _____

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HEADQUARTERS
ONE HUNDRETH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO #559

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: Pilot's Statement of aircraft accident of 19 April 1945.

TO : President of Aircraft Accident Board, AAF Station 139.

1. On 19 April 1945 at approximately 1540 hours, after a normal peel-off, I, Donald F. Goldsmith O-835634, Pilot of aircraft #44-6817, lined up on landing approach behind aircraft #43-32090. Observed that I was approaching to close to aircraft #43-32090. I put down full flaps and slowed airspeed to permit spacing.

2. When ready to set down on runway I observed red flare from caravan tower. Thinking it was too late to gain altitude to clear the aircraft ahead on runway, I landed my aircraft and began applying brakes. When it was apparent that I could not stop I tried to turn the aircraft from the runway. This being unsuccessful the aircraft ran into the plane ahead causing severe damage to the tail surfaces and wing of #43-32090. The application of brakes on aircraft #44-6817 blew out right tire and damaged the left tire. The impact damaged the nose and chin turret of aircraft #44-6817.

Donald F. Goldsmith
DONALD F. GOLDSMITH
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot

Exhibit "A"

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FLYING CONTROL SECTION: STATION #139
APO #559

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: Accident involving two B-17-G's #46817-S and #232090-R of the 418th Bombardment Squadron (H), 100th Bombardment Group (H), landing from a training practice mission.

TO : Chairman, Aircraft Accident Committee, Station #139.

1. Time of Accident: 1540 hours, 19 April 1945.
2. Pilots involved: 2nd Lt. DONALD F. GOLDSMITH, O-835634 and 2nd Lt. EARL F. CULLIMORE, O-781235 both of the 418th Squadron.
3. Weather at Time of Accident: 2/10 coverage at 3,000 feet, vis. 15 miles, Surface Wind SE 6 mph.
4. The airfield was last inspected before the accident for obstructions etc. at 1240 hours on the day of the accident.

5. Synopsis of Accident:

Lt. CULLIMORE in 090-R, number two to land from his formation, made a normal approach and landed on R/W 17. Lt. GOLDSMITH in 817-S came in very close behind 090-R. He was given a red aldis light and also a red flare from the caravan. Lt. Col. LYSTER standing about 200 yards beyond the caravan. The pilot immediately locked his brakes, but was unable to stop in time to avoid hitting 090-R which was just ahead of him on the runway.

6. Damage to Aircraft: 090-R Entire rudder and right tail section chewed off by props. About half of trailing edge of right wing and entire right wing tip chewed up. Left tire flat.

817-S Chin turret knocked loose and badly damaged. A section about three feet long smashed in about a foot on the center section, of the leading edge of the left wing. Right tire flat.

7. Injuries: None

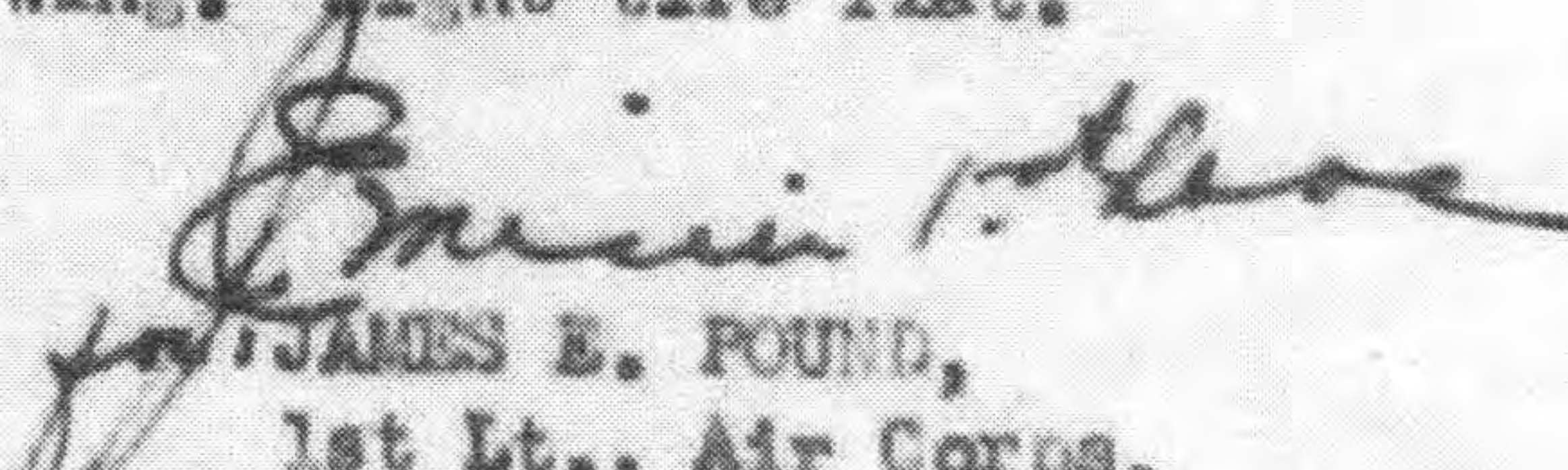

JAMES E. POUND,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Duty Flying Control Officer.

Exhibit "C"

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE STATION NO. 139
APO 559

Special Orders)
Number.....3)

3 January 1945

EXTRACT COPY

4. In accordance with Par 1, Part 6, AAF Regulation No. 62-14A, as modified by Section 3, 8th AF Memo 60-2 and USSTAF Reg No. 62-1, 4 Nov 44, the following named Officers are appointed a permanent Aircraft Accident Committee for this station. The first-named officer is designated as Aircraft Accident Officer:

MAJ JOHN B WALLACE, 0388897, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
MAJ MARVIN S BOWMAN, 0474852, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
MAJ DAVID K LYSTER, JR., 0393149, AC	350th Bomb Sq
MAJ GEORGE O EMERSON, 0382947, MC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
CAPT EDWARD D WOOTEN, 0792087, AC	418th Bomb Sq
CAPT JOHN S ROBINSON, 0426428, AC	Hq 100th Bomb Gp
1ST LT ELLIS D PIKE, 0873991, AC	18th Wea Det 139

By order of Colonel JEFFREY:

HORACE L. VARIAN, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Station Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

DALE Z. HOBBS
DALE Z. HOBBS,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't Adjutant

THIS IS A TRUE EXTRACT COPY.

Stanley P. Gorski
STANLEY P. GORSKI,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Group S-3 Duty Officer

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Exhibit "D"

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