http://francecrashes39-45.net/page_fiche_av.php?id=6914

P-47 42-26108 accidenté à St-James (A-29) le 03/09/1944

Extrait de l' Accident Report n°527

On 3 Sept 1944, at 1048 hours while returning from a dive bombing mission, 2d Lt Carroll T. Boyd and 2d Lt Floyd R. Hodges collided in mid-air when Lt. Boyd attempted to change position, in order to echelon flight preparatory to turning off for landing.

Lt. Boyd was flying as blue #2 on the left wing of Capt Donald M. Raine leading the flight. Blue 3 & 4 were flying on the leaders right wing. Without any instruction or signal from the leader, Lt Boyd pulled from his position and started to move to the right wing of blue 4 as they approached the field. This would have put him in the #4 position for the turn-off to land. However Lt Boyd did not take a safe enough distance during crossover and as result his propeller sheared off the tail surface of Lt Hodges aircraft, flying blue 4 position.

Since the flight leader did not signal for the change of formation blue 3 & 4 were not expecting the sudden move by Lt. Boyd. Had they been expecting it, they could have possibly avoid colliding. In addition to failing to await proper signals, Lt Boyd used poor judgment and poor technique.