

# Durrington Cemetery

## War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

### World War II



**KPT**

**A. R. MAJCHERCZYK**

**POLISH FORCES**

**2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 1946 AGE 33**

## **Antoni Robert MAJCHERCZYK**

Antoni Robert Majcherczyk was born on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1913 at Dabrowa, Gornicza, Poland.

Antoni Robert Majcherczyk was a Squadron Leader with the Polish Air Force, with a Service Number of P 1801.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1942 a Vickers Wellington – Z1472 was shot down by 2 German FW190's while on a rescue mission 40 miles east of Yarmouth. The plane crashed into the water. Lost were F/O Szymanowski, F/Sgt Rudel and Sgt Nowak. P/O Majcherczyk & Sgt. Jablonski survived & waited on the rescue dinghy, until help arrived 6 hours later.

Later, in 1942, Majcherczyk was transferred to A. & A.E.E. in 1942 – Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment located at RAF Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, England. During the course of the war the A. & A.E.E. had to expand its facilities as it took on other roles. Its work included testing armaments, performance and acceptance trials for all new service aircraft and testing of "rogue" handling aircraft. It also developed improvements in aircraft equipment such as demisting equipment for windshields and exhaust flame suppression.

During his time with A. & A.E.E., Majcherczyk was involved in several aviation accidents. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1943 Majcherczyk was testing a Hurricane IV for fuel evaporation and because of a poorly calibrated fuel quantity indicator he did not see that the tank was empty. On approach to landing, the engine stopped & Majcherczyk had to attempt a forced landing. He managed to escape with minor injuries. On 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1943 Majcherczyk was flying a Mustang which suffered engine damage during the flight. Majcherczyk had to attempt a forced landing & came out without injury. On 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1944, during testing in Egypt, in a Tempest V, while landing at Cairo airport the airplane wing clipped the ground and spun on its axis. The mounted fuel tanks burst into flames & the Tempest burnt to the ground. Majcherczyk narrowly escaped injury. On 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1946, again in a Tempest V shortly after takeoff the engine failed. Majcherczyk was able to turn around & land the plane with slight damage to the aircraft.

A document was published in 1944 on "The Determination of Propeller Power Coefficients by Flight Tests on a Spitfire VC Aircraft" by A. R. Majcherczyk & G. S. Hislop.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1946 Squadron Leader A. R. Majcherczyk, DFC, A Squadron took off from Boscombe Down, Wiltshire in a fighter jet – Gloster Meteor III EE312 for the purpose of spinning trials & three turn spins in both directions from 15,000 ft. The anti-spin parachute suffered a snatch opening and broke away. Aircraft entered another spin at 3,500 ft before diving into the ground at Porton Range, Wiltshire.

Antoni Robert Majcherczyk died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1946 at Porton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, U.K.

A death for Antoni R. Majcherczyk, aged 33, was registered in the September quarter, 1946 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Antoni Robert Majcherczyk's ashes were buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave /Plot Number 1002 on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1946. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves

Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone – Polish graves have a special CWGC headstone with a distinctive pointed tip.

Probate was granted at London, England on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1946 in the death of Antoni Robert Majcherczyk. The Probate details show that Antoni Majcherczyk lived at The Crest, Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire & died at Porton Ranges near Idmiston. Administration was granted to Zofia Majcherczyk, widow – Effects £761 7s. 4d.

Captain (Squadron Leader) Antoni Majcherczyk had received the Silver Cross of the Order of Military Virtue War Medal (No. 9439), four times the Cross of Valour, Aviator Badge & the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

A. R. Majcherczyk DFC is also remembered on the Polish War Memorial (Panel 41) at Northolt, U.K.

(With thanks to Jos van Alphen of [Polish War Graves](#) for assistance with information)

## The Polish War Memorial

The Polish War Memorial was erected to remember the contribution of airmen from Poland who helped the Allied cause during the Second World War. It is prominently situated by a roundabout junction near RAF Northolt in South Ruislip in the London borough of Hillingdon, on one of the main routes into London. The Polish Air Forces in France and Great Britain supported the Allied powers during the Second World War. A group of Polish officers, who remained in Britain after the war, formed the Polish Air Force Association & decided to erect a memorial. The Memorial is made from Portland stone and Polish granite, with bronze lettering and a bronze eagle – the symbol of the Polish Air Force. The names of 1,243 Poles who died during the war were inscribed on the Memorial, and a further 659 names added between 1994 & 1996, when the Memorial was refurbished & rededicated.



(Photo by Nigel Cox 2008)



Antoni Robert Majcherczyk

Photo of A. Majcherczyk's headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Ian King- 2010)*