

Durrington Cemetery

War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War II



POR (F/Lt.)

S. F. RIESS

POLISH FORCES (A. & A.E.E.)

4TH FEBRUARY, 1943 AGE 34

Stanislaw Franciszek RIESS

Stanislaw Franciszek Riess was born on 14th February (or November), 1908 in Krakow, Poland.

Stanislaw Franciszek Riess was a Flight Lieutenant with the Polish Air Force, with a Service Number of P 76665 & was assigned to A. & A.E.E. – Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment located at RAF Boscombe Down. 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.

On 4th February, 1943 Flight Lieutenant Riess, Sergeant J. Fielding as Flight Engineer & Mr J. J. Unwin (Civilian technical observer of the Scientific Office of the Ministry of Aircraft Production) took off from Boscombe Down near Amesbury, Wiltshire in a Handley Page Halifax Mk II - W7917 for the purpose of a rudder angle test. The Aircraft dived from 12,000 ft, pulled into a stall turn then entered a flat spin and crashed in that condition at Sutton Scotney, Hampshire. The top half of one rudder was found to have broken away. All 3 men died in the crash.

Stanislaw Franciszek Riess died on 4th February, 1943 at Sutton Scotney, Hants, U.K.

A death for Stanislaw Riess, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1943 in the district of Winchester, Hampshire, England.

Stanislaw Franciszek Riess was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave /Plot Number 1094 on 9th February, 1943. 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.

S. F. Riess is also remembered on the Polish War Memorial (Panel 59) 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)



Stanislaw Franciszek Riess

Photo of S. F. Riess' headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Ian King- 2010)