

Flyvevåbnets soldaterforening



Rødekro d. 31.8.26

An eyewitness account of the plane crash near Højer Sluice on August 20, 1941, by Hans Nicolai Mathiesen, who lived in the town of Højer as a child.

I was ten years old at the time, and I clearly remember a loud crash during the night, shortly after midnight; the plane had crashed southwest of Højer Sluice, about 100 meters out from the shoreline (the crash site location can be viewed on airmen.dk, and I can confirm that it is the correct spot).

The plane had crashed into the water at high tide; it had ended up upside down, and the main landing gear was clearly visible in the extended position.

The aircraft was reduced to wreckage scattered across the crash site; all crew members had been killed, and their bodies were strewn across the area—it was a horrific sight.

The fallen servicemen were subsequently buried in the Tønder cemetery.

At low tide, the wreckage was clearly visible, and locals waded out to the plane in the days following the crash, as the wreckage remained there for about a week.

Some factory workers from the Højer Carpet Factory conceived a plan to bring all the wreckage ashore and sell the parts to a scrap dealer, with the proceeds going into the carpet factory's staff fund.

They received permission from the beach warden to haul parts of the wreckage ashore, as well as authorization from the German occupation forces to carry out the plan. The factory workers were then given time off from their jobs at the carpet factory, and it took them about a week to haul most of the wreckage ashore so a truck could collect it.

However, things turned out quite differently for the workers; after toiling for a whole week to drag the wreckage onto land, a truck belonging to the German occupation forces arrived and took it all away anyway—meaning neither Højer Carpet Factory nor the employees received a single penny for it.

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I can confirm that this photograph from the Højer Historical Archive is the aircraft in question.

Sønderborg d. 6.9.2026

Kind regards

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