

Information board **THE AVIATOR STONE** from [Aalborg Municipality](https://www.airmen.dk/p308.htm) placed next to the memorial stone to the Pilot of **Mustang III FX955** <https://www.airmen.dk/p308.htm>

THE AVIATOR STONE

**“Memorial to English airman E.L. Germain.
Shot down by the Germans on 6 May 1944
His effort for freedom and justice was also for Denmark.
Erected by residents of the area.”**

On 6 May 1944 at 19.10 hrs three English [Mustang III-fighters](#) attacked Aalborg Airfield, where they severely damaged German warplanes on the ground. Subsequently they damaged other planes of the occupying power at the Rørdal Airfield.

When the formation assembled after the attack, two of the pilots spotted four German fighters heading for them from the south. Both shouted in their radios, “Break off – bandits!” Flying Officer Germain at the rear was too late to pull up. The Germans hit him at an altitude of about 300 m, and his plane took a vertical spin to the ground. A couple of minutes later his two colleagues came out under the clouds where they had found refuge. The German fighters had disappeared. They only saw Germain’s burning plane in the middle of the beeches of Lundby Coppice.

[Eric Lionel Germain](#) lost his life in the crash. He was buried at [Frederikshavn Cemetery](#) on 17 May 1944. It was on the very day when the Royal Air Force resumed large scale attacks on both airfields near Aalborg.

A number of residents of the area witnessed the dramatic episode, which took place in daylight. That Saturday Robert Rasmussen visited his parents, who had a smallholding only 200 m from the crash site, and he remembers, “We heard engine noise from the planes and a crash. Some time afterwards there was heavy shooting in the wood. All of us in the family were terrified and hid in one of the dark rooms of the house. At long last when we dared to come out to see what had happened, there were already a number of people from Gistrup at the site of the accident.”

After some time the Germans appeared and placed a guard at the wreckage. And the pilot who had shot Germain down with his [Focke-Wulf 190](#) fighter arrived later in the evening to have a look at his work. He landed in a field belonging to “Lundbygaard” in a small one-engined observation plane of the type [Fiesler Storch](#).

After the liberation there was a subscription for the memorial stone nearby to the English pilot. It was erected in 1946 a few metres from the hole made by the Mustang. Teacher Svendsen in Vaarst, who had led the efforts to erect the memorial stone, succeeded in establishing contact to the father of the young airmen. He visited the memorial twice.

Source: The Green Aalborg – Kjeld Djernø.