

## English plane was shot down on April 27, 1945

April 2025

During WW2 the Danish resistance movement relied heavily on supplies from England. Many hundred flights were carried through during nights and weapons and other things dropped with parachutes to groups of resistance people. The planes came in at a very low high often only 50-75 meters to avoid the German radar systems.

But time to time the missions went wrong. That happened during the early night of April 27, 1945 a few weeks before the liberation of Denmark. A Sterling airplane with a crew of 6 persons had been on a mission to Funen, but without finding the right place to drop its cargo.

On its return trip it lost partly orientation and got too close to the German military airbase in Vandel. As normal it was flying at a very low high and was hit by shots from the airbase. One or two of the engines were hit and broke into fire.

It was not possible to put out the fire, so the Stirling aircraft had to make a crash-landing just south of Billund. The landing was successful and all crew members survived. However, one were severely wounded, and the other crew members had to let him stay. He was picked up by the Germans and brought to a military hospital where he died a week later.



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he other 5 escaped and were helped by local people and members of the resistance movement.

To honor the crew a memorial stone was put up close to where the plane crash-landed 50 years after the episode. After this the Association for Local History has each year honored the crew by holding a small ceremony at the place.

