

Kazimierz Karl Leis 8 February 1905 - 2 June 2006

Kazimierz Leis was born in a small village called Obórznia, near the town of Łabiszyn, some 17 km south-west of Bydgoszcz on February 8th 1905. He was the son of Franciszek Leis and his second wife Rozalia.

By 1929 he was a Junior Military Officer in Torun, perhaps with the Polish Air Force, as the 4th Air Force Regiment was in Torun at that time.

Two of his half-brothers had also seen military action already. Stanisław Leis (born 1886) was involved in the Greater Wielkopolska Uprising of 1918-19, an uprising of Poles against German rule.

Jan Leis (born 1897) was in the German Army during WW1, in the Polish Army after the war, and then in the police. He was tragically killed in the massacre at Katyn in 1940.

Kazimierz was one of many Polish airmen who made their way through various European countries until they reached France and then on into Britain <https://listakrzystka.pl/en/> He was a mechanic with 54 MU (Maintenance Unit) during WW2, which was based at RAF Cambridge during the war and then RAF Newmarket after the war (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Royal_Air_Force_Maintenance_units)



(source: <http://www.militarian.com/threads/raf-43-groups-no-54-mu.4256/>)

At some point, presumably after the end of war, Kazimierz found his way to the bleak and beautiful Lincolnshire fens near RAF Coningsby. Perhaps he was stationed there for a

while, but we do not know.



In 1948 Kazimierz was one of the airmen selected to go to Pakistan, to help form their fledgling airforce following partition <https://eagles-poland-pakistan.pl/index.php/aktualnosci>

In 1950 Kazimierz, then based at Drigh Road, Karachi, Pakistan, began his application to emigrate to Australia. On 31st July 1951 he arrived in Freemantle from Bombay to begin his new life in Australia, aged 46. However, to the Australians, he was always 3 years younger than that, and never made it to 100, never mind 101!

He settled in the Essendon area of Melbourne, and worked as an aircraft fitter until at least 1980, according to the Australia Electoral Rolls. In 1954 he married Mafeking Pretoria Robertson, nee Marshall, the daughter of Joseph Marshall and Elizabeth Jane Collings. She died in January 1990, leaving Kazimierz - also known as Karl - living a further 16 years.

Karl died on 2 June 2006 in Keilor East, and is in the Keilor Cemetery, Moonee Valley <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153748245/karl-leis>

He left behind his family in Poland, and also a daughter - Ann - in Lincolnshire, England, who has now finally discovered who her father was. While nothing can bring back the father she never knew, it is our hope that someone will remember Kazimierz/Karl, and be able to tell us more about her father and his life in Australia.

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Karl Leis (from his gravestone photograph)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153748245/karl-leis>