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Spud Potocki



Polish born Wladyslaw "Spud" Potocki took over Arrow t following Jan Zurakowski's retirement from active test fly 1958.

Potocki served with the Polish Air Force and then escaped collapse of Poland during the Second War. He then joined Air Force (Polish Squadrons) in England. After the war, he from the British Empire Test Pilot School. Following emigr Canada in the early 1950s, Potocki was engaged as a test pi "Avro Aircraft Canada Ltd". He accumulated the highest hours of the four pilots who flew the first five Arrow aircr recorded that he reached a speed of Mach 1.9 in one of the it was rumoured that he actually reached Mach 2.0. Follow cancellation of the Arrow program in 1959, Potocki is the c that "flew" the experimental Avrocar. After the closing of Canada he joined North American Rockwell as a test pilot. career-ending accident unrelated to flying, in which he lost Potocki and his wife purchased and operated a motel comp business in Columbia, Ohio, where he died in 1996.

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Wladek "Spud" Potocki

June 28, 1999



Wladek "Spud" Potocki (1919-1996)

Former Chief Experimental Test Pilot
Avro Aircraft Ltd. (Canada)

Spud Potocki took over as Chief
Experimental Test Pilot on the Arrow
project following Jan Zurakowski's
retirement from active test flying.

Like Zurakowski, Potocki was born in
Poland and became an important figure in Canadian aviation history.

Potocki joined the Royal Air Force during the Second World War as soon as he was able to escape occupied Poland. An excellent pilot, he graduated from the British Empire Test Pilot School after the war. Following emigration to Canada in the early 1950s, Potocki was engaged as a test pilot with Avro Aircraft. The company had already developed the Jetliner, North America's first jet transport, and the CF-100 all-weather fighter. Avro was now developing the CF-105 Arrow and along with Zurakowski, Potocki was one of the select few who took part in the testing of this legendary interceptor. He accumulated the highest number of hours of the four pilots who flew the first five Arrow aircraft.

During the 1950s Avro Aircraft employed a world leading team of designers, engineers, and technicians. Potocki's insightful and cogent suggestions contributed to the design of the Arrow. It was recorded that he reached a speed of Mach 1.9 in one of the Arrows, but it was rumoured that he actually reached Mach 2.0.

Following the cancellation of the program in 1959, Potocki joined North American Rockwell as a test pilot. After a career-ending accident unrelated to flying, in which he lost an eye, Potocki and his wife purchased and operated a motel complex and business in Columbia, Ohio, where he died in 1996.

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