

PO Jaromir Broz 61917 RAFVR

Jaromir was born on 13 September 1916 in Brdo, Moravia, the son of Anna Broz nee Spicarova, his father dying when Jaromir was a baby, stepson of Josef Kynycha.

Educated at Stara Paka and the Teacher's Institute, Hradec Kralove, in 1933 Jaromir qualified as a Czech language and mathematics teacher. In 1938 as war approached, Jaromir was called up for military service and was recruited into the Czechoslovakian Air Force and entered the School for Air Force Reserve Officers, Prostějov. When Czechoslovakia mobilized in September 1938, Jaromir was serving as an Observer with 61 Sqn.

After the annexation of Czechoslovakia by Germany on 15 March 1939, Jaromir crossed the border into Poland and served with the Polish Air Force until he was captured by the Red Army. Released in 1940, Jaromir travelled via Odessa to Istanbul, Port Saïd, Suez and Bombay where he embarked for the journey to Liverpool.

On arrival, Jaromir was recruited into the RAFVR and, following refresher training, in March 1941 he was posted to 311(Czechoslovak) Sqn at RAF East Wretham, Norfolk.

On 17/18 January 1942, Bomber Command was tasked with an attack on Bremen, Germany, a crucial industrial manufacturing area and home to the shipyards of Vulkan, AG Weser and Atlas Werke, the Valentin submarine pens, oil refineries and the aircraft works of Focke-Wulf. A combined force of 83 aircraft, including six 311 Sqn crews were allocated to the raid.

At 17:16 on 17 January Jaromir, operating as the Navigator, and the crew departed RAF East Wretham in Wellington Ic T2971 (KX-J).

Whilst over the target, Jaromir's aircraft was damaged by flak. On the return home, at 23:17 just to the NE of Tilburg, near the Zandstraat, the Wellington crash landed, killing three of the six-man crew. The surviving crew were taken as POW.

Also Killed: Sgt Rudolf Masek CRCx2 MzC (WOp/AG); Sgt Jindrich Svoboda (Pilot)

Jaromir is buried in Tilburg (Gilzerbaan) General Cemetery, Noord-Holland, Netherlands

Jaromir is commemorated on Wall Panel 137

Photo Source: middenbrabant.nl

