

Sgt Ladislav Fornůsek 787826 RAFVR Za chrabrost před nepřítelem (Czech Gallantry Medal)

Ladislav was born on 17 April 1920 in Hodonin, South Moravia, Czechoslovakia.

Educated in Czechoslovakia where he was studying to be a veterinarian surgeon, when the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia in March 1939 he crossed illegally into the Slovak Republic, then through Romania and Yugoslavia before arriving in France in March 1940. Ladislav joined the Czechoslovak military at their Agde Depot, near Marseille.

When France capitulated in June 1940 Ladislav was evacuated to Britain where he joined the RAFVR and was trained as a WOp/AG. On completion of his training in April 1941 he was posted to 311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron, at RAF Honington, Suffolk.

In November 1941, he was awarded the Czechoslovak, Za chrabrost před nepřítelem, Gallantry Medal.

On 23rd January 1942 Ladislav, in a crew of six airmen, was posted from 311 Sqn to 138 Sqn at RAF Stradishall, Suffolk.

At 00:06 on 10 March 1942 Ladislav, operating as the WOp/AG, and the crew departed RAF Stradishall in Whitley V Z9125 (NF-A) on Operation Frensham I, which was a supply drop to the French resistance.

The aircraft failed to gain height and crashed at the end of the runway. Rescuers managed to save the rear gunner before the aircraft exploded, killing the rest of the crew.

Also killed : Sqn Ldr Boris Romanoff MiD (Pilot); FO Vaclav Jelinek (Nav); Sgt Jan Janek (Pilot); Sgt Maximilian Politzer (Observer)

Ladislav is buried in Haverhill Cemetery, Suffolk

Ladislav is commemorated on Wall Panel 165

Photo Source : Suffolk News

