Sgt Karel Lang 787416 RAFVR



Karel was born on 21 June 1916 in Velka Chyska u Pelhrimova, Czechoslovakia.

In 1936 Karel entered the Junior Aviation School in Prostejov, where he was awarded his wings and served as a pilot in the 2nd Air Regiment in Olomouc.

After the German occupation in March 1939 and compulsory demobilisation, in May 1939 Karel left the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and travelled to Poland and in June he sailed with a group of Czechoslovak pilots on the ship Sobieski from the port of Gdyne to France.

In September 1939 Karel joined the French Foreign Legion where he committed to at least five years of service in Africa. On the outbreak of war, Karel was freed from the Legion and was transferred to the French Air Force for conversion training. Following the French capitulation, Karel was evacuated to the UK, and, in July 1940, he was accepted into the RAFVR and in August was posted to 311(Czechoslovak) Sqn at RAF East Wretham, Norfolk.

On 17 October 1940 Karel, and one other squadron pilot, was tasked with a local area training flight and they departed RAF East Wretham in Wellington 1a L7786(KX-).

Whilst flying at low level, the vertical tail surface of the Wellington hit power cables and, at 11:20, they crashed at Pipps Farm, Coddenham, near Needham Market, Suffolk killing both on board.

Also Killed: Sgt Oldrich Tosovsky (Pilot)

Karel is buried in All Saints Churchyard, Honington, Suffolk

Karel is commemorated on Wall Panel 196

Photo Source: www.vets.cz