

Lt Miroslav Špot Agent

Pamětní Medaile Československé Armády v
Zahraničí 'Francie' and 'Velká Británie' bars
(Commemorative medal of the Czechoslovak
army abroad with French and British Bars)
Československý válečný kříž 1939
(Czechoslovak War Cross 1939)

Miroslav was born on 2 July 1915 in Kublov, Central Bohemia,
the youngest son of Adolf Špot and Žofia Špot nee Kähligová.

Educated in Jičín, in 1934 he enlisted in the Army with the 11th
Cavalry Regiment. The following year he was accepted for study
at the Military Academy in Hranice, Moravia and graduated as
an Officer the following year. Miroslav rejoined the regiment
where he served until March 1939 when he was dismissed from
service following the German occupation of Bohemia and
Moravia.



Together with two other Army comrades, Miroslav briefly hid near Dašice, before moving to Ostrava where they crossed into Poland. The Polish government was reluctant to allow any military organization of Czechoslovak emigrants so the majority, about 4,000 Czechs and Slovaks including Miroslav, left Poland in six transports between May and August 1939 to join the French Foreign Legion. Miroslav served in the Legion in Tunis until the declaration of war in September 1939, when he was assigned to the Czechoslovak 1st Infantry Regiment in France. After the capitulation of France, in July 1940 Miroslav arrived in England where he was assigned to a Machine Gun Company before he immediately volunteered for Special Ops. Between July and December he completed sabotage, intelligence gathering and parachute training before specialisation in encryption and microphotography.

On completion of training, Miroslav was assigned as the Iridium Team Commander. The team was tasked to organize the resistance in Bohemia, carry out intelligence surveillance activities, and transmit information back to London. The group radio was codenamed "Anna". On 14 March 1943, the Iridium team prepared for the sixth attempt to parachute into Bohemia.

At 20:00 the 4 man Iridium team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax V DG245 (MA-W).

Whilst in the region of Sušice, now in the Plzeň Region of the Czech Republic, the visibility deteriorated and the group could not be dropped as planned. The decision was made to return to base. Whilst flying to the south of Munich, the aircraft was hit by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed in the Perlacher Forest, killing all on board.

Also Killed: Flt Lt Alfred Ellis Prior DFM (Pilot); FO Alfred John Kingham (Pilot); FO Richard Winter Taylor DFC* RCAF (Nav/AB); PO George McWilliam (WOp/AG); Sgt Felix James Mowles (Nav); Sgt Francis Douglas Bell (AG); Sgt John Henry Kempton (AG); Lt Miroslav Kříčenský (Agent); Platoon Leader Bohumír Kobylka (Agent); Sgt Vladislav Soukup (Agent)

The Iridium team members were buried in the Perlacher Forest, the site of their graves is unknown.

Miroslav is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (NYE)

Photo Source: www.hrdinovevalky.cz