Lt Miroslav Křičenský Agent

Pamětní Medaile Československé Armády v Zahraničí 'Francie' and 'Velka'Britanie' 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 20 April 1915 in in Dašice near Pardubice, Bohemia, the son of Josef Křičenský and Marie Křičenský nee Svobodovár. Educated in Dašice and Prague, in 1934 he enlisted in the Army with the 8th Dragoon Regiment in Dašice. The following year he was accepted for study at the Military Academy in Pardubice, Bohemia and following a period in the Academy in Hranice, he graduated and returned to his regiment in September 1936. Miroslav continued to serve until April 1939 when he was dismissed from service following the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia.

Together with two other Army comrades, in July 1939 Miroslav crossed into Poland near Ostrava. 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 volunteered for Special Ops.

Between June and November 1942 he completed the basic Special Ops training but was unfortunate to injure his leg during the parachute training, delaying his return to the field. Following recovery, he completed the parachute training and an intelligence course, specialising in encryption and microphotography. On completion of training, Miroslav was assigned as the Iridium Team Deputy 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 Špot (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: dasice.info/obyvatele/osobnosti