

Sgt Vladislav Soukup 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)

Vladislav was born on 8 February 1913 in 23 September 1921
in Obořiště, Bohemia, the son of František Soukup and Anna
Soukup nee Hrbková.

Educated in Dobříš, Bohemia, on leaving school Vladislav
trained as a bricklayer before completing his basic military
service as a Non Commissioned Officer with the 38th Infantry
Regiment in Beroun between October 1934 and October 1936.

In April 1937 he applied and was accepted for further military service and he served in Beroun and Kladno
until March 1939 when he was dismissed from service following the German occupation of Bohemia and
Moravia.

On 8 June 1939 Vladislav left for Poland. The Polish government was reluctant to allow any military
organization of Czechoslovak emigrants so the majority, about 4,000 Czechs and Slovaks including Vladislav,
left Poland in six transports between May and August 1939 to join the French Foreign Legion. Vladislav
served in the Legion in Tunis.

After the declaration of war in September 1939, Vladislav was assigned to the Czechoslovak 2nd Infantry
Regiment in France. After the capitulation of France, in July 1940 Vladislav arrived in England where he was
assigned to the 2nd Infantry Battalion before he volunteered for Special Ops in the Spring of 1942. After
completing basic training, including sabotage and parachute training, in August 1942 he attended a special
intelligence course where he specialised in encryption and microphotography. On
completion of his training, Vladislav was assigned to the Iridium Team. 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); Lt Miroslav Kříčenský (Agent); Platoon
Leader Bohumír Kobyłka (Agent)

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

Vladislav is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (NYE)

Photo Source: www.lib.cas.cz/parasut

