

Platoon Leader Bohumír Kobylka Agent

Field name - Bohumír Kovařík

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)

Bohumir was born on 23 September 1921 in Česká Třebová, Bohemia, the son of Libor Kobylka and Marie Kobylka nee Lipoldová.

Educated in Nové Zámce, Slovakia where the family moved in 1922, he commenced studying in business school in Nitra, Southern Slovakia and graduated from the Business Academy in Uherské Hradiště, where the family moved in 1939.

After the declaration of war in September 1939, Bohumir left for France where, after travelling via Hungary and Beirut, in February 1940 he was assigned to the Czechoslovak 1st Infantry Regiment in France. After the capitulation of France, in July 1940 Bohumir arrived in England where he joined the 1st Infantry Battalion before he volunteered for Special Ops. Bohumir was fluent in German, English and Hungarian.

Between June and December 1942 he completed the basic Special Ops training, radio telegraphy, gunnery, espionage and parachute training and, on completion of his training, Bohumir was assigned to the Iridium Team as the Radio Operator. 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); Sgt Vladislav Soukup (Agent)

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

Bohumir is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (NYE)

Photo Source: osobnostiregionu.cz/osoby

