

Lt Bohumir Martinek 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)

Bohumir was born on 21 March 1916 in Prostějov,
Moravia, the son of Jan Martinek and Zdeňka Martinek
née Kressová.

Educated in Prostějov, in 1935 he enlisted in the Army
with the artillery regiment in Hranice, completing his
training at the school of heavy artillery in Bratislava before
returning to his unit. In September 1937 Bohumir was
posted to the Military Academy in Hranice and after
graduation he returned to his regiment as a Platoon
Leader. Bohumir continued to serve until April 1939 when
he was dismissed from service following the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia.



From September 1939 to the beginning of February 1940, Bohumir worked as a clerk before leaving the protectorate on 10 February 1940. Travelling via Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Beirut, Bohumir reached France where he was assigned to the Czechoslovak 1st Artillery Regiment. After the capitulation of France, in July 1940 Bohumir arrived in England where he continued to serve in the Artillery until he volunteered for Special Ops.

Between June and November 1942 Bohumir completed the basic Special Ops training, followed by sabotage, parachute training and the liaison and intelligence courses. On 6 December 1942, he was appointed commander of the Bronse paratroopers. The Bronse 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 "Blanka". On 14 March 1943, the Bronse team prepared to parachute into Bohemia.

Bohumir and his team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in Halifax II BB281 (NF-O) destined for a drop zone near Brno, SE of Prague. Deteriorating weather conditions in the drop area prevented the planned operation continuing and 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. Only one crew member and one Agent survived the crash, but they died later of their injuries.

Bohumir was buried in the Perlacher Forest, the site of his grave is unknown.

Also Killed: Sqn Ldr Christopher Francis Gibson DFC (Pilot); WO2 Maurice Tallier Peter Myers RCAF (WOp/AG); WO1 Douglas Clark Lisson RCAF (Pilot); FS John Stanley Rigden (Nav); FS Arthur Stokes DFM (WOp/AG); Sgt Malcolm John Hudson (FE) died 11 April; Sgt Harold John Sharood (AG); Sgt Leo Peter Ward (AG); František Vrbka (Agent) died 23 March; Antonín Kubec (Agent)

Bohumir is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (NYE)

Photo Source: www.valka.cz