

CURRICULUM VITAE

- NAME:** Peter Emilius Vlčko
- HOME ADDRESS:** 773 Farnham Avenue
Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146-2835
- DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:** 28 May 1912
Village of Brehy, Nová Baňa district, Slovakia
- DATE & PLACE OF DEATH:** 11 January 2004
Wyandotte, Michigan U.S.A.
- DATE & PLACE OF BURIAL (WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS):** September 9, 2004
Village of Brehy, Žarnovica district, Slovakia
Epitaph: *Here rests in Lord Christ, Major General Peter Emilius Vlčko, a fighter for the freedom of the Slovak nation who risked his life to save others.*
- PUBLICATION:** *In the Shadow of Tyranny* – 860-page autobiography published in 1973
- EDUCATION:**
- 1918 – 1922: Roman Catholic elementary school, Brehy, Slovakia
 - 1922 – 1924: Elementary school, Nová Baňa, Slovakia
 - 1924 – 1931: Elementary and Gymnázium (high school), Levice, Slovakia
 - 1931 – 1932: Reserve Cavalry Officer's School, Pardubice, Czech Republic
 - 1932 – 1934: Czechoslovak National Military Academy, Hranice, Czech Rep.
 - 1936 – 1937: National Military Equestrian School, Pardubice, Czech Republic
 - 1940 – 1942: Slovak National War College, Bratislava, Slovakia
 - 1950 – 1952: Detroit College of Applied Science, Allen Park, Michigan
Associates Degree in drafting and automotive design.
- MILITARY PROMOTIONS:**
- 1931 – 1932: Aspirant Czechoslovak Army, Third Cavalry Regiment
 - 1932: Corporal Aspirant Czechoslovak Army
 - 1933: Sergeant Aspirant, cavalry heavy machine gun squadron
 - 1934: Second Lieutenant of the Cavalry
 - 1935: Platoon Commander of the Cavalry
 - 1938: First Lieutenant of the Cavalry
 - 1939: Squadron Commander of the Cavalry
 - 1939 – 1940: Adjutant to Regiment Commander of the Cavalry, Slovak Army
 - 1940: Captain of the Cavalry, Slovak Army
 - August 1944: Chief of Staff, Fourth Tactical Group (Muráň) defending Nitra Valley
 - October 1944: Major of the General Staff, Slovak Army
 - 1945 – 1947: Lieutenant Colonel of the General Staff, Military Office of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Deputy Chief of Personnel, Czechoslovak Ministry of Defense, Košice and Prague
 - 1947 – 1948: Chief of American Section, 2nd Military Intelligence Division of the General Staff, Ministry of Defense, Czechoslovak Republic

**MAJOR
ASSIGNMENTS
AND EVENTS:**

- 1989: Colonel in-retirement of the Czechoslovak Army
- August 1994: Major General in-retirement of the Slovak Army
- January 1939: Instructor at Reserve Cavalry Officer's School
- March 1939: Invasion of German Army, disarmed and reassigned to Squadron Commander of Slovak Cavalry at Slovak National War College
- 1941: Operation Barbarossa: Captain of Cavalry of the Slovak Army fighting on the Russian front in Poland and the Ukraine
- 1942: Matériel Department, Slovak Ministry of Defense, Bratislava
- August 29, 1944: Slovak National Uprising
- August 30, 1944: Eastern Army Corps disarmed and arrested by German Panzer Division (Army Group Heinrici)
- August 31, 1944: Escaped from German captivity and liberated orderly from custody
- September 1944: commissioned by General Ján Golian, Commander-in-Chief of Czechoslovak Insurrectional Army, as Chief of Staff of Fourth Tactical Group (Muráň) defending Nitra Valley and cities of Prievidza, Handlova, Kremnica and Banská Bystrica during Slovak National Uprising
- October 1944: Fourth Tactical Group overrun by German Panzer forces, escaped to Lower Tatra Mountains to avoid capture
- October 30, 1944: Arrested by German military police at railroad station in Ružomberok while dressed as a shoe maker, subjected to several days of intense interrogation by German Gestapo, suspected of being a Russian spy, released and issued official travel pass after I convinced the Germans I was a common shoe maker by the name of Pavel Kunitz in support of the Nazi cause
- October 1944 – March 1945: Hiding in various locations throughout central and northern Slovakia under the disguise of a grocery clerk named Peter Valko
- March 4, 1945 – May 1945: Crossed German-Russian front and slipped into Košice, seat of deposed Czechoslovak government; assigned by General Ludvik Svoboda to Military Office of the President of the Republic, Dr. Eduard Beneš
- June 1945 – December 17, 1947: Military Office of the President, Deputy Chief of Personnel, Ministry of Defense, Czechoslovak Republic, Prague
- December 1947 – June 1948: 2nd Military Intelligence Department, Chief of American Section, Ministry of Defense, Czechoslovak Republic, Prague
- June 15, 1948: Escaped across German-Czechoslovak border at Heidemühle, Bavaria, arriving at Refugee Camp in U.S. Occupation Zone in West Germany
- August 15, 1949: Escape of wife, Georgina, and two sons from Czechoslovakia via Soviet occupied Austria to meet me in Refugee Camp in West Germany
- November 9, 1949: Arrival with wife and two sons in New York harbor
- 1973: Publication of 860-page autobiography, *In the Shadow of Tyranny*
- 1977: Retirement from Ford Motor Company as Testing Design Engineer after more than 30 years of service

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

- 1977 – 1979: Consultant to Ford Motor Company Dynamometer Testing Div.
- 1979: University of Michigan, Rackham School of Graduate Studies Guest Speaker on Human Rights
- Lecture circuit throughout the United States and Canada, speaking on Fascism, Communism, anti-Semitism and human rights
- Guest of President Jimmy Carter while campaigning in Detroit, Michigan, 1976
- Recipient of *Righteous Among the Nations* medal from Yad Vashem: Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, Israel, 1981
- Honorary Citizenship from State of Israel as decreed by the Israeli Knesset, 1989
- Anti-Defamation League recognition for saving the lives of more than 20 Jews destined for the death camps, 1991
- Reinstatement of Czechoslovak citizenship, 1991
- Promotion to Major General in Retirement and honorary recognition by the President of the Slovak Republic, Michal Kováč, for participation in Slovak National Uprising, 1994
- Reinstatement of citizenship from the Slovak Republic, 1998
- Along with wife, subject of six-hour documentary on holocaust survivors by producer and director, Steven Spielberg, of the Shoah Foundation, 1998
- Honorary recognition from the President of Czech Republic and Czech Minister of Defense for fighting for the liberation of Czech-o-Slovakia, 2000
- Guest of Slovak and Czech Ambassadors to the United States on multiple occasions recognizing my actions during and after World War II
- Honorary recognition from Wayne County Commissioner's Office and City of Lincoln Park, Michigan for actions during World War II
- Multiple honorary recognitions from various organizations throughout America for my actions during and after World War II in fighting Fascism, Communism and anti-Semitism
- Name engraved in large granite relief in the *Garden of the Righteous* at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in West Bloomfield, Michigan
- A Tree-of-Life planted with commemorative plaque on the *Avenue of the Righteous* at Yad Vashem memorial on a hilltop overlooking Jerusalem, Israel
- Honorary guest of Mayor of Tel Aviv, Israel; given memorial medal of the city
- My actions in saving Jews during WWII are eternally memorialized in Holocaust Memorial Museums, and private and national museums throughout the world
- Full honorary military funeral by the Slovak Ministry of Defense in the village of my birth, Brehy, Slovakia, September 9, 2004