

OBITUARY

Bela SZABO

1914 – 1990

Bela Szabo was born in Kassa, Hungary, May 5, 1914. His family later moved to Nagyvárad, Hungary where he received his early education. He attended the University in Budapest, Hungary where he received his Masters Degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduating the University, he served as Associate Professor to one of his Professors at the University for about a year.

During WWII he served as a Captain in the Corps of Engineers in the Hungarian Army. During the transition after the War, he and a few of his countrymen/women escaped to the West, where they were picked up by a US patrol, he was then channelled to work for the French Army Map Service, serving in French occupied Germany. It was during this time that he was approached by the US to work for the Army Map Service in Washington DC, which he accepted, arriving in the United States in 1951; and later transferred to the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (ACIC) also in Washington DC. He became a US citizen in 1956, and in 1957 he moved to St. Louis, Missouri when ACIC moved its organization there.

In 1960 **Bela Szabo** came to work for the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory (AFCRL), which later became Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (AFGL), where he continued to work as a Senior Research Scientist until his retirement in August of 1980. During his service at the Geophysics Laboratory (GL) he served as Branch Chief of the Gravity and Geodesy Branch Acting Director of the Terrestrial Sciences Laboratory. It was during this time he became ill with renal failure and was on leave for approximately a year. When he returned to duty he served as Senior Scientist in the Laboratory until his retirement. He has worked with numerous Scientists, Geodesists and Mathematicians both here in the US and abroad, i.e. France, England, Finland, Germany, Italy, Belgium.

Bela subscribed to numerous technical magazines, and he was a member of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) until his parting 22 June 1990.