

IEEE KITCHENER-WATERLOO

SECTION PRESENTATION

Prof. Jiri Vlach

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“The Lifetime in Electrical Engineering”

Abstract:

The lecture will summarize lifetime experiences of a person who lived, as an adult, through the second world war, studied engineering in free Czechoslovakia and after the 1948 coup d'etat by the communists and worked in a communist country until 1968. Another occupation, this time by the Soviet Red Army, led to a permanent exile to Canada.

The lecture will cover some interesting and probably forgotten facts about the war time electronics. Afterwards it will describe work experiences in communist Czechoslovakia and finally the much more fruitful years in North America. All will be presented from the point of view of a professional who specialized in electronics.

Jiri Vlach was born in Czechoslovakia in 1922. During the Second World War and occupation by Germany, the universities were closed for the Czechs and the only possibility to continue some studies was in special courses. This is how I got to electrical engineering in 1941. After the war I studied electrical engineering at the Technical University of Prague and my first employment was with the nationalized enterprise

Tesla. Over the years, the organization changed its name several times and also changed the direction of work. In 1967 I was invited as a Visiting Professor to the University of Illinois. In 1969, I received the offer to join the Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of Waterloo, where I still work as a retiree. I was elected IEEE Fellow in 1982 and presently I am an IEEE Life Fellow.

DATE: Wed. October 8, 2003
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: DC 1304 University of Waterloo

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
Refreshments will be served