

Private First Class Robert Bachar was born February 2, 1915 and grew up in Jamaica Plain, a neighborhood in West Roxbury of Boston, Massachusetts. He attended and graduated from Boston Mechanic Arts Highschool, an all boys school in the Back Bay neighborhood of Massachusetts. The school was situated on the corner of Dalton and Belvidere Street and it focused primarily on woodworking and machine shops. Boston Mechanic Arts Highschool was later renamed Boston Technical Academy in 1944, and in 1987, the school was renamed the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science as well as relocated to 55 Malcolm X Blvd, in Roxbury Massachusetts. Currently the Hilton Hotel replaces Mechanic Arts Highschool and the classrooms Bachar experimented, crafted, and learned in the four years he was in highschool before finally graduating in 1928.

Bachar lived with his mother, Pauline Bachar, his father, Stephen Bachar, and his older brothers, Theodore and William, on 278 Lamartine Street. Both his mother and his father were immigrants from what was then Vrbovec, Czechoslovakia, a small village in the Znojmo District. Now it is a part of the formally recognized Czech Republic after its split with Slovakia in 1993. According to the 1930s census, Stephen Bachar immigrated to the United States in 1903 when he was 18, and two years later Pauline Bachar, at the age of 14, immigrated to the United States in 1905. Stephen Bachar worked as a key finisher in a Piano Factory on Lamartine Street. The William Bourne and Company Piano Makers established a Piano Factory in 1895, precisely houses over on the same street Bachar and his family resided.

By the 1930s, however, the Great Depression forced many establishments to go out of business. The Piano Factory was no exception. After the 1930s, Stephen

changed his occupation and began working as a Welder and Machine Operator under the employment of Joseph Pollack. Pollack had immigrated to the United States from Russia and soon became more than an employer to Bachar and his family; he was extended family. The Joseph Pollack Corporation was located at 81 Freepost Street in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Bachar's older brother, Theodore, worked as a motor repairman and draftsman while working with his father under Pollack's corporation. Both Bachar and William were unemployed however they were still in school on January 1st, 1929, as indicated by the census, up until William began working alongside his brother and father years later.

Although Bachar's motivation for enlisting into the military is left unknown, the relationship between the Bachar family and the Pollack family may explain why he decided to enlist on February 17, 1941. Bachar was a part of the 9th Infantry Division Band which played a major role in keeping up the moral of soldiers who, after surviving pivotal points of combat, needed to remain hopeful and reassured that their great efforts and sacrifices would pay off in the end. Band members in the military during World War II were not deployed to fight the enemy, instead they uplifted spirits with their music--their wartime songs--in hospitals, occasionally helping injured soldiers with treatment. Bachar's choice of instrument is still a mystery, and the tracks of his fellow band members are also left to be discovered, but what is known is that he went above and beyond what was asked of him while serving in the band.

As Operation Cobra broke out west of Saint-Louis, France, Bachar was killed in action on July 26, 1944. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal, which is the third highest honor for valor in combat, an honor band members, the noncombatant

members of the 9th Infantry, were not expected to earn. Bachar did not carry the responsibility of fighting the enemy once he was deployed with the 9th Infantry Band, however the Silver Star is evidence of his choice to do so despite his role description.

Two years after Robert's death, his mother Pauline gained citizenship status on August 6, 1946. As indicated by the 1930s census, Pauline fluently spoke English, but had not completed the naturalization process until after Robert had made the ultimate sacrifice during combat in France.

Today, on the corner of Lamartine Street and Oakdale Street in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts stands a soldier memorial post of PFC Robert Bachar. He is permanently buried at the Normandy Cemetery in France where thousands of other American soldiers who gave their lives on D-Day are forever remembered and honored.

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<https://antiquepianoshop.com/online-museum/bourne-william-son/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John D. O%27Bryant School of Mathematics %26 Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._O%27Bryant_School_of_Mathematics_%26_Science)

<https://www.usarmyband.com/history/world-war-ii.html>

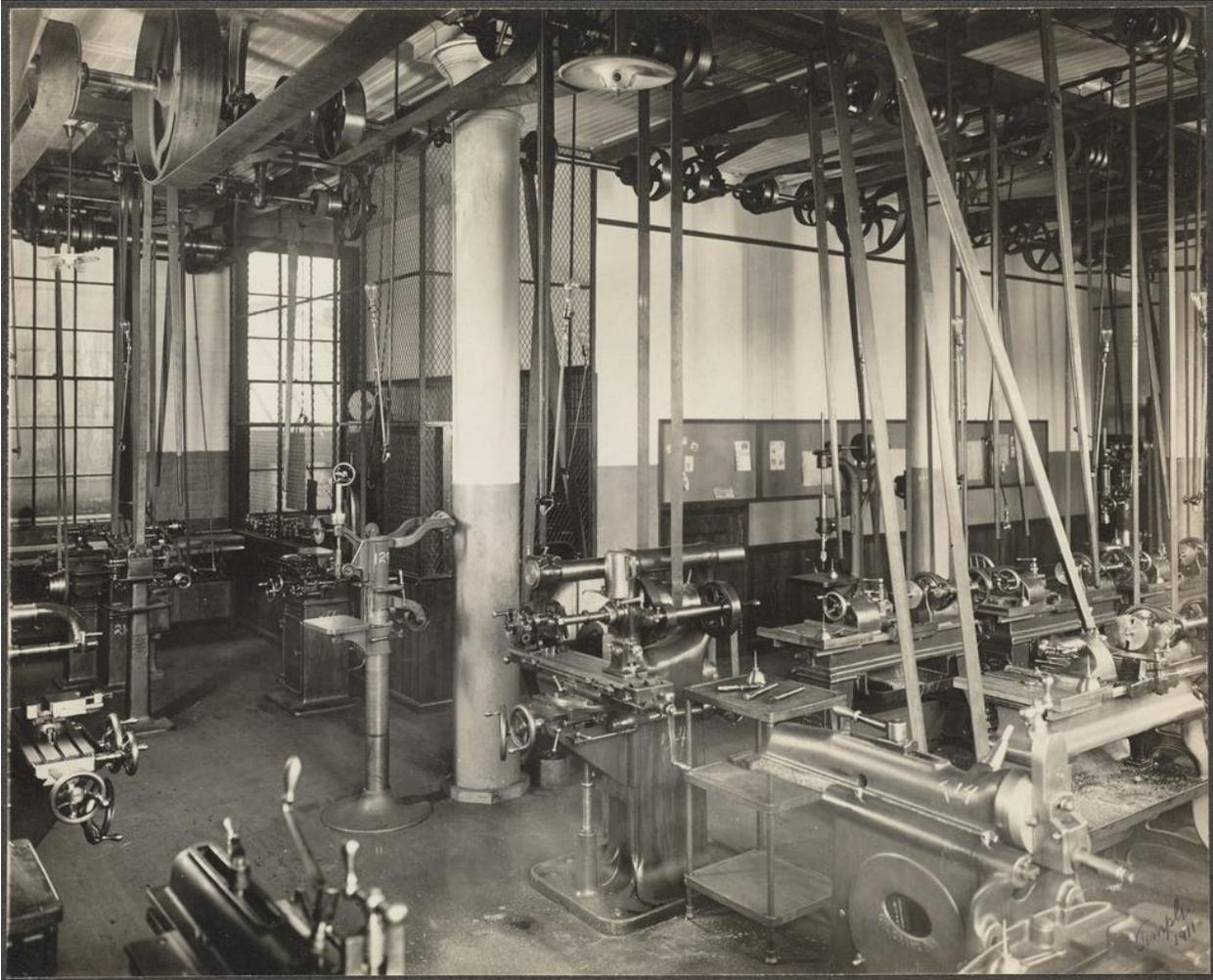
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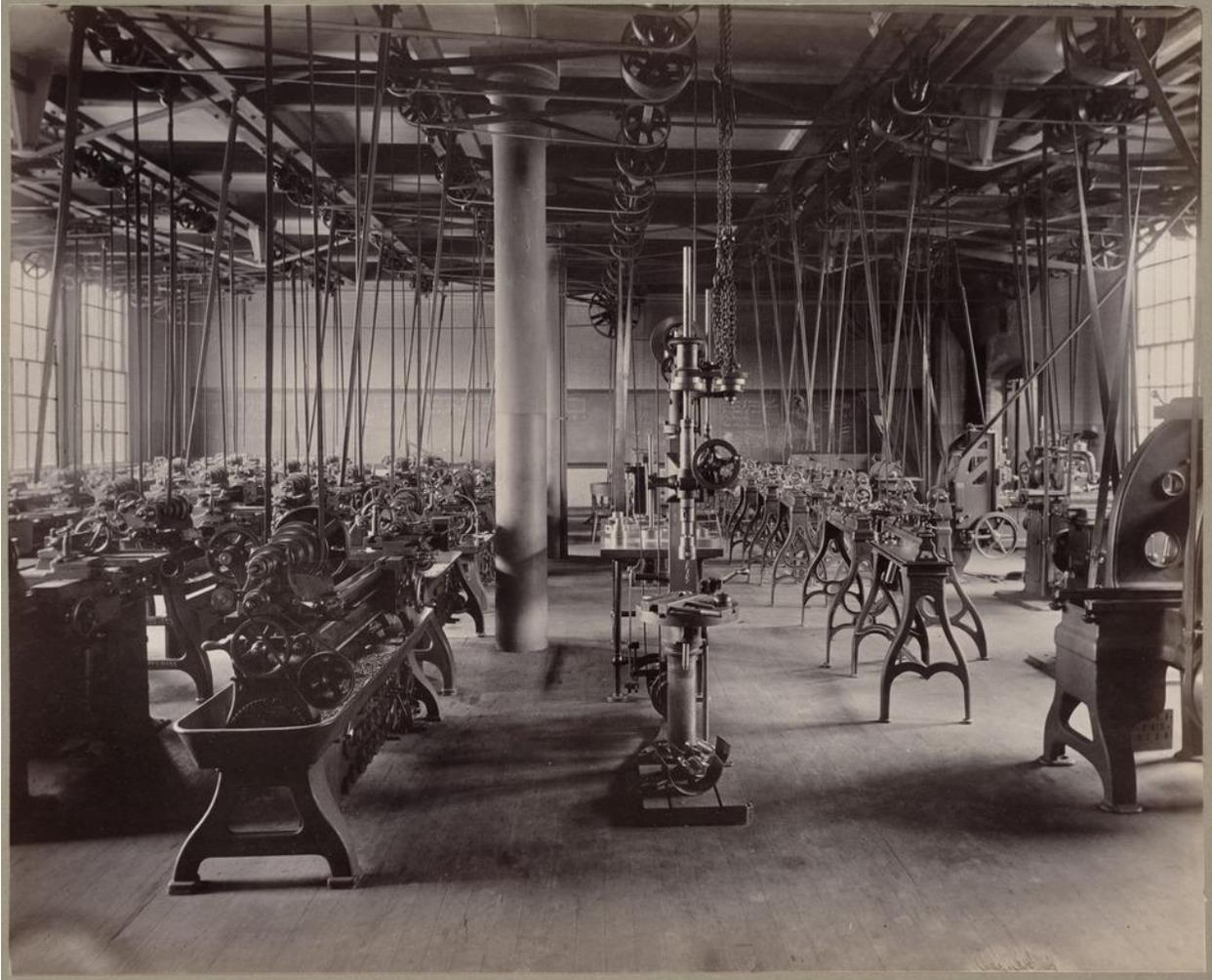


Boston Mechanical Arts Highschool

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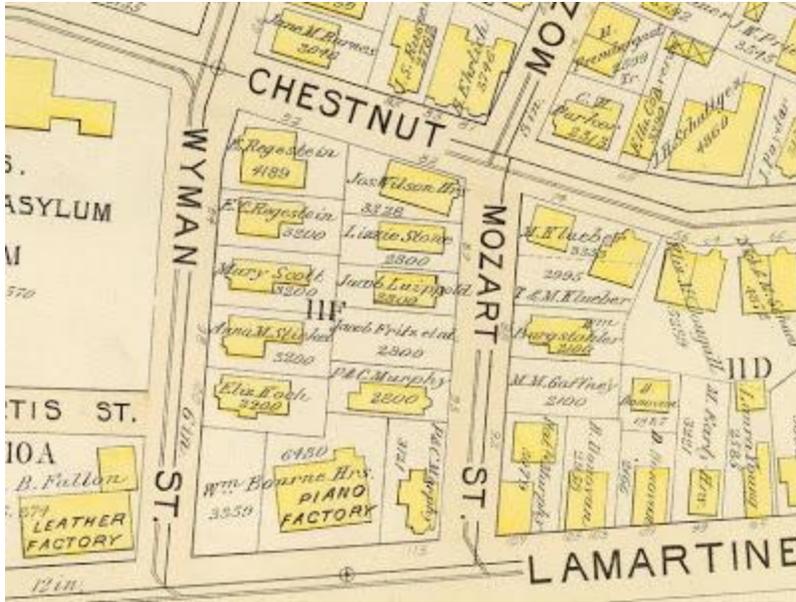


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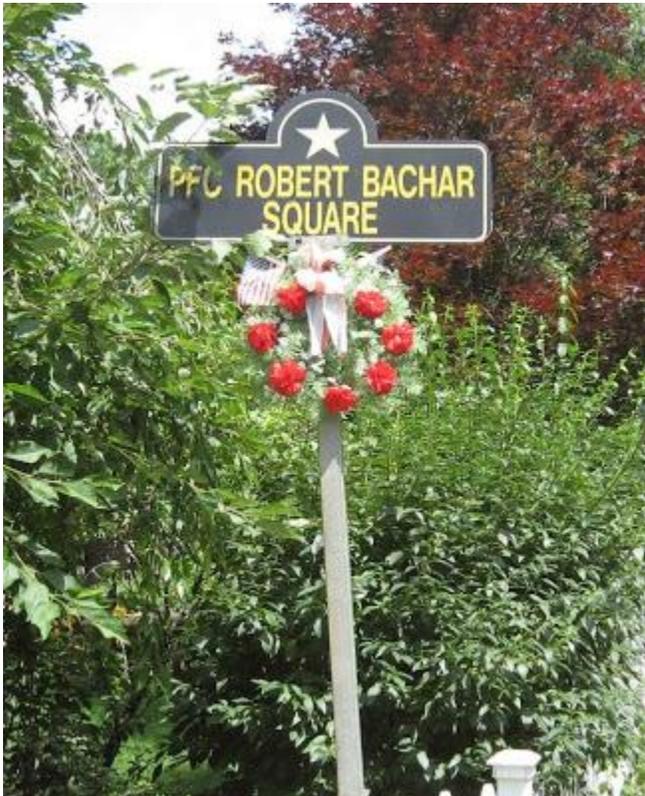


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6450-William Bourne Piano Factor last row of factories next to Wyam St.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Czechoslovakia>

<https://valor.defense.gov/Description-of-Awards/>



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