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EDITORIAL

One of my more pleasing experiences is receiving regular up-dates of membership from our Hon. Secretary. Since the new awakening within Czechoslovakia following the events of November 1989, interest in that country's philately has steadily grown and proof of this statement may be seen in Quarterly 'New Members' lists in this journal. It is a commendable trend and we, for our part, will do all we can to ensure adequate information is published to assist all members in their studies and research into our particular hobby. However, this promise requires the continued support of contributors and, sadly, we must report that these are now declining in numbers. We urgently need more feature articles if we are to be enabled to keep our promise to members. We depend on you!

In looking at the stamp issuing policy of Czechoslovak Post over the same period, we are pleased by the decrease in the number of issues and especially of those purely political ones. We feel that numerous issues are not required but quality does matter. We do not mind longer sets provided they 'image' well for Czechoslovakia. **Quality before Quantity** will always be accepted and admired. For some examples of this we have only to look back as far as the '60s and '70s for very fine issues - the 1976 ship engravings is but just one example of sheer, pictorial beauty on stamps. It can still be done today, if the will is there! Today's mail is tomorrow's postal history. If philately is to continue, then our grandchildren should be able to look back to some of today's issues with the same pride as we do today to the earlier issues. It's up to us! Czechoslovak Post - please note.



SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Meeting held Saturday, 21st March 1992

The Chairman welcomed about twenty members to this meeting with a special greeting to Mr. Hans van Dooremalen who had travelled from Holland to be with us in order to participate in the later proceedings.

This was the occasion of our **Annual Competitions** and seven brave souls duly entered their submissions. However, like all competitions, not all entries can be winners, despite the excellence of them all.

This year's entries were competing for the **Kay Goodman Trophy** and this was won by **Mr. W. A. Page - 1919 Pošta Československá Overprints**. Second place was gained by Mr. Hans van Dooremalen - "Receipts of Brünn"(postal documents). Third place award went to Mr. R. Hollis - The Official Mails of Bohemia and Moravia. The judges for this occasion were Mr. Brian Day and Mr. Bob Kingsley. We are indebted to Messrs Brian and Bob for the very careful manner in which they jointly judged what were undoubtedly some excellent entries of high standard.

Whilst the judging was in progress, Mr. Alec Page gave an introductory talk on a special display he had brought along to augment our afternoon's programme. This was entitled "April 1945 and the Aftermath - The Road to Postal Normality". Later he exhibited a variety of altered, temporary and replacement postal markings of 1945-46, cancellations and registration labels and many different temporary cancellations. Many examples of the 'Liberation' overprints were seen: mint, used and on cover. Also shown were two photographs of the liberation of Prague by the American forces together with other photographic records. There was a variety of covers and postal stationery items of the period as well. In total - a very fine display indeed.

Mr. Otto Hornung thanked Mr. Page on behalf of those present for the most interesting material he had shown and for the great interest this had engendered.

The Chairman then presented the Kay Goodman Trophy and accompanying certificate to Mr. Page. Thus ended another worthwhile meeting of the Society.

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome and best wishes to the following new members:-

Norman D. Peers - Chichester
 John Joseph Law - Bournemouth
 Alfred A. Buttery - Hampton, Middx.
 George J. Firmage - London N10
 Mrs Ivana Borak - Harrow, Middx.
 Alex L. Reid - Fife
 Richard Beith - Chester
 John Worthington - Brierly Hill
 Mrs. A. Lustig - Cheshire

BOOK REVIEWS

Colin Spong FRPS,L

Charles Entwistle, the Military Postal History dealer has recently formed a publishing side to his business. With his wife, Avril, they have commenced with several titles under the name of "Chavril Press". From amongst a number of titles sent to me, I list hereunder a few that may well be of interest to some of our own readers.

The Undercover Addresses of World War II - contains eighty such addresses from sixteen countries/colonies. It lists not only those addresses established for Communication between Allied countries and occupied Europe but also 'internal' addresses for the armed forces of governments in exile, 'secret' establishments and espionage rings. 24pp £6.

An Introduction to German Censorship 1939-45 - details the various censor stations established both in Germany and in occupied Europe; the mail it handled; descriptions of the various censor devices, giving some indications of values and dates of use. This is an excellent aide-memoire and together with Karl-Heinz Reimer's handbook published in 1979 - "Die Überwachung des Ausländerbriefverkehrs während II. Weltkriegs durch Deutsche Dienststellen"; will be a handy reference to deciphering censor mail. 12pp £3.

The Horseshoe Route - describes how the various routes using sea-planes were combined to allow Great Britain to remain in touch with her vast and sprawling empire. Mails from those Allied Forces serving in the Middle East, Far East and Africa were, no doubt, carried by this route. 24pp £5.

Further information may be obtained from: "The Chavril Press", Bloomfield, Perth Road, Abernethy, Perth. PH2 9LW. [Postage and packing free within U.K.]

FROM ZSF - BRATISLAVA

An auction catalogue from the Federation of Slovak Philatelists was received by the Editor but much too late to be publicised in time here; the sale was for March 21st.

We have received from the same source, via Dr. M. Zika, a copy of the Federation's "Slovensky Postilion" (No.2) but entirely in the Slovak language. This A5 56pp paperback booklet contains 1939-45 information on Autopost, Postal Control (censorship) and a little concerning Hungarian "Vissatért" mail during that period. This booklet was published unstapled with loose leaves. It is now in our Library.

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REMINDER!

Members are reminded that for our September meeting, Mr. Heinz Vogel will be entertaining us with Aerophilately and displaying a personal collection.

We seem to hear very little about this particular aspect of philately within our Society, so here is an opportunity for all who are interested in this segment of Czechoslovak philately to enjoy a programme on their favourite subject.

CROSS-BORDER TPOs (1850-1988)

(Second, enlarged edition)

Part 5**[conclusion]****- Dr. Alois Těšitel -**

[English Translation: Vladimír Králiček]

5.4 Cross-Border TPOs with Hungary (continued):

c) From Hungary to the annexed Sub-Carpathian Russia territory went, e.g.
Budapest-Körösmező/33,34.

In 1943 the 1st Hungarian Army introduced the TPO Lawoczne-Batyu.

Budapest-Debrecen-Körösmező/306

Budapest-Nagykirály/Királyhaza-Körösmező/305 (ill.26)

Budapest-Nyiregyháza-Ungvár/19

Budapest-Taracköz (Terešva)/39

Debrecen-Ungvár/113

d) From Hungarian to Polish Territory (the so-called General Gouvernement):

No TPOs crossed Slovakia but from Sub-C-Russia there was TPO Ungvár-Sianki/72.

It is necessary to note here that as a consequence of the 1943 Hungarian postal services reorganization, travelling post offices have, in the strict sense, formally ceased to exist. They became the concern of the interior postal operations and thereby their new postmarks ceased to use local names in the legends; instead they were replaced by a declaratory title **Mozgóposta** (travelling post office) with a number in the lower portion of the pmk. From that time it is now only possible to find start/finish station details in the internal records of the postal administration. As far as postmarks of these TPOs occur on postally used covers, they really concern "cancelled-by-favour" postmarks.

5.5 Cross-Border TPOs between Cz. and Austrian Territories

Following the German annexation of Austria on 11.3.1938 a drastic reduction in the number of TPOs occurred. This continued even after the occupation of our [Cz.] southern borders in September of that year by Germany and of its formal linking to upper- and lower-Austria. [see 5.1a regarding the transient period of 1938/39 and apply the analogy]. Therefore, from the few cross-border TPOs, I introduce those **from Austria:**

Grusbach (Hrušovany n. Jev)-Wien/24 (ill.27)

Wien-Lundenburg/1010

Wien-Znaim/1701 (ill.28) -N.B. It is a d/c one - Votoček G204;

Linz-Kaplititz/1043

From the Protectorate to Austrian appended territories there operated TPOs (see also 5.1c)

Prag-Gmünd*Praha-Gmünd*/53 from 1942

Prag-Lundenburg/3 (up to 1941)

Budweis-Kaplititz*Budějovice-Kaplititz*/388 (from 1942), 399

Budweis-Gmünd*Budějovice-Gmünd*/371,372 (both from 1942)

Prerau-Lundenburg*Přerov*-Lundenburg*/608,609.

6 Cross-Border TPOs 1945-1988

After World War II a number of significant factors acted upon the evolution >

of the cross-border TPOs, though in an altogether negative way. It is therefore necessary for us to consider them in a little more detail.

Firstly, it was the aftermath of the war and it substantially affected railway (and hence postal) operations. This hindrance was overcome in a short space of time however. Of much deeper influence was the new territorial arrangements of considerable German and Polish areas. Finally (and chiefly) it was the transfer to another organization of the postal conveyance and the continual penetration of the postal services by automation. From the convenience of the TPO with its letter-box on a reserved postal carriage, the sender now had to content himself with a visit to the nearest post office. The travelling post office has now become, more-or-less, an internal establishment of the Post Office. TPOs are maintained on the most important routes: In 1988 there were 152 TPOs plus 93 STPs (Summary Transport of Postbags) - the Czech abbreviation is ÚPZ = Úhrana přepava železniční. Postal expresses are operated from Prague, Ostrava, Brno and Košice. On other routes the number of TPOs has been substantially reduced and the automobile post is used for further transmissions of mail. They carry numbers above 1000.

The influence of TPOs can well be illustrated by the Hungarian organization. There, after the installation of "Toshiba" automatic sorting lines, they have also introduced nightly travelling post offices on the main routes. They disconnect the appropriate carriage at the railway junction and additional distribution is taken care of by postal automobiles.

In international mail operations, there remains with us the STP railway postal carriages on such routes as, e.g. Schirnding-Prague, Leipzig-Budapest and Wien-Warsaw which, when on Cz. territory are accompanied by Cz. crews. (23). Into what small numbers the post-war preserved TPOs have dwindled to is witnessed by the following, after almost a half-century:

6.1 Cross-Border TPOs and STPs from Czechoslovakia to:

[Ed. note: When referring to Germany, the author was writing **before** unification and therefore, I have kept strictly to his own script, i.e. showing a divided Germany]:

a) Federal Germany:

Praha-Schirnding (ill. 29) [Express 250 and Express 458] with Cz. escort on Cz. territory in relation to Čop-Nürnberg. From 1952 also the STP Cheb-Schirnding/-

b) NDR (East Germany):

Praha-Dresden/13 (illus. 30); escorted through Cz., carriage in relation to Budapest-Leipzig
Liberec-Žitava/218 (to 31.12.1946)

c) POLAND

Praha-Miedzylesie/40 (to 1953)
Liberec-Závidov (Zawidów)/211, 212, (illus. 32) 1948-49
Bratislava-Warsaw (Warszawa)/803, (illus.33), 29.2 forward; 1.3 return. >

d) **AUSTRIA**

Praha-Gmünd N. O./- STP in R279, Cz. escort throughout.

e) **HUNGARY**

Komáron-Komárno-Nové Zámky (from 1935)

Stúrovo-Szob-Budapest/372: Hungarian escort inside Cz. carriage

f) **USSR** (again, according to author's original script):

Cz. carriage relative to Nürnberg-Čop

STP Ex.21 Košice-Čierna n. Tis., Cz. escort as far as Čop

6.2 Cross-Border TPOs to Czechoslovakiaa) From **NDR (GDR)**

Dresden-Praha/00271,00272 (return) illus. 31 - 00373, Ex.72 with German escort throughout.

b) From **POLAND**

Warszawa-Petrovice/6 (4.5.1947-3.11.1948)

Warszawa-Bohumin/5,6 (to 2.10.1960) see illus. 34

Krakow-Bohumin/235 (from 8.10.1950)

Katowice-Bohumin/326 (from 4.5.1947)

c) From **USSR**

Here, with some reservation, we may include the postal wagon in Ex. 20 P.V. Moskva-Pragja (Prague) illus. 35. Postmarks are differentiated by letters in the lower sections.

d) From **HUNGARY** (according to international numbering from 1987)

Budapest-Štúrova/372 (return) illus. 36

Budapest-Záhony-Csop/16/15

Budapest-Szob-Praha/75,273,376

Budapest-Miskolc-Hidasnémeti-Košice/35/36; 213/35; 35, 5310, 18504

e) From **AUSTRIA**

Wien-Bernhardstahl-(Břeclav)/2

Wien-Břeclav/2 (up to today)

(Znojmo) Unter Retzbach-Wien/6

CLOSING DIAGNOSIS

Outlived themselves!

[Ed. note: The author has agreed to examine and try to answer any readers' questions or criticisms dealing with this work. Please address them, initially, to the Editor for onward transmission. If sufficient interest is shown, space will be made available for your questions and replies.] >

PRINCIPAL CONSULTED SOURCES:

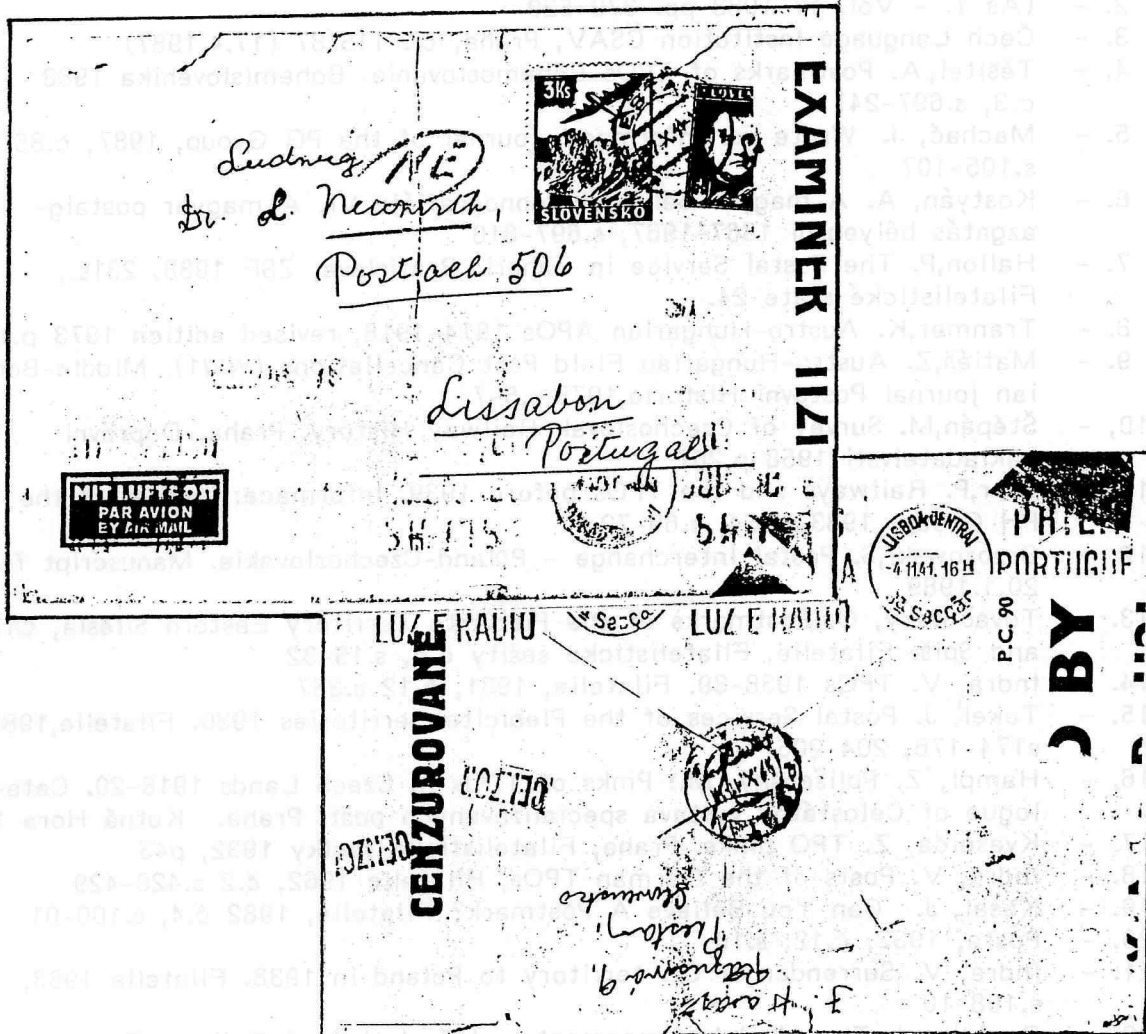
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22. - Rychlík, J. The Munich Agreement and Evolution of Railway Transport in the Czech Lands. Železničář, 1988, č.5, s.72-72 and č.6 s.88
23. - Zibrť, O. TPOs, Filatelie 1986, s.240-248.
24. - Author's Note: In addition, I wish to express my sincere thanks to those philatelists who, during the writing of this work, have actively assisted with advice and example of C-B TPOs:- D.P. Gebauer, Brno; Z. Kvasnička, Praha; L. Riederer, Wien; E. Rindt, Siegen; Ing. J. Tekel', Bratislava; (+) A. Veréby, Budapest; Dr. M. Vostatek, Pardubice; O. Zibrť, Postoloprty.

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Ed. Note: When reading the initials SRT in this work, please substitute these by initials STP (Summary Transport of Postbags). For explanation of this term, please refer to section 6, para. 2, lines 11-15. This is caused by translation problems. It should always be remembered that it is not always possible to make **direct** translations from Czech into English. AJK.

World War 2VIA POB 506 LISBON

- a further find -



Yet another cover from Slovakia to this country during the early stages of the war. We ran the story of this undercover route in September 1991 following an introduction to the subject in the preceding edition by Paul Jensen. For this further example, we are grateful to Mr. D.M. Williams, Editor "Stamps of Hungary" the journal of the Hungarian P.S. of G.B. It had been noted on offer in a London auction in March this year. We are grateful for this co-operation.

Posted PIESTANY 27.X.41 the entire carries a number of censor marks including that of 'Cenzor 76'. Note also the British label with stationery reference no. P.C.90 that reads "Opened By Examiner 1121". In addition to two Slovakian postage stamps (3Ks + 50h) there is a German-style airmail label. The entire carries the Lisbon Central/-4.11.41. 16H machined receipt mark. Although it carries no Thomas Cook & Son marks, it evidently reached London.

VILLAGE THAT REFUSED TO DIE



1942

1992

The following is taken from the daily newspaper "The Guardian" of 20.3.1992; the author is Theodor Troev. The item was sent to us by Mr. Colin Smith and we thank Colin for the opportunity to commemorate in our journal, the fiftieth anniversary of one of the most heinous crimes perpetrated in Czechoslovakia during its period of occupation in World War II.

Environmental damage inherited from the Communist regime has turned Bohemia, once a playground of Europe's aristocracy, into the continent's most heavily polluted area. And Lidice, a little village in the heart of Bohemia, has become a fitting symbol for Czechoslovakia. Lidice refused to die 50 years ago when it was destroyed by the Nazis. Now it may face death again if international support is not provided. Bohemia produces more than one third of the country's electricity. In a world turned into a 'moonscape' because nothing grows in the poisoned earth, the incidence of respiratory diseases and cancer is now reaching record levels. Some residents are moving away so that their children will not have constant sore throats and headaches, or lose days from school because of high levels of atmospheric toxins forcing people to remain at home with windows kept very tightly shut. Life expectancy in the area is now about 10 years below the European Community average.

Lidice refused to die once. In 1942 [June 10 - Ed.] it was wiped off the map on Hitler's orders as vengeance, after two Czechoslovak resistance fighters were flown in from Britain to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi Gauleiter of Czechoslovakia. The innocent village was razed, the male population killed and women and children deported to concentration camps, many to be gassed. Later, the Gestapo discovered that the assassins had no connection with Lidice.

Immediately after the massacre, Britain launched the "Lidice Shall Live!" movement, which aimed to rebuild the village after the war at a cost of £1 million. An appeal to found a memorial rose garden in the restored village was supported in the 1950s by more than 30 countries and 3,000 organizations and individuals contributed over 30,000 roses for an International Garden of Peace and Remembrance. The new Lidice stands on a hill overlooking the site of the old village and its 443 residents hope it will survive again but are appealing now for trees.

Pavel Müller, Mayor of Lidice, says "We believe the trees will be a barrier against prevailing winds bringing pollution from the old steelworks in Kladno and elsewhere in the 'moon country'" - the coal burning industrial zone of northern Bohemia.

"Our school", says Muller, "is next to a huge waste dump for the Kladno steelworks and an abnormal increase of heavy metals has been detected in the hair >

of the children." If this appeal is successful, a new school will be built.

Many members are cognisant of the great awareness that grew around the world at the time of this terrible tragedy to Czechoslovakia. Many stamps were issued worldwide to support the publicity. Many locations were named or re-named with Lidice included. Czechoslovakia has issued a number of movingly explicit postage stamps commemorating this awful happening over the years since 1942. We illustrate the first one - issued for the 5th Anniversary commemoration in 1947. Many of us have since visited the site of the old village and the Garden of Remembrance - it seemed to us almost a 'must' following Prague Castle and Charles Bridge. Some of us older members will no doubt recall the original film so proudly processed by the Nazis of the executions taking place in that old farmstead and the obvious glee enjoyed by some of the participating troops. It was sickening then and it remains so today. Fifty years is a long time indeed but for many of us it is within our lifetime. I wonder why Czechoslovakia has not issued a special stamp for 1992 - the 50th anniversary? I am sure I am not alone with this thought! [AJK].

If you would like to join the Trees for Lidice Appeal (£6 will buy a tree), write to Mr. Lou Kenton, Honorary Secretary, Lidice 50th Anniversary Committee, 7 The Tiltwood, Acton, London W3 6HG.

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CZECH AND SLOVAK PHILATELIC FEDERATION

New executive of the Czech Philatelic Society: President: Mr. Jan Karásek,

Vice-president: Mr. Václav Svoboda, Secretary-General: Mr. Jaroslav Malaček.

New executive committee of the Slovak Philatelic Society: President: Mr. Peter

Osuský, Vice-president: Mr. Ján Nyéki, Secretary-General: Mr. Josef Oláh.

Leader of Secretary's Office: Mr. Viliam Kučera.

The new Presidium of the Czech and Slovak Federation: President: Mr. Milan

Antála, Vice-president: Mr. Jan Karásek, Secretary-General: Mr. Zdeněk Veselý.

Presidium Members: Messrs. Otto Barton, Dušan Evinic, Miloslav Frömer, Ladislav Hanzen, František Hutýra, Anton Chrenko, Viliam Kučera, Jaroslav Maleček, Jiří Neumann, Josef Oláh, Peter Ošusky, Pavel Pittermann, Václav Svoboda, Jaroslav Stupalský.

Reprinted from "Flash" 39/March 92

Courtesy: W.A.Page.

BATTLE OF ZBOROV
2.VII.1917

- Translated by V. Králiček -

In our journal 1/1990, we published a reproduction of Bulletin No.9 of 1935 concerning the issue of special stamps honouring the 85th birth anniversary of President Tomáš Masaryk. The Bulletin was published by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Post and Telegraph. This was done with the technical aid of one of our antipodean members in Australia, Dr. M. Vender. Now we have another one from the antipodes, this time from our New Zealand member in Auckland, Vladimír Králiček. Not only has our member sent us a complete photo-copy of the entire Bulletin but has taken the time to translate the whole thing into English from the original Czech. We are grateful for this very kind gesture and take pleasure in publishing reduced copies herein of the pages of that Bulletin, together with his translation for the benefit of interested members. AJK.

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July 7th 1992 will be the 75th anniversary of one of the splendid battles fought by the Czechoslovak forces fighting alongside of our then allies, the Russians against the forces of the Central Powers. Twenty years later, the Czechoslovak Post Office decided to commemorate this battle with a special set of stamps highlighting the heroic deeds of the Czechoslovak volunteers taking part therein. The official announcement came in the usual 'Bulletin' form but this time it contained eye-witness accounts in addition to the full technical details of the issue. Mr. Králiček has translated the entire for us so that the technical details can also be included as they were intended to be understood at the time. Here is that translation:

BULLETIN
Year 1937 of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph No. 31
PRAGUE 10 June
Regulation No. 37/1937

CELEBRATION
OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE
AT ZBOROV
2.VII.1917

Eduard Kubala
Staff-Capt. - Witness of Liberation.

THE BATTLE OF ZBOROV

The surrounding countryside of the small east Haliče town of Zborov, lying on the river Stryp southwest of Zločov, became, on the 2nd June 1917 the setting of a battle that will forever remain memorable in the history of modern Czechoslovak military forces. The Czechoslovak Rifle Brigade, up to that time divided into small units (which have made themselves famous with their successful scouting sorties), was here for the first time, concentrated under a unified command and, as a higher tactical unit, manned an independent section of the front line. >

That was before the big Kerensky offensive, which was the last swing of the Russian armed forces against the armies of the Central Powers. The Czechoslovak Brigade, attached to the 11th Army within the union of the 49th Army Group, was ordered to occupy a 6½km long section of the front, stretching southwest of Zborov. For neighbours, it had north of itself the 4th Finnish Division with the 6th Finnish Division on its south. The Brigade was commanded by the Russian Colonel Vjačeslav Platonovič Trojanov. Its battle mission within the framework of the 49th Army Group was, according to the plan, only to be subordinate. The centre of the attack was supposed to have been on the corps wings, i.e. of the two Finnish divisions. The Czechoslovak Brigade role was only to cover the attack - and later on join it.

In actual fact it became the core of the attack group - and with a surprise attack it overcame, in less than two hours, the strongly fortified enemy trenches. With amazing speed and irrepressible push, the squads of Czechoslovak Volunteers rolled against their enemy, totally confusing them with the intensity of their attack. Their iron determination to win at whatever cost drove them forward, giving their attack unexpected strength. The heroism of the individuals was lost amongst the collective heroism of the Brigade as a whole.

General Tabois, the French military attaché and an eyewitness of the battle, has declared that he had never seen anything similar to it; although he had already seen operations and assaults of various nations' forces: English, French, German, Belgian, Serbian, Turkish and Senegalese.

The magnitude of the attained victory is best seen in the light of 4,500 Czechoslovak combatants having taken about the same number of enemy prisoners, 15 pieces of cannon and a quantity of machine-guns. All of this had become news to the world by the next day from the official Russian news agency. This Brigade became famous overnight and its commander was promoted to the rank of General. To the leader of the revolutionary bodies, Professor Masaryk, came congratulations from all sides.

The next great achievement at Zborov was dearly bought. About 190 brother legionaries were left on the battlefield as well as 800 others who were wounded or invalided.

It is not possible to speak of individuals' heroism in a place where all were heroes. What can be said however is that the victory at Zborov was the victory of will aimed at a single goal; this was the strongest weapon of the Czechoslovak Brigade.

JINDRA VLČEK

Academic painter and graphicist,
Staff-Capt. of The Russian Legion

Stamp - is the artistic abbreviation; clear and purposeful. It is collaboration between the designer and engraver, which embraces the designer's plan through the magic of classical and uncompromising engraving techniques. The maturity of the entire State is often judged by its stamps. If the designer has this in his consideration, he will see what a difficult and responsible goal has been placed in front of him. It becomes all the more serious if it concerns a stamp which commemorates a historical military event from a battle to liberate our nation.

I have assumed with reflection and some courage, the design of the commemor-

>

ative stamps for the 20th anniversary of the famous battle at Zborov - to be sure in my own mind that Zborov means so many purely human experiences; as in no other corner of the world. On the Zborov battlefield in 1922, I had the experience of lingering for four whole months and had the opportunity to walk the intricate passages from whence our Legionary brothers had observed the enemy earthworks. In places where Gen. Čeček allowed the building of the sally gate "Lunet Kaťu", from which there 'sallied' out the Vašátkov striking force and from where Col. Josef Jiří Švec ran out at the head of his troops. In 1922 there were in the neighbourhood spinkled fragments of shells and mines still lying on the ground. On higher ground with commanding views over a wide periphery, there were to be observed the concrete nests and former gun en- placements look-out stations and, in the silent place under the crown "Mohyly", the highest point of the whole battlefield - rusted carpets of wire. [Mohyly = 'barrows' Ed.].

In the "Údoli Nadšeni" (valley of enthusiasm) was the grave of some Legionary brothers ; in the actual place from where the attack was carried out by the striking forces. In the Cevova valley was the 14th grave and in the Cevova graveyard was our brother legionaries' gravemound. At that time the unknown soldier's grave was amongst them. All around was laid waste - without bushes or trees - full of holes and in the neighbouring villages was cruel, grim poverty.

How is it possible to not recollect our Legionary brothers and their spiritual heroism when, without support and surrounded by the indifference of the Russian czarist army, split by propaganda, they attempted a deed for which there is no parallel? Badly armed and numerically weak they pounced in groups and fraternities onto the enemy trenches so quickly that the supporting guns had not the time to withhold their fire. On those Zborov plains, midst the flames of explosions and the red-hot air interwoven with projectiles and dust, wave after wave and group after group rushed forward to victory.

After the battle, many a Legionary brother has searched for his best friends to whom, if he was wounded, he passed on the tidings of our victory. Alas - also many of them touched a cold brow, pressed an icy hand and laid to rest a heroic Legionary brother.

It is impossible not to be proud, self-confident, resolute. It would not be possible not to love and respect one another when in our sight we have the example of the Zborov Legion Brothers.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

- [1] To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Zborov battle, the postal administration issues two values of commemorative stamps with the same picture and in the following colours:

50h moss-green
1Kč agate red

- [2] The first supplies to post offices will be carried out by the Administration.
[3] The stamps are produced in rotary recess printing in depth on white paper. Stamp sheets are of 100 units and in view of their large format they have a special set-up similar to the "Dětem 1937" stamp sheet set-up (values 50h and 1Kč), issued in May this year.
[4] The stamps form a rectangle; dimension of printed surface $23\frac{1}{2} \times 28\frac{3}{4}$ mm; perforation is rotary $12\frac{1}{2}$. >

[5] The stamp motif shows three legionaries after the Zborov Battle and represents determination, brotherhood and self-sacrifice. The motif's design is the work of academic painter and graphicist Jindra VIČKA, Staff-Capt. with the Russian Legion.

In the upper-right corner of the picture is the inscription: "Zborov" and underneath the commemorative era 1917-1937. In the lower-left corner of both stamps is a coloured square shield with the stamp value. Over the whole width of the stamps' lower border and on the coloured background is a white inscription "Československo".

Drawing and engraving of the stamps was carried out by the engraver Bohumil Heinz.

(č. 42.879/VII from 7th July)

Issued by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph
Printed by the State Printing Works in Prague

=====

Notes referring to various captions on illustrated page. This page is only slightly reduced from original size for the sake of clarity:-

CZECHOSLOVAK POST

TO THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE AT ZBOROV

----- position of the Cz. forces before the attack

_____ position of the Austrian forces

===== line reached after the attack

Design of J. VIČKA

Engraver B. Heinz

Salley Gate "Lunet Kaťa"

[Ed. note: ZBOROV is located in the Ukraine about 80km east of Lvov. Before 1918 it was part of Austria-Hungary but from 1918 until 1939 was in Poland.]

VĚSTNÍK

MINISTERSTVA POŠT A TELEGRAFŮ

Rok 1937	V Praze 10. června	Číslo 31
	Ustanovení č. 37/1937	

OSLAVA
DVACÁTÉHO VÝROČÍ BITVY
U ZBOROVA

2. VII. 1917.

EDUARD KUBALA,

štábní kapitán — Památník osvobození.

BITVA U ZBOROVA.

Okolí malého východohaličského městečka Zborova, ležícího na řece Strypě jihozápadně od Zločova, stalo se dne 2. července 1917 dějištěm bitvy, která zůstane navždy památnou v dějinách novotobého československého vojska. Československá střelecká brigáda, do té doby rozdělená na malé části, které se proslavily úspěšnými rozvědkami u rozličných ruských sborů a divísi, byla tu po prvé soustředěna pod společným velením a jako vyšší taktická jednotka obsadila samostatný úsek fronty.

Bylo to před velkou ofensivou Kircenského, která byla posledním rozmachem ruských vojenských sil proti armádám centrálních mocností. Československá brigáda přidělena k II. armádě do svazku XLIX. armádního sboru a určena k obsazení 6 1/2 km dlouhého úseku, táhnoucího se jihozápadně od Zborova. Za sousedy měla na severu 4. finskou divísi, na jihu 6. finskou divísi. Brigáda velení ruský plukovník Vjačeslav Platonovič Trojanov. Její bojový úkol v rámci XLIX. armádního sboru byl podle plánu vlastně jen podřadný. Težší útok mělo být na křídlech sboru, totiž na obou finských divíších. Československá brigáda měla tento útok jenom krytí a později se k němu připojit.

Ve skutečnosti však stala se právě ona jádrem úderné skupiny a překvapující útokem zmocnila se v necelých dvou hodinách tří silně opevněných linií nepřátelských zákopů. Úžasným tempem a s nezadržitelnou průbojností valily se roty československých dobrovolníků proti nepříteli, zcela zmatčenému prudkostí jejich náporu. Želčná vůle zvítězit stýj co stýj hnala je kupředu a propůjčovala jejich úderu nečekané síly. Rekrovnost jednotlivců jakoby se ztrácela v hrdinství celku.

Francouzský vojenský atašé generál Tabois, očitý svědek bitvy, prohlásil o tomto útoku, že něco podobného nikdy nespátl, ač viděl již operovat a útočit vojska různých národů, Angličanů, Francouzů, Němců, Belgičanů, Srbů, Turků a Senegalců.

Velikost dosaženého vítězství lze nejlépe měřit tím, že půl čtvrtá tisíce československých bojovníků zajalo přibližně stejný počet nepřítel, 15 děl a množství kulometů, což se z ruské úřední zprávy dovídá hned druhého dne celý svět. Československá brigáda stala se přes noc slavnou. Její velitel povýšen na generála. Vůdci revolučního hnutí profesoru Masarykovi blahopřáno se všech stran.

Skvělý úspěch zborovský byl však draze vykoupen. Okolo 190 bratří zůstalo na bojišti, asi 800 jiných bylo raněno nebo polmožněno.

Nelze mluvit o hrdinství jednotlivců tam, kde všichni byli hrdiny. Lze jen říci, že vítězství u Zborova bylo vítězstvím vůle zaměřené k jednomu cíli, vítězstvím ducha, který byl nejmocnější zbraní československé brigády.

JINDRA VLČEK,

akademický malíř a grafik,
štábní kapitán ruských legii v. v.

Známká — tof výtvarná zkratka, jasná a účelná. Je výsledkem spolupráce výtvarníka a rytec, který obetává návrh výtvarníkův kouzlem klasické a nesmlouvavé rytecké techniky. Podle známky se často usuzuje na výpověď celého státního útvaru s jeho mnohotvárným životem. Má-li výtvarník toto na zřeteli, vidí, před jak těžký a zodpovědný úkol byl postaven. Vše se stává tím vážnější, jde-li o známku, při pomínející dějinnou událost vojenskou z dob bojů za osvobození našeho národa.

Ujal jsem se s rozvahou i odvahou vypracování návrhu pamětních známek, oslavujících 20. výročí slavné zborovské bitvy — vždyť Zborov pro mne samotného znamená tolik zážitků čistě lidských, jako žádný druhý kout světa. Na zborovském bojišti jsem dlel v roce 1922 plně čtyři měsíce a měl jsem možnost procházeti se spleť chodbe, odkud pozorovali bratři valy protivníka; místy, kde nechal generál Čechek zbudovat výpadní bránu „Lunet Kátus“, odkud vyrazili Vašítkovi úderníci a odkud vyběhl v čele své roty plukovník Josef Jirí Svěc. Tenkrát v roce 1922 bylo okolí zákopů ještě poseto úlomky střel a miny ležely na zemi. Na vyvýšených

místech, ovládajících palbou i přehledem širý kraj, bylo vidět belonová kulometná hnízda i bývalé pozorovací dělostřelecké stanice, a v hluché prostotě pod temenem »Mohyly«, nevysvětlím to bodě očelého bojště, rezivěly dřátěné koberec.

V »Udělovi nadšení« byl hrob bratří, právě v místech, odkud začal útok úderníků. V cecovském údolí byl hrob čtrnácti, na cecovském hrbitově byla mohyla bratří a neznámý vojín dlel ještě (tenkrát mezi nimi).

A kol dokola zpusošovaná zem bez stromů a kctů, plná jam, a v okolních vískách krutá, neřfostná chudoba.

Jak nevzpomenouti na bratry, jak nevzpomenouti jejich duševního heroismu, když bez týlu, obklopeni lhostejností ruské carské armády, agitací rozvrácené, se pokusili o čin, který nemá obdobného!

Spatně vyzbrojeni, počtne slabší, vrhali se v hloučcích a bratrstvech na valy protivníka tak rychle, že ani dělostřelectvo nemělo kdy přenášeti palbu. Na těch zborovských pláních, uprostřed sřehajících plamenů výbuchů, zřavého vzduchu prokancého střelami i rozvířeným zemským prachem, řřřřřř se vlna za vlnou, hlouček za hloučkem, za vířezstvím.

Po boji mnohý bratr hledal svého nejřřřřřř kamaráda, aby, byli-li raněn, mu zvěšoval, že naši zvřřřřřř. Také mnohly se dotýkal chladného čela, tiskl ledovou ruku, kladl do hrobu bratra-hrdinu.

Jak bychom neměli být hrdí, sebevědomí, pevní, jak bychom se neměli milovat a druhu druhá si vážili, máme-li před zraky příklad zborovských bratří!

PAMĚTNÍ POSTOVNÍ ZNAMKY.

(1) Na paměť dvacátého výročí bitvy u Zborova vydává poštovní správa dvě hodnoty pamětních poštovních známek se stejným obrazem v těchto barvách:

50 h mechově zelená,
1 Kč achátově červená,

(2) První zásobení poštovních úřadů bude provedeno z moci úřední. Jinak budou vydávány v pravidelných odběrech. Prodávají se za cenu jmenovité hodnoty. Platí ve stýku vnitřním i mezinárodním do konce roku 1937.

(3) Známky jsou zhotoveny rolačným ocelolískem z hloubky na bílém papíru. Listy známek jsou po 100 kusech a mají vzhledem k velkému formátu známek zvláštní úpravu, obdobnou úpravě listů známek »Dětem 1937« (hodnot 50 h a 1 Kč), vydaných v květnu t. r.

(4) Tvar známky jest obdélník na výšku rozměrů (potištěná plocha) $23\frac{1}{2} \times 28\frac{3}{4}$ mm; zoubkování jest rotační $12\frac{1}{4}$.

(5) Motív na známkách představuje tři postavy legionářů po bitvě u Zborova a vyjadřuje odhodlanost, bratrství a obětavost. Návrh motívu jest dílem akademického malíře a grafika Jindry Vlčka, štábního kapitána ruských legií v. v.

Na obraze v pravém horním rohu jest nápis:

»Zborov« a pod ním pamětní letopočty 1917-1937. V levém dolním rohu obou hodnot známek jest barevný čtvercový štítek s vyznačením hodnoty známky. Po celé délce dolního okraje známky jest na barevném podkladu bílý nápis »Československo«. Kresbu a rytinu známky, provedl rytec Bohumil Heinz.

(Č. 42.879/VII ze 7. června 1937.)

VYDÁVÁ MINISTERSTVO POŠT A TELEGRAFŮ V PRAZE.

TISKEM STÁTNI TISKÁRNY V PRAZE.

ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POŠTA

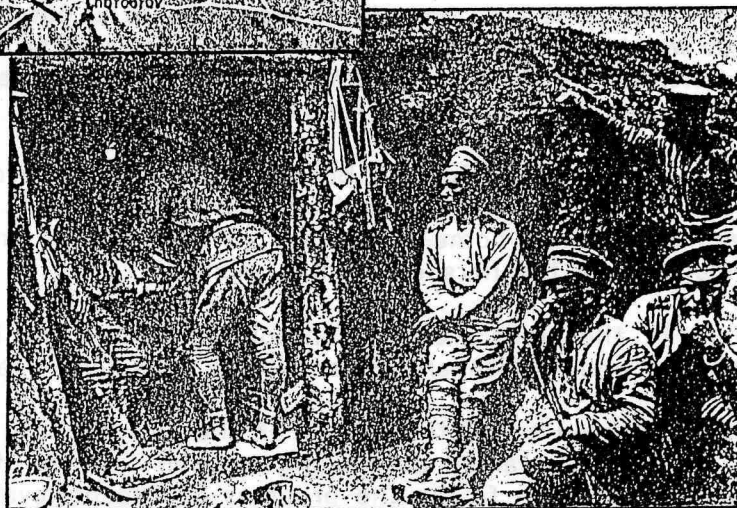
K 20. VÝROČÍ SLAVNÉ BITVY U ZBOROVA



2. VII. 1917.



----- posice čs. vojsk před útokem
 _____ posice rakouských vojsk
 = = = = = dosažená linie po útoku



NÁVRH J. VLČKA
 RYTINA B. HEINZE

VÝPADNÍ BRANKA „LUNETKA“

SPORTS EVENTS OF 1961 - THE RUGBY STAMP

- John D. Pring -

Many collectors will have been surprised to find a stamp commemorating the 35th anniversary of rugby football in Czechoslovakia included in the 1961 Sports Events set. It concerns a sport seldom - if ever - identified as being a Czechoslovakian sport, although its history there goes back some 66 years.



The painter and illustrator, Ondrej Sekora introduced the game of Rugby to Czechoslovakia on his return from Paris and he founded the first club in Brno. Soon, the first game of Rugby to be played in Czechoslovakia took place in Brno on May 9th, 1926. The two competing sides were S.K. Moravská Slavia, Brno and A.F.K. Žižka, Brno. In a high-scoring match S.K. Moravská Slavia emerged the winners by 31:17. The players on the stamp itself cannot be readily identified by the colours and design of their shirts and so artistic licence must be suspected.

These early roots were firmly established; so much so that a Czech national side was selected and played in Bratislava against Romania in May, 1927. They lost 5:21 but their enthusiasm remained undiminished and since then they have maintained a full international programme, chiefly against the former Eastern Bloc countries. In addition, they have participated in the preliminary rounds of both the World Cups.

The first game may have been played in Brno but it is the T.J. Slavia, Praha Club which claims to be the oldest Czechoslovakian club with regular rugby activities. Further, its ground at Troja is the oldest ground in Czechoslovakia to be used exclusively for rugby.

There are now 20 clubs in Bohemia and Moravia providing games for over 2000 players. The clubs are organized into two divisions, comprising 10 teams. The teams play on a home-and-away basis in autumn and spring as rugby is suspended during the harshest winter months.

Many of the clubs are keen on touring abroad and hosting foreign teams and links between Welsh and French sides have long been established.

I am indebted to Viktor Šťazný of the Dragon Brno Club for much of the information contained herein and to John Thomas of the Llanelli Club who has done so much to foster the progress of Czechoslovakian Rugby.

.....

Technical Details: Cat. No. SG 1206 (10.2.1961) one of seven stamps.
 Designer: I. Strnad - Engraver: Ladislav Jirka.
 Perf. $11\frac{1}{4}$ x $11\frac{3}{4}$. Design: "The Tackle"
 Value 1Kčs. - Inscription: 35 Years of Rugby in Cz.

JINDŘICH KŘEČEK (JITUŠ) – WAR ARTIST

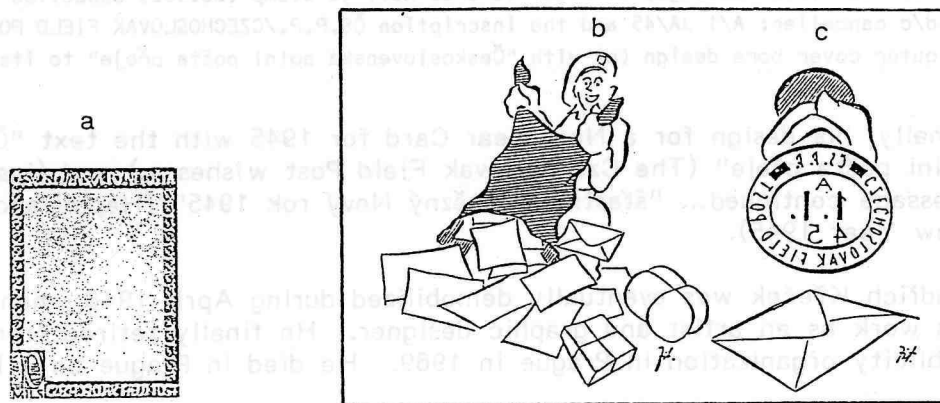
- W.A. Page -

In Czechout 4/91-94 in the article on Dolfa Bartošik, I mentioned the design for the cancellation commemorating the 1943 'National Day of Mourning' by Křeček, following the rejection of those submitted by Dolfa Bartošik.

Jindrick Křeček was born 7.3.1909 in Červený Kostelec and as with many artists, his talents became evident at High School (in Úpici); it received a recommendation for further studies at the art academy. However, his destiny was to be apprenticed to a cabinet maker but later to become a furniture designer and draughtsman.

Before fleeing from Nazi oppression he was working as a re-toucher in a print works; he also was preparing various sketches for several papers and magazines. His involvement in the anti-Nazi struggle forced him to flee – first to Poland then on to Turkey to await transport to the Middle-East with Czechoslovak soldiers. It was in Turkey that his artistic talents were re-discovered by a certain Colonel Svoboda; this resulted in Křeček being 'earmarked' for special duties.'

On arrival in the Middle-East he became a member of the editorial staff of the Czechoslovak Forces newspapers – "The Czechoslovak in the East" and the "Zpravodaje", his role being that of technical editor and illustrator. Being also involved with Polish designers in organizing exhibitions in Jerusalem during 1941 and 1942, he adopted the nom-de-plume "Jituš" in deference to the safety of his family remaining in the homeland.



a) Incomplete Middle East design b) & c) New Year Card designs – 1944/1945 respectively

According to an order from the Czechoslovak Forces in Jerusalem, Křeček was requested to produce a design for a stamp for the Czechoslovak Forces in the Middle East. His inspiration for this design was said to have come from the Egyptian Forces 10 mils stamp and his illustration was to have been a soldier with a rifle with, in the background, a camp and palm trees to the right. The design however, was never completed due to the then planned withdrawal of the Czechoslovak forces from the Middle East to Great Britain in mid-1943.

On arriving in Great Britain, Jindřich Křeček worked partly for the Czechoslovak forces and partly for the Army Publicity unit. Again, he made various drawings including a special Cz. Forces New Year Card for 1944. >

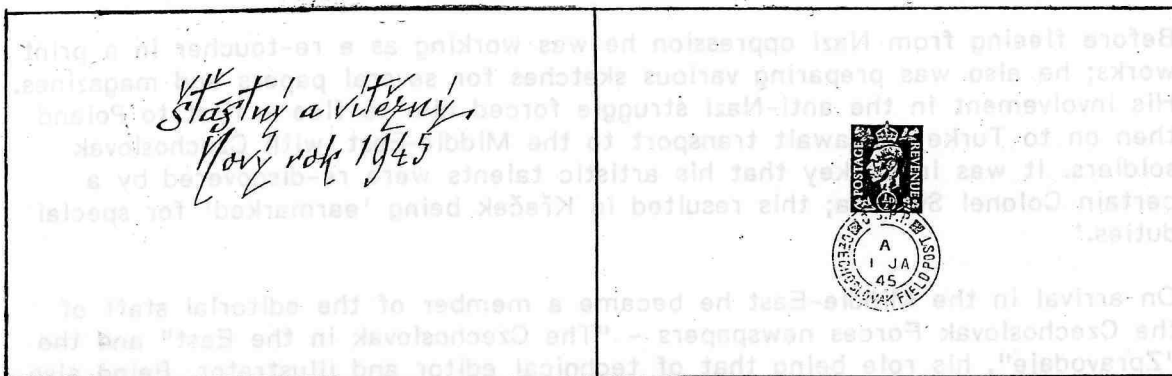
JINDŘICH KŘEČEK (JITUS) - WAR ARTIST

- W.A. Page -

- More importantly, Křeček was responsible for designing the remaining cancellations used in Great Britain up to the return to Europe in August 1944. These included the one used for the Czechoslovak London Exhibition in November 1943.

These can be found in our Society Monograph No.1 as follows:

p20-fig 21, p21-fig 26, p24-fig 30, p27-fig 32 and p28-fig 37 and 39.



Křeček's 1945 New Year Card (the inside pages). At left is the "Happy and Victorious New Year 1945" message. At right is a GB KGVI ½d stamp (SG.462) cancelled with FP d/c canceller: A/1 JA/45 and the inscription ČS.P.P./CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST. The outer cover bore design (c) with "Československá polní pošta přeje" to its left.

Finally, his design for a New Year Card for 1945 with the text "Československá polní pošta přeje" (The Czechoslovak Field Post wishes ...) and (inside) the message continued... "šťastný a vítězný Nový rok 1945" (Happy and Victorious New Year 1945).

Jindřich Křeček was eventually demobilized during April 1946 when he resumed his work as an artist and graphic designer. He finally retired from the Merkur publicity organization in Prague in 1969. He died in Prague on 4 February 1979.

* * * * *

Acknowledgements

Filatelie 10/1991 - Dr. Vratislav Palkoska
 Filatelie 14/1977 -
 Vladimír Králiček (for translations)

STAFF CAPTAIN ALOIS VAŠÁTKO – 50th Death Anniversary

1942 –

– W.A.Page –

– 1992



A set of stamps depicting Czechoslovak war heroes was released on 18.8.1945. Printed by De La Rue, London, they have become known internationally as "The London Issue", identifying them from other immediate post-war issues produced in Košice, Bratislava, Prague and Moscow. Two values (50h : 5Kč) depicted Staff Capt. Alois Vašátko, fighter pilot and one of the most highly decorated Allied airmen of the Second World War.

Alois Vašátko was born 25.8.1908 and eventually became a student at the Czechoslovak Military Academy during 1930–31. In July 1939 he went to Poland and was in action with the French 1/5 Squadron (1939–40) during which period he shot down 15 enemy aircraft.

After the fall of France, Vašátko was with No. 310 Squadron of the British Royal Air Force, taking part in the Battle of Britain and in the aerial offensive over occupied Europe. During these operations, he was credited with having shot down a further 17 enemy 'planes and certainly damaged if not destroyed a further three. Staff Captain Alois Vašátko was himself shot down over the English Channel on June 23 1942 whilst commanding a Czechoslovak Wing.

Staff Capt. Vašátko was posthumously promoted to Lt. Colonel and decorated as a Knight-Legion of Honour. Other decorations included three Czechoslovak Croix de Guerre, 2 medals for bravery, the French Croix de Guerre (5 palms and 4 stars), the British D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross) and Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.); also the Czechoslovak Remembrance Medal.

Alois Vašátko's memory was further perpetuated on the 4th anniversary of his death – June 23 1946 with the unveiling of a memorial tablet at Čelákovice (near Prague). The ceremony was commemorated with a souvenir postcard showing the memorial. The card also bore the 50h stamp of 18.8.1945 with Staff Captain Vašátko's image alongside the 80h stamp of 10.12.1945 depicting another war-hero, the then late soldier-statesman General M.R.Štefánik.

Illustrated here is the special cancellation of these two stamps with the commemorative marker used for this occasion.

Biography: A Campe d'Agde (France) archive, translated by the author.

BOHEMIA & MORAVIA**POSTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROTECTORATE MILITIA**

- Dr. Miroslav Vostatek -
 [English translation: Vladimír Králíček]

(Part 1)

Following the completion of the occupation of Czechoslovakia on 15.3.1939, the Czechoslovak Army was progressively liquidated and disbanded. At the Ministry of National Defence the liquidated groups remained until the summer of that year. Amongst other tasks, they had to re-locate officers and salaried workers to other state offices and establishments. However, a number of officers, W.Os and other ranks felt that their real place was within the struggle for their country's freedom and one of their early decisions was to organize escapes between themselves to Poland and other countries but their precise aims at the time were, it seems, rather vague. These foreign countries showed no great interest in them and therefore, today, it is necessary to try to appreciate the high morale and maturity of these patriots.

Creation of the "Government Militia"

The "Protectorate" government was given permission by the occupying powers to establish a 'Government Militia' early in 1939. This was to comprise armed military units whose Commander-in-Chief was to be the then president of the Republic, Dr. Emil Hácha. Militarily, the highest command of this force was to be the General Inspectorate, based in Prague; the Inspector-General was one General Jaroslav Eminger, then commander of the 3rd Mechanised Division in southern Slovakia. [this man was later noted after the war to be employed as a luggage porter at Prague Central railway station!].

The government militia was to be a professional but lightly armed army. Its uniform was taken from the former Czechoslovak Army. The former reddish-colour facings were changed to yellow and their diverse rank indicators were placed on the collars. As far as further organization was concerned, there were three further 'inspectorates' - at Prague, Brno and Hradec Králové. The total force at that time was 7,000 men contained within twelve battalions each consisting of four companies: 1. Rifle and Foot; 2. Sappers, communications and technical; 3. Cyclist; 4. Mechanized; there was also a military band company!

Although these units contained some 'volunteers', the main posts were filled by Liquid Commission appointees, the Officers, W.Os and long-service lower ranks. Thus there were to be included some men whom nobody had asked anything about their willingness to serve in this militia of 'government' forces. There were a number of desertions therefore and one such soldier was a certain Sergeant Jan Zemek (transferred to 2 battalion in Rychnov nad Kněžnou) who deserted during his very first furlough - and soon departed his homeland. Later this man was to become commander of the para-group "Silver B". As far as the volunteers were concerned, many only offered their services in order to prevent being despatched to the Reich (Germany). The Gestapo soon noted a number of requests to leave these units and a number of volunteers were then arrested. >

Disposition of Militia Battalions

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Detachments</u>
1.	Praha-Smíchov	
2.	Rakovník	Kralovice (1.Squad)
3.	Písek	Týn nad Vltavou
4.	Benešov - later Čáslav	-
5.	Kutná Hora	Čáslav
6.	Hradec Králové	-
7.	Josefov	-
8.	Jičín	Turnov
9.	Vysoké Mýto	-
10.	Bučovice	Bzenec
11.	Kostelec nad Orlicí	Rychnov nad Kěžnou - (1 Squad)
12	Lipník nad Bečvou	-

During the occupation period, the militia were used mainly for guard duties, especially of railway routes across the occupied territory.

Postal Provisions of the Militia

Up to this time, postal provisions had not differed greatly to those used by other Protectorate offices and establishments: for official mail current Official stamps were used (of which there were two issues). This is confirmed by two postal money remits sent from 5 Batt. in Kutná Hora to Český Brod. It was there on the rail route Kolin-Prague that this unit was then operating.[fig.12]. I have in my collection a return-card from the District Court at Rychnov nad Kněžnou dated 26.2.1943, with the address as follows: Mr. Antonín Cinka, Sergeant, 1/11 Batt. Govt. Militia in Rychnov n. Kn. Also I have an Express letter (Eilboten) from Austria with the address: P.T./Regierungstruppe-Batt.3 in Písek u Prahy, Protektorat Mahren. This item was franked by Hindenburg 12+40 pf. stamps. After this time there was talk of franking everything with Official stamps. On a letter from Jly 1943 there are 4x30h stamps (from the 2nd Official issue) with the cancellation Regierungstruppe - Battalion 8 Jitschin/ Govt. forces-Battalion 8 Jičín and an identical address on a circular (postal) cancellation (see similar at fig.14). I shall refer to other postal provisions in the following section dealing with the Militia in Italy; they differ from the above in a number of aspects.

Organization and Locations in Italy

The Militia's move to Italy (and transfers to Hungary were also considered) brought many changes and infringements on the soldiers' lives. The loading of material and transport was effected between 24-25 May 1944. Departure was from the various garrisons on the route Pilsen-Domazlice-Mnichov-Innsbruck-Brenner-Trident-Verona. The arrivals were between the 27th and 29th May 1944. The Wehrmacht Deputy to the Inspector-General was a certain Lt. Colonel Menschik (a former Czechoslovak officer) and to the Inspectorates were allocated the following Czech-speaking German officers: Major von Gurth, Major Kessler and Captain Hauptorenz. Their tasks and duties were extensive but what is of some interest to us is that they controlled the official and private correspondence of >

members of the Govt. Militia. It should be noted here that upon arrival in Italy, all militia forces were prohibited contact with home because the field-post was closed to them for a period of six weeks. Witnesses say that they tried to circumvent these restrictions by using civil post offices. In specialist military literature is shown the following address: Deutsche Abname Kommando, Ciree (about 20 km. north of Turin). As we shall see later in this article, this concerned the General-Inspectorate.

Following the arrival in Italy there was the following Militia organization: ZGI - Principal General Inspectorate (Headquarters); ZII to ZIII - Principal Inspectorates to the General Inspectorate ZI, to which there were always several subordinate battalions. There were in Italy 11 battalions from the total no. of 12; 1 Battalion ("Castle") from Prague was not transferred.

The government militia did not have its own field-post, having to use the German Wehrmacht Field-post in Italy. Correspondence, both inward and outward was centred on the battalion. Their locations are shown below:

Locations of Militia units in Italy

Unit.	Subordinate to	Location to 20.7.44	FP numbers
Gen. Inspectorate	Verona	Chiari	58, 478, 39, 191
Inspect. I	Bologna	Varese	47, 006
Inspect. II	Varese	Rovigo	16, 639
Inspect. III	Torino	Bologna	?
Batt.2-ZI I.	Cremona	Vicenza-Udine	27, 716
Batt.3-ZI I.	Cremona	Placenza-Parma	47, 243, 10, 448
Batt.4-ZI I.	Bologna	Ostiglia-Cremona	32, 224
Batt.5-ZI I.	Bologna	Parma-Bologna	?
Batt.6-ZI I. II.	Cremona	Milano (temp.)	39, 191, 29, 019
Batt.7-ZI I. II.	Alba	Aosta	?
Batt.8-ZI I. II.	Fossano	Ciree	22, 182
Batt.9-ZI I. III.	Savigliano	Verona-Brenner	47, 953
Batt.10-ZI III.	Aosta	not known	37 787
Batt.11-ZI II.	Fossano	Treviglio-Brescia	47, 183
Batt.12-ZI III.	Savigliano	Taino di Sesto Cal	?

It is necessary to add that, according to historical literature as well as to the recollections of participants, that battalion locations and activities often changed but the above summary is the nearest to accuracy known. There is a fact however to be noted here, in that after the FP No. there was (generally) a capital letter A,B,C,D or E. It noted the battalion company.

Beside the above FP numbers, some additional numbers have been noted but I am unable, at this time, to allocate them to any particular units. They are: 07, 29, 32, 47, 019, 224, 710 and 953. If any collectors of this material have these numbers and can identify them, I would like to know of them, please.

>

Illustrations to Part 1 of:

POSTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROTECTORATE MILITIA



fig. 1

Geöffnet

2419 2406 2429
2435 2418 2430

fig. 2



fig. 3

Feldpost

fig. 4



fig. 5

Ab-sender: *V. vojsko Hrabie*
Rudolf Wenzel Horstky
Feldpost Nr. 32.224 A

fig. 6

Correspondence to/from Italy

Whilst at home, service with the government militia was (by Protectorate standards) looked upon as being reasonably good but in Italy it was a matter of life or death. In a letter dated September 1943, a certain Staff Warrant Officer Formanek wrote " ... life with the Dragoons is good; much better than in the infantry." He could not write in such terms from Italy. He related that his work was no lightweight matter and that before his unit had arrived in Italy, the local inhabitants had been 'warned' that these militiamen were not of good character and were known as bullies. The nazis, with this propaganda, had forgotten just one thing. These men were to arrive in a locality that had earlier been visited by members of the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy and the population remembered them with kindness for their reputation was still good!

As has already been noted, militiamen wrote home via the good offices of the German Fieldpost. Orders were given that all militia mail had to be addressed in the German language (presumably for the ease of the German censors). Of course, the militiamen often ignored this edict, writing addresses in Czech with some zest. Furthermore, as we shall see later, they had other tricks up their sleeves, too. Some of these items still exist in "B & M" collections of postal history. They carry German censor marks and the various cachets of the units they served in. The German censors used an adhesive tape to re-seal opened mail. This seal bore the circled mark "Feldpostprüfstelle" over the state eagle/swastika emblem and at the right-side of which appeared the word "Geöffnet" in large print. This showed that the item had been opened and examined/re-sealed by the German Fieldpost Censor. These marks are known in black and deep-purple colours - see fig. 1. The censor's number usually took the form of a four-digit number usually commencing with the numerals 24 (fig.2). On some entires there occasionally appears a 'dumb' type of German circular cachet with FELDPOST over a code-letter, below which was a s/line date above the usual Nazi emblem (eagle/swastika); see fig. 3.

On many of the collected items appears a single-line cachet "Feldpost"(fig.4) sloping - style lettering and this was believed to serve many different units. During the war there existed some 'postal routing' numbers but they were intended only for the larger territories as is revealed by the circled cachet "11b" which was the number for the Protectorate (fig. 5).

The Czech militiamen sometimes had to use pre-printed German FP cards and occasionally turned them to their own humorous advantage. The address-sides of these cards had the printed preposition 'An' (meaning 'To') which suited the Czech language well. The militiamen sometimes used this to commence their own addresses thus: pan or pani (= Mr. (or) Mrs.) in the Czech language. Anything to annoy the enemy! Another idea was to write certain parts of some "A.Hitler" quotations immediately under the black, German printed headings of these cards .

I was recently handed a rare item from these times, a pc. from a certain Feldwebl.*Wenzel Horský bearing the pre-printed "Feldpost" mark and the circled "11b" referred to above. In addition is the legend "Feldpost Nr.32.224A" that most likely originated from 4 Battalion , 1 Company (fig. 6) - I think it is a rare item indeed. [to be continued ...]

*Feldwebl (Germ.) abbrev. FELDWEBEL (Sergeant)

NEW ISSUES

AJK

World Ice Hockey Champs. Prague-Bratislava 1992

March 31 - 3Kčs. Des: Pavel Kovářik; Eng: K. Pavel. design size 23x30mm. Printed rotary-recess in black, combined with four-colour recess printing in red, grey, blue and light-blue. Design: Player with puck and the inscription: Mistrovství Světa v Ledním Hokeji Praha-Bratislava 1992. Perf. $11\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Sheets x 50 subjects.

FDC: 'Goalkeeper' postmark Praha/31.3.1992. Cachet shows two competing players in black, red and blue. Cover printed flat-plate recess.

Security of Road Traffic - BESIP

April 2 - 2Kčs. Des: Jaroslav Fišer; Eng: Martin Srb. design size 40x23mm. Printed rotary-recess in black, combined with four-colour recess print in red, grey, orange and green in sheets x 50 subjects. Design: Traffic Lights at 'Go' (green) with town skyline behind; BESIP logo below inscription: Bezpečnost Silničního Provozu Znamená Život (Security of Road Traffic means a Life). Perforation $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$.

* **FDC:** Pmk: Praha/2.4.1992 with "STOP" road-sign design. Cachet shows an early English open car (note r.hand drive) preceded by a man with flag. Cover colour brown, printed flat-plate recess.

World Exhibition "Expo '92" - Seville

April 2 - 4Kčs. Des: Václav Kučera; Eng: Miloš Ondráček. Design size: 30x23mm. Printed rotary-recess in black, combined with four-colour recess print in red, yellow, blue and light-blue in sheets x 50 subjects, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. The design incorporates the Expo '92 and the Cz. participation logos with small drawing of a spire of La Giralda Cathedral, Seville.

FDC: Pmk: Cz. Expo logo surrounded by 2.4.1992/Praha. plus drawing of galleon in full sail. Cover printed flat-plate recess in blue.

* The "Red Flag" Act - 1865

For collectors of "The British/English Connection(s)" themes, here is yet another stamp for the albums, the BESIP stamp of April 2nd. The little man with a flag preceding the car was a requirement under the above act. This ridiculous ordinance prevented any 'self-propelled' vehicle travelling on the public highway at speeds in excess of 4 miles-per-hour in the country and only 2 mph in towns. In both cases the act required a man with a red flag to precede the vehicle as a warning of its potential danger to all and sundry. This daft act remained in force until 1896. >

EUROPA-CEPT: QUINCENTENARY - DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

May 5 - 22Kčs. Des: Adolf Born; Eng: Bedrich Housa. Design size 40 x 23mm.
 Printed in small-sheet format x 8 stamps (2 blocks x 4/Central gutter).
 Flat-plate recess in colours ochre, brown, black, red and blue. p.11½.



Stamp Design: Shows with a gentle humour Columbus 'discovering' America, symbolized here by a native 'beauty' - they are shown 'eyeing' each other! The ship hull bears the era 1492-1992. Behind the native girl are the inscriptions EUROPA and 500. Výročí objevení Ameriky (500th Anniversary of the Discovery of America). To the right of Columbus is the CEPT emblem.

Sheet Design: In the gutter is a stylized map and ship in full sail westward. In the top margin (in Latin and English) is inscribed the stamp's title with an adorned female head. The three remaining margins carry stylized nature drawings. FDC. Carries commemorative cancellation with drawing of a mermaid. All are printed flat-plate recess in rose, brown and green. Bears text America 1492-1992.

COMMENT: With face value of 176 Kčs., this must be the highest 'faced' Cz. m/s ever. Indeed, the face of the single stamp at 22 Kčs must rank this the top value of all Cz. postage stamps so far.

As far as the unusual design is concerned, its universal acceptance is open to debate. However, I personally find amusement in it! Take out your magnifying glass and take an overall glance - then carry your eye bottom right to where a startled marine animal appears to be making a hasty... headlong flight back eastward! So different from the dry, political issues of pre-1990. AJK.