

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1944, The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. VIII

February 1946

No. 2

EDITORIAL

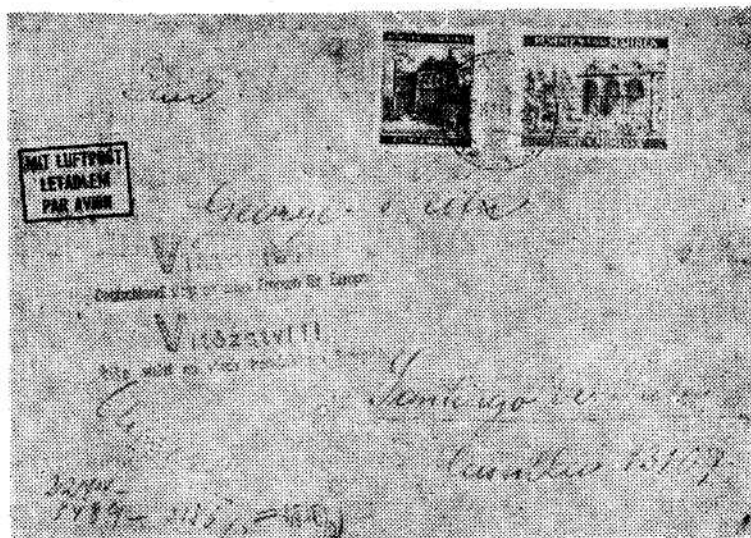
The day after we mailed copy for the January issue to the printer, we were rushed to a hospital, given many blood transfusions, operated on and then sent home just in time to put together copy for this issue. Many of the members may have wondered why the January issue reached them so late; the above explains all. We hope we'll never be troubled like this again.

Every year it is necessary to notify our members that dues are payable on January 1st, we know that it is hard to pay out dues so soon after Christmas and therefore give our members ample time to pay these dues. Please, cooperate! The less money we spend for postage, the more money we can spend on the Specialist. Our Treasurer's report shows a nice balance; with more material available we may publish the Specialist every month throughout the year so that the most recent information on Czech stamps may reach the members at the earliest time possible.

We are showing nice progress this month: 17 new members. It is not difficult to get new members; we usually get a request from a collector for information; we mail him a copy of the Specialist with an application blank and within a short time we have a new member. You can help by mailing to your friends who collect stamps of Czechoslovakia a copy of the Specialist—or send names and addresses of prospective members to our national secretary who'll take care of the rest.

NEW MEMBERS

- #180 James L. Prashek, R. R. #1, Lidgerwood, N. Dak.
- #181 Kenneth J. Woodbury Sr., 19 Cowesett Ave., W. Warwick, R. I.
- #182 Mrs. Ella Campbell, 638 Beloit Ave., Forest Park, Ill.
- #183 Mrs. Wm. H. Audelt, R. R. 2, Box 53, Crete, Nebr.
- #184 Chas. F. McBride, Room 202, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3, Calif.
- #185 Steve Sigmund, Belleville, Frankford, Ont., Canada.
- #186 Frank Janak, Batawa, Ont., Canada.
- #187 Jan Jordan, Batawa 31, Ont., Canada.
- #188 Ferdinand Maresh, 3838 E. 147th St., Cleveland 20, Ohio.
- #189 Geo. M. Staplin, 510 Henry Street, Utica 4, New York.
- #190 Howard B. Lee, 225 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck, New York.
- #191 Joseph Dlouhy, 222 Princeton Street, New Bedford, Mass.
- #192 William Hand, 50 Orchard Place, Maywood, N. J.
- #193 Vilem Ostadal, za Lihovarem 1h, Praha—Hlubocepy C. S. R.
- #194 Jan Stefan, Nova Louka, Karlovy Vary, C. S. R.
- #195 Eom Lipensky, Box 2320, Honolulu, T. H.
- #196 Jerry R. Hora, M. D., 3511 W. 5th Ave., Chicago 24, Illinois.



"NOW IT CAN BE TOLD"—From Bohemia & Moravia
by George A. Blizil

Reprinted with permission from Linn's Weekly Stamp News

A few weeks ago, we read in Linn's that the Office of Censorship was starting to release mail that it has been holding until the war with Germany was won. A week or so after reading this article, I received an airmail letter from Chile, postmarked January 1, 1942;—2½ years from writer to addressee.

Before I opened it, I tried to guess what it would contain that did not meet the approval of the Office of Censorship. In 1942 Chile enjoyed diplomatic relations with Germany, being one of the last countries to sever such ties. However, I thought the Linn's article applied to European mail being released by the O. C. Examination of cancellations on the reverse side of the cover showed that it was from my fellow Czechoslovakia philatelist pal in Santiago.

Opening the cover, I pulled out a short typewritten note, a New Year's Greeting card for 1942, a Belgian postcard, and a Bohemia and Moravia airmail cover. This cover was cancelled Praha, July 7, 1941, and arrived in Santiago, Chile, August 31, 1941. This cover was the item that delayed my letter 2½ years.

Back in 1941 Britain started the "V" for Victory campaign, using the 3 dots and a dash. Shortly afterwards the Nazis countered with their own "Victory" slogan, imprinting it on foreign destined mail at Berlin and Praha post offices by postal employees. The slogan on the Bohemia and Moravian cover is bilingual and reads "VICTORIA!! Deutschland siegt an allen Fronten fur Europa!", and in Czech, "VITEZSTVI!! Rise vitezi na vsech frontach pro Europu!"

The Praha bi-lingual slogan is rare, inasmuch as it was used only a few days, and I consider it a gem for my album. No wonder the Office of Censorship did not allow a B&M cover to go through, especially when it screams in two languages that "Germany is winning on all fronts in Europe." Of course things turned out differently.

This is just another philatelic story that comes from World War II under the category "Now It Can Be Told."

PAY YOUR 1946 DUES NOW!

NEWS AND VIEWS

by J. W. Lowcy

I thought that by now I would be able to supply the members with information regarding exchange with collectors in Czechoslovakia. During the last weeks I have received letters from philatelists on the other side who are only too eager to join our society and get into direct contact with our members. Unfortunately up to this moment exchange or sale of stamps and remittance of money to this country is out of the question due to restrictions imposed by the Czechoslovak government. However when the ban is lifted and normal intercourse is again possible I will give out the information via this column.

If you collect the postmarks of the Czechoslovak army in France and England I would suggest that you read the article "Philatelic Activity of the Czechoslovak Army in England," written by member Blizil and printed in the 1945 edition of the American Philatelic Congress book. Therein you will find all the postmarks reproduced as well as many other interesting illustrations. Having myself written up this subject in "Stamps" in 1940 I extend congratulations to Mr. Blizil on his up to the minute work. I have a hunch that editor Kovarik will reprint the article sometime in the near future.

Mr. Kessler at present is working on the supplement to his 1945 specialized catalogue of Czechoslovakia. It will contain listings of the Protectorate issues, all stamps which have appeared since the liberation of the Republic, the New York World's Fair Sheets, London Exhibition sheet, etc., etc. Our genial dealer member is the only one who during the past years has put out annual editions of his catalogs. Being in the publicity business I know to evaluate and appreciate these annual de luxe editions, which are printed in fine type on glossy paper, a very expensive thing today. I believe that at the price Mr. Kessler is selling these editions he is making a definite gift to collectors.

With some reluctance and embarrassment I feel compelled to say a few words about my appeal published in the November issue. Therein I told of the hardships which the people of Czechoslovakia are going to face this winter and asked for contributions of worn apparel for them. I do not know how many of you have taken the time to read this appeal—if I were to judge by actual reaction it was exactly one member. That lone member is A. J. Hrivnak of Chicago who sent in a large carton containing an assortment of clothing and woolens. The parcel has shortly after been relayed to the American Relief for Czechoslovakia and by this time one or possibly two suffering persons will be able to overcome hardships. To the donor special thanks!

I suppose that some of you will want to renew a subscription to some of the philatelic papers formerly printed in Czechoslovakia. At present only one publication appears there though another one soon is to be added. Its name is "Ceskoslovenska filatelie" (formerly "Tribuna filatelistu"). Unfortunately subscription is complicated. First of all the price is high—\$5.50 but this includes airmail shipment of each number. The publisher, however, does not care for money, he prefers in payment one full sheet of the Czechoslovakia flag stamp and here the problem is how to mail the sheet. If you use ordinary postal channels the censor over there will confiscate the sheet. The safest way would be to remit by bank check but the fee is prohibitive. Though all this information will probably discourage you, at least for the present, to mail your subscription some way or other, here is the publishers address, anyway: Fr. Borovy, nakladatelství, Praha I., Narodni tr. 9, Czechoslovakia.

Some time ago advertisements appeared in the philatelic press in which dealers offered stamps of Germany which had been overprinted as follows: "U. S. Army v C. S. R. 18.IV.1945." These overprinted stamps were allegedly issued by the United States Third Army at the post office Wildstein, Czechoslo-

vakia, in order to alleviate a shortage of stamps at that post office. The advertisements also offered a limited quantity of covers showing the set properly cancelled at Wildstein.

When these announcements appeared I received inquiries from members as well as non members regarding the authenticity of this issue. Being somewhat mystified I asked Czechoslovak authorities in this country to check up. They did. A few days ago I received the answer of the U. S. War Department written to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington and from there relayed to me via the Czechoslovak Consulate General of New York. The answer states that the War Department knows nothing of an issue for Czechoslovakia and that none was planned and authorized.

What aroused my personal suspicions were some of the following reasons and circumstances:

- 1) Why should the U. S. Third Army have exactly chosen Wildstein—an insignificant community. It would have taken quite some time for the local population to make use of these stamps for mailing purposes. Why were not these stamps sold also at some post office in larger towns or cities in the vicinity of Wildstein where an equal shortage must have existed, for instance As, Cheb or others?
- 2) It was stated that a United States officer had brought the "unsold remains" of the issue to this country. Now who was this officer and why should his name be withheld?
- 3) It was further stated that a few covers exist which were properly cancelled at Wildstein. This means exactly nothing! During the entry of General Patton's army into Bohemia that particular territory was no-mans-land. A "postmaster" or "Czechoslovak official" (though here also names are withheld) were only too willing to oblige when the request came from a man in the uniform of the liberating army.
- 4) To sum up—there was no need at all for an issue of this kind. We are dealing here with one of the old age "stunts" in which case the collectors of this country pay the bill. The procedure used in all communities of Czechoslovakia in which an actual shortage of stamps existed was this: The sender took his letter to the post office and there the postmaster or a clerk noted the fee paid on the cover adding signature or initials.

As time rolls on we will be offered many similar issues. They will have all sorts of names—emergency issues, provisionals or what have you because the baby must have a name. If you have to buy and you do not know the dealer ask for a money back guarantee. Or if you are in doubt contact me. I will tell you all I know and may save you money and trouble. But be sure to enclose a stamped and self addressed envelope.

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Report of Treasurer for 1945

Balance Jan. 1, 1945		\$170.06
Receipts:		
Dues	\$195.55	
Back issues of Specialist	6.00	
Comm. from Sales Mgr.	6.61	
Total	208.16	
Expense:		
Specialist	165.82	
Secretary's exp.	37.59	
Tres. exp.	1.50	
Bank charges	1.15	
Total	206.06	
1945 Balance of receipts over expenditures		2.10
Balance Jan. 1, 1946		172.16

—Guy Greenawalt.

The Philatelic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain

by George A. Blizil

In 1938 Czechoslovakia had four armies and a million and a half men under arms. Of all the European Democratic nations, she alone was prepared, with allied support to face Nazi aggression. Her armies were modern and streamlined, being equipped with the finest weapons from the famed Skoda Works.

In May 1938 the Nazis prepared for an invasion of the Czech Republic. On the night of May 20th they marched to the border of Bohemia. The alert Czechs also rushed there—in fact they won the race. You will remember a few shots were interchanged and a few troops killed, but Hitler's plot to take Czechoslovakia as he did Austria was foiled. Later that summer, on September 28th, a general Czech mobilization was ordered, and out of this military event the Munich pact was born and Sudetenland was given up.

March 15, 1939, Hitler broke his promise and overran Czechoslovakia, enforcing his protectorate. Almost overnight a good percentage of the Czech army streamed out of their country, all of them with a secret meeting place in mind. This meeting place was the fishing town of Agde, France, 120 miles west of Marseille on the Mediterranean coast. These refugee soldiers were joined by Czechs and Slovaks serving in the French Foreign Legion. Their ranks swelled with volunteers from all over the world. They had a difficult time getting organized because of the lack of equipment as the French Government did not have any too much for their own fighting of the Nazis.

January 1940 found the first Czech Division ready to fight in southern France. By this time their airmen were already working with the French Air Force. June 5th, 1940, their first orders were received from Gen. Weygand, and they marched north to their first engagement at Autricourt on June 14, 1940.

The next engagement with the Nazis was at Coulommiers on June 13, just 50 miles from Paris. Subsequent battles were fought at Grand Morin, Coulom-



GEORGE A. BLIZIL, of Cleveland Hts. Ohio, was born in Cleveland in 1908 and began collecting stamps about 25 years ago. His specialty is Czechoslovakia which was started about 15 years ago after disposing of a collection of 1st Issue Revenues. He has never seriously exhibited his collection of Czechoslovakia, but says that he will soon. He enjoys showing his France and Germany—material other than his specialty.

He is an amateur musician and has also formed a collection of music stamps and recordings.

Mr. Blizil, a member of the Cleveland Fire Department, is a member of the Garfield Perry Stamp Club, The Cleveland Czechoslovakia Stamp Club and the A. P. S. He has written several articles on Czechoslovakia for philatelic publications. In the past few years, Mr. Blizil has had direct correspondence with several Czech soldiers in Britain and has spoken several times on this subject.



Fig. 1

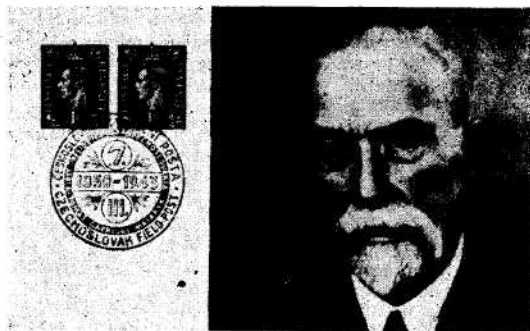


Fig. 2

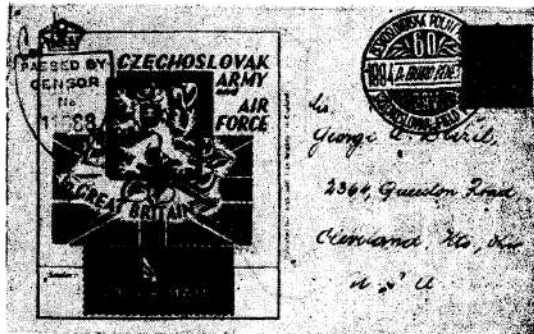


Fig. 3

miers (again), Montreaux on Seine (biggest), Gien, Rozoy, Presley and Chateaux. By this time all of France was in retreat, including the Czechoslovak Battalions. They travelled south with French refugees. Their last battle was at Bonneuil on June 22nd, where last orders were given by the French Gen. R. Jeannel on June 23rd. All these orders together with some of the Czech Field Post accessories are carefully preserved and will be installed someday in the proposed Military Museum in Prague.

A week later the Czech Army was back at Agde. It must be remembered that the famous Dunkirk evacuation was completed June 4th—before the Czechs started to fight. One night late in June 1940, the entire Czech Army sailed



Fig. 4

from Agde; and their next appearance was in England, where they were welcomed by President Benes and other officials of the government in exile.

The Commander in Chief of the Czechoslovak Forces in Britain was General Serej Ingr (former Minister of National Defense). Inspector General of the Air Forces was Air Vice Marshal Karel Jannusek. Their Air Force in Britain numbered over 1000 trained men. By 1942 the Czech Forces in Britain numbered approximately 30,000 men. Their Red Cross was established in London in 1940, and it was the center of their health and social services. Since the number of Czechoslovak doctors was in excess of the forces, several had been allocated to the British Army.

The Forces were made up of men in all walks of life; however, the majority were made up of professional men and university graduates. With soldiers of this caliber, the percentage of philatelists was high. Nearly all their collections were left behind, but they had philatelic interests and chose to commemorate different Czech holidays and patriotic events through the use of commemorative cancellations, cachets and favor sheets at their Field Post Office (Pólní Posta).

The Field Post was established in southern England in 1940 under the supervision of the British Post Office Dept. At that time all mail was cancelled with the usual English cancellations on British stamps. The outgoing station was Leamington Spa, although the official address of the Czech units was Box 226, London E. C. 1.

Dates which were acknowledged in the form of commemorative cancellations at the Field Post Office were:

- March 7th—President Liberator Masaryk's birthday.
- March 15th—National Day of Mourning—the date the Nazis siezed Czechoslovakia in 1939, also known as Black Saturday.
- May 4th—Birthday of General M. Stefanik, one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Republic.
- May 28th—President Eduard Benes' birthday.
- July 2nd—Anniversary date of the Battle of Zborov in 1917—THE important military achievement of the Czech Legions in Russia, 1st World War
- July 26th—The date in 1940 that President Benes formally inspected and dedicated the new Czech units in Britain.
- September 15th—Birthday of Peter Bezruc, Czech National Poet, who fought against the Germanization of the Czechoslovak people.
- September 28th—St. Wenceslaus Day.
- October 28th—National Independence Day.

November 14th—Anniversary of the death of President Liberator T. G. Masaryk.
 November 17th—Closing of all Czechoslovak Universities by the Germans in
 1939 and the day the students were massacred.

(To be Continued)

NEW CZECHOSLOVAK ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

Collectors of Czechoslovakian stamps can look forward to many new issues in the next few years. Commemorative stamps and/or commemorative cancellations can be expected for the birthdays of Masaryk, Benes and Stefanik. A Peace issue is hinted for the near future, as well as a stamp for the forthcoming 1946 elections. Student Day issues can be expected for 1946 and 1947 also, as well as other national events. Sometime during the next year or two a commemorative series may be expected honoring the new friendship pact between CSR and USSR.

The next "Slet" of the Sokols, the far-flung Czechoslovak athletic societies, will be held in Praha in 1948, in connection with the celebration of several anniversaries, according to reports in Csl. newspapers.

Philatelic issues are certain to be expected in connection with anniversaries of the Lidice incident, as well as dedication of the new Lidice National Park.

The year 1948 will be the 600th anniversary of the founding of Charles University in Praha. Also 1948 will be the 100th anniversary of the abolition of Robota, a peonage system under which the Czech peasants had to slave for the German feudal lords. Another 1948 set may be expected in connection with the 100th anniversary of the first all-Slav Congress, which was held in Praha during the hectic year of 1848.

In the next few years the newly re-born CSR is expected to enter into friendly alliances and pacts with other nations throughout Europe, and these too, in all probability, will be observed philatelically.

—Geo. A. Blizil.

SEND YOUR 1946 DUES TO THE TREASURER NOW!!!!

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1945

President: Karel Zahradnicek, 13306 Bartlett Av., Cleveland 20, O.
 National Sec.: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.
 International Sec.: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, New York 56, N. Y.
 Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 1443 No. Hudson Ave., Chicago 10, Ill.
 Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave, Chicago 43, Ill.
 Sales Mgr.: W. Fritzsche, % McDonald, 3317 Glenwood Rd., Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

POZOR FILATELISTÉ V Č.S.R.

Chcete-li se státi členy Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America neb si vyměňovat známky s jejími členy, pište o informace našemu mezinárodnímu tajemníkovi: **J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, New York 56, N. Y., U.S.A.**