

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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EDITORIAL

The latest report has our editor making fine progress and by the time this is published he should be leaving the hospital. Mr. Kovarik's advance planning and well organized handling of material ready for publication has made it possible for the Chicago group to publish the Specialist without interruption.

At a recent philatelic banquet, an officer of a national society made the statement that he was a member of 63 different stamp clubs. Several months previously this writer had discussed the same subject with this man and questioned the advantage of belonging to so many clubs. The answer was that if for no other reason, to give them his support.

I was convinced that this man has a very important point. It is not necessary to join every club that you can find the address of, but if philately is to flourish, it is necessary that you give the clubs you do belong to your wholehearted support. Your interest is also vital in protecting your investment of both time and money. Most collectors are interested in that angle and only continued demand for stamps can keep their value up.

Supporting your club can be done in various ways. Read your monthly publication, comment on it and if possible contribute an article. If you have any special talents, these can often be used by the club to advantage. You can offer your services in other ways—volunteer for office or take on a job at exhibition time. Every club needs willing workers! As in every other endeavor, you will only get something out of philately if you put something into it.

Let your officers hear from you if you have anything at all to contribute to the society.

OUR SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

This department is still going strong. As usual, there is a shortage of sales books with good Czech material, occasionally there are some, if properly priced they usually sell out, if priced too high, no one will touch them. This shortage of books with Czech stamps is made up with an over supply of books with other countries. Therefore, a person who collects other than Czech will have pretty good picking from our sales books, while one who collects Czech only will see a sales circuit only on rare occasions.

Anyone interested in receiving our circuits and or in having in mind to send in books for sale only should write to me for particulars.

Buying from our sales books helps the Society. The commissions so far (in the average) have paid for one issue of the Specialist in each year, or if one likes to look at it from another angle, these commissions enabled us to print larger issues of the Specialist.

Now a few remarks regarding the routing of our circuits: it is very hard for me to have circuits stopped from going to a particular member or to skip a member for a certain length of time. Once the circuit is on the road I have almost no control over it because one never knows how long any individual may sit on a circuit. Sometimes it moves at record speed and at other times a member has it for a month or more. If anyone wants to be skipped for a short while only, I suggest that they accept those circuits which are in circulation just the same and send them on their way again immediately. In such cases it has happened that by the time I had stopped circuits from getting to a certain member, he was again ready to receive them. Up to this time I have done my best to comply with members' wishes as to stoppages and skipping of certain months, but it has not always worked out.

At this time I also would like to point out, that this department is run on only 5% commission (we collect 10%, 5% for the Society and 5% to run the dept.), which hardly pays for postage and printing costs. For that reason participants full cooperation and observance of rules is necessary. Most of the members who receive circuits and who send in sales books are with us for many long years, some even since we first started, which seems to indicate that it pays to buy from and sell through our sales department.

Your sales manager,
Wolfgang Fritzsche,
P. O. B. #402, Geneva, N. Y.

NEW MEMBER

515 Joseph Kostal, P. O. Box 786, Tehran, Iran

NEW and RECENT ISSUES

(again) MINT only

558-59—35th Anniversary15	Gottwald Mourning, 2 val.14
560-61—1952 Red Cross15	Gottwald Sheet20
562-63—Aleš15	Socialist, 1 val.06
565-66—Peace21	Bicycle, 1 val.09
Writers and Poets, 5 val.35	Socialist Construct, 3 val.17
Nejedlý Birth, 2 val.17	May Day, 1953, 4 val.42
Peace Congress, 2 val.17	Agriculture, 2 val.26
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Václavek, 2 val.12	Music Festival50
Womens Day, 2 val.11	Regular Issue, 6 val.80
Stalin Mourning, 1 val.05	Prague Castle75

I have everything in stock from #1 to date but I cannot help YOU if you do not write to ME.

Get Going!!!

B. J. MILLER

264 E. 180th St.

New York 57, N. Y.

Czech Field Posts

By George A. Blizil

(Reprinted from STAMPS with permission of Author and Publisher)

Much has been written in the past several years about the Field Post Offices of the Czechoslovak Army operating in France and Britain during World War II. The writer has a comprehensive collection of Field Post material of that war, and wishes to report a few current findings which will add further information to this philatelic phase of the great war.

As we know, a large portion of the Czech Army fled their homeland when Hitler made his 1939 invasion of Czechoslovakia. This new army assembled in Agde, France, and by early 1940 had become an efficient military force, fighting for a Free France. Agde is a coastal town on the Mediterranean, in the province of Herault. The Czechs set up their Field Post Office at Agde, which operated with the French P.T.T.

There were four distinctive types of cancellations in use by the Czechs in France during their short stay in the country in 1940. They were, (1) Birthday of Masaryk; (2) the birthday of Gen. Milan Stefanik; (3) the Czechoslovak Regiments Leave for the Front to Fight for France; and (4) the regular cancellation of the Field Postmaster, "Le Vaguemestre," of the Czech Regiments.

All soldier mail cleared through le Vaguemestre, and there were TWO types of French cancellations applied on this mail at Agde. Illustrated is a cover censored by the 1st Regiment Field Postmaster in red. It bears the usual "Soldier's Censorship" label ("Controle Postal Militaire"). The Agde town cancel on the cover is "Port de la Nouvelle," or Office of Intelligence.

The other illustrated item from Agde is a post card with the cancellation



Dr. Benes autographing philatelic material for Czech soldiers in London, July, '40



At top: the front of cover censored by 1st Regiment Field Postmaster at Camp Agde, and with "Vojenska Censura" censor tape, as well as the circular cen-

sor's mark in red. Below it is shown a portion of the back of this cover, with the "Controle Postal Militaire" imprinted on the censor tape, and the postal marking "Beziers/Herault" and "slogan Le Vin Est Un Aliment Buvez Du Vin."

At bottom is a postcard with the cancellation "Camp d'Agde/Herault."

"Camp d'Agde—Herault." This card also bears the mark of the Czech 3rd Regiment Field Postmaster. In the upper left corner is the Czechoslovak coat of arms, together with the patriotic statement: "An Independent Czechoslovakia within a Free Europe." These are the two recorded Agde cancellations used in connection with the Czech Army mail in France, 1940.

Upon the fall of France to the Nazis in late June 1940, the entire Czech Army sailed from Agde. Their next appearance was in England, where they were welcomed by President Benes and other officials of their government in exile. We know that the Polni Posta (Field Post) flourished in Britain for the next four and one-half years, with the cooperation of the British Post Office Department. Several types of cancels, regular and commemorative, were employed during the Czech Army's residence there.

The first unreported British Cancellation is a commemorative type used on July 26, 1940, for the first official visit of President Benes to the Czech Army Camp at Cholmondeley Castle near London. The early impressions of the cancel had "Cholmondeley" inscribed beneath the date line. In later use of this cancellation we find "Cholmondeley" removed, apparently for security reasons. In all probability the removal of the name, which revealed the exact location of the camp, was done the same day. Original "Cholmondeley" cancellations are considered quite scarce. At this time they are only known on souvenir programs issued that date.

The second unreported British cancellation is one used to commemorate the Czech Independence Day, October 28, 1940. Early use of this cancellation has "Leamington Spa" underneath the date line. The words "Leamington Spa" were also removed (possibly the same day) because of security reasons. An attempt was made to keep the exact location of the Czechs a secret.



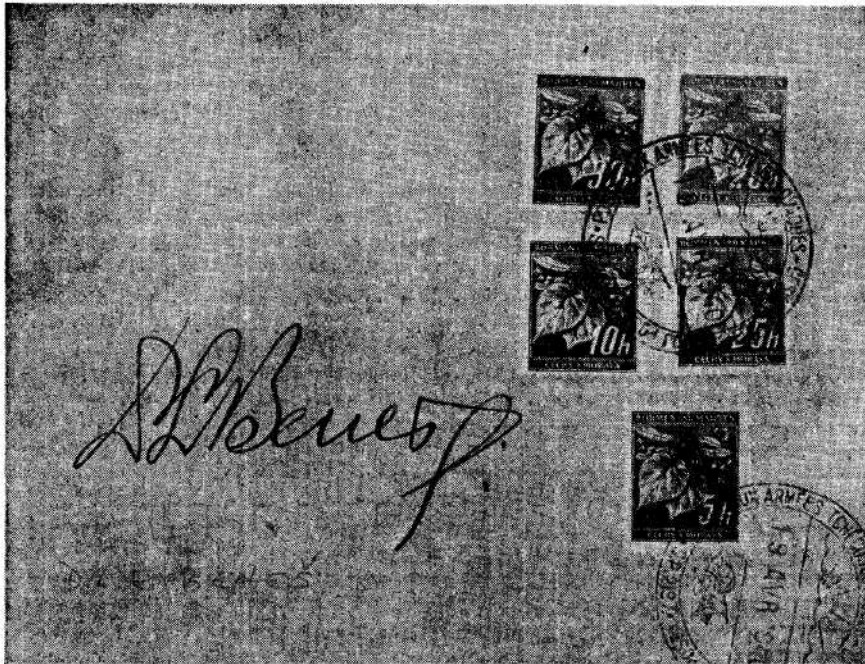
At left is the British cancellation of July 26, 1940, for the first official visit of President Benes to the Czech Army Camp at Cholmondeley. At right, the Leamington Spa cancellation to commemorate the Czech Independence Day, October 28, 1940.

Leamington Spa was the official post office, and the exact location was Cholmondeley Castle, even though the castle and entrance to the grounds are illustrated in the July 26th cancellation.

During the early part of the war, President Benes visited the camp several times. He frequently obliged philatelists with autographs, and the illustration shows the beloved President signing covers for soldiers at one of his autograph parties. Also illustrated is one of the covers he signed. The cover is strictly "manufactured," inasmuch as it bears stamps of Bohemia & Moravia (Nazi occupation) and is cancelled with a French Field Post cancel, which someone brought along from Agde.

Now, almost fourteen years later, the writer has acquired possession of several souvenir programs. These programs have a philatelic flavor, bearing stamps and Field Post cancellations, to let the British public know that there was a Czechoslovak Army in Britain. These 1940 programs were sold as souvenirs of exhibitions and concerts given by the soldiers in Liverpool, Southampton, Wolverhampton, etc.

These are a few more items which can be added to the history of the Czechoslovak Field Post, one of the most colorful of all military posts.



Cover autographed by Dr. Benes, and cancelled April 19, 1940, with a French Field Post cancel which someone brought along from Agde. President Benes visited the camp several times in the early part of the war, and frequently obliged philatelists with autographs.

OFFICERS for 1953-1954

President: W. B. Bryant, 1661 Spruce St., So. Pasadena, Calif.

Secretary: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

Treasurer: Geo. C. Kobyłka, 1433 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

mříž	mesh, net, bar, grate, cross bar
mřížkovaný	quadrilled
mřížovaný	meshed
mrštěný	thrown
mrtvý	deceased, defunct, dead
Muškat	Muscat
museum	museum

mušle	shell
muž, muži	man, men
mylka	mistake
mylně	wrongfully, mistakenly
myrta	myrtle
mys	point, cape
Mys Dobré Naděje	Cape of Good Hope

N

na	on
nabídka,	bid, offer, proposal
nabídnutí	
nabídnouti	to offer
nabízeč	one who offers
nabubření	inflation
nabytí	acquisition
nabýti	to acquire
nabýti platnosti	to come in force
náčelník	chief
náčrt	sketch
načrtnutý	sketchily shown
nad	over, above, on top
nádech	tinge
na dně	at the bottom
na dolejších okrajích	at the bottom edge
na dobírky	C. O. D.
nápis	title, heading
nádraží	railroad station
nadřizovaný	superintendent
nadutí,	inflation
nafouknutí	
náhlá událost	emergency
nahnědlý	brownish
náhodile	accidently
nahodilý	incidental
náhodou	by accident
nahore	above, on top
náhrada,	replacement,
náhradník	substitute
náhradný	makeshift
prostředek	
náhrobek	monument
na jedné straně	on one side
náklad	load, capacity, shipment, edition
náklad na lodi	shipment
nákladný	expensive
nakloněný	leaning, bent, inclined
na koni	horseback
nákres	design, draft
na kříž	across
nalepený	hinged
nalepiti	size, paste up

nálepka	hinge, (christmas) seal
na líci	on the face
namazati	to size
náměstek	deputy
náměstí	square
na místě	instead of—
namítati	to object, to except
námítka	exception, objection
na obálce	on cover
nápad	hit, idea, thought
nápadný	conspicuous
napadnouti	to occur
na palubě	on board ship
nápis	inscription, label, heading
nápis na okraji	margin inscription
naplnění	replenishment
napnouti	to stretch
nápodobení	imitation
nápodobení	copied
napodobiti	to imitate, counterfeit
nápověd	cue
napřed	in front
napříč	crosswise
na prodej	for sale
na prospěch	for the benefit
napsati	to write
na půl rozříznutý	bisected
na půl rozdělití	to halve
naraziti	to strike
naříditi	to direct
nařízení	ordinance, rules, directive, regula- tion, disposition
národ	nation, people
národní barvy	national colors
národní kroj	native costume
nárok	claim, demand
narozeniny	birthday
na rubu	on the back
nárys	design, profile, outline, sketch, contour

nárysový	diagramatic	nedokazující	inconclusive
násilí	force	nedokonalost	imperfection
následovně	therefore	nedokonalý tisk	imperfect print
následující	subsequent,	nedokončený	incomplete
	following	nedostatečný	insufficient
nástin	sketch	nedostatek	imperfection,
nastolití	to inaugurate		defect, shortage
na straně	on the side	nedruhovaný	unsorted
na střed dáti	to center	nedůležitý	unimportant
naplniti, nasytiti	to fill	negativní	negative
natáhnouti	to stretch	nehoda	accident
nátěr	tinge	nehotový	incomplete
nátlak	compulsion	nějaký	some
nátlak činiti	to stress	nejasná barva	flat color
natočený	wound	nejasnost	blur
natřítí	to size	nejasný	unclear, blurred
na ukázk	on approval	nejdalší	extreme
naušnice	earrings	nejistota	doubt
návěst	proposition	nejistý	dubious, question-
návěstí	notice		able, doubtful
navlhčiti	to dampen,	nejméně	at least
	to moisten	nejmenší	minimum, smallest
návod dáti	to instruct	nejmenší	minimum
navrácení v	rehabilitation	přírůstek	increment
předešlý stav		nejprve	at first
návrh	design, draft,	nejvíce	mostly
	offer, proposal	nejvyšší	extreme, highest
navrhnouti	to offer, to move,	nejvyšší cena	top value
	to draw	někdy	at times
návrh na poštov-	stamp design	neklížený	ungummed
ní známku		několik	some, several
návštěva váleč-	naval visit	několika	multicolored
ného lod'stva		barevný	
navzdor	in spite of	několikrát	a few times
na zadu	on the back	nekonečný	endless
na zem vysaditi	to land,	některý	some
vyločiti	to disembark	německé vojsko	Africa Corps
náznačiti	to indicate, to	v Africe	
	hint at	Německo	Germany
názorný	typical	Německá marka	German mark
nazvání	denomination	Německá říše	German empire
Neapol	Naples	Německá Vý-	German East
neb, nebo	or	chodní Afrika	Africa
nebezpečný	dangerous	Německá Jihozá-	German S. W.
nechatí	to leave	padní Afrika	Africa
nečinný	idle	němé razítko	mute cancel
nečitelný	illegible	nemíti	to lack
nedávný	late, recent	nemotorný	clumsy
nedbalý	careless,	nemožnost	inability
	inaccurate	nenamazaný	unsized
nečistá deska	dirty plate	nenápadný	inconspicuous
nečistý	dirty, unclean	nenatřený	unsized
něco	some	není na prodej	not for sale
Neděle	Sunday	není u prostřed	off center
Nedělní poštovní	Sunday Stamp,	neomezený	unbounded
známka, Belgie	in Belgium	neobsazený	unoccupied
nedílný	indivisible	neobvyklý	new, unusual

neobyčejný	peculiar, uncommon, extraordinary	neschopnost	inability
neodpovědný	unaccountable	nesčítatelně	many
neodvislý	independent	nesfalšovaný	unadulterated
neohrabaný	clumsy	neškodný	harmless
neopatrný	careless	nesnáze	difficulty
neopatrnost	carelessness	nesprávný	inaccurate
neoprávněný	unauthorized	nésti	to carry
neorazítkovaný	mint, uncanceled	nestranný	unbiased
neotypie	photogravure, rotary gravure, rotogravure, rotoprint, heliogravure, rototaglio	netříděný	unsorted
		neúčinný	invalid, ineffective
		neúplnost	imperfection
		neúplný	incomplete
		neubotřebený	unused
		neurčitý	inconclusive, undetermined
nepatřičně	improperly	neúřední	unofficial
nepatrně	slightly	neviditelný	invisible
nepatrný	small	nevyhnutelný	indispensable
neplatný	not valid	nevyzkoumaný	unexplored
nepodobný	unlike	Nový Jižní Wales	New South Wales
nepokrytý	unsized	Nový Zeland	New Zealand
nepořádek	disorder	nezabraný	unoccupied
neporušenost	incorruptible	nezaručený	unauthentic
neporušený klíč	O.G., original gum	nezávadný	not objectionable
nepoškozený	whole, intact,	nezbytný	indispensable
		nezdařilý	unsuccessful
		nezdravý	unsound, unhealthy
neposkvrněný	immaculate	nezkušený	inexperienced, new
nepostačitelný	insufficient	nezměnitelný	unchangeable
nepotištěný	blank	neznamenaný	unmarked
nepotvrzený	unaffirmed, unconfirmed	neznámý	unknown
		nezměněný	unchanged
		něžný	smooth, delicate, fine, small, tender
neužitý	unused	nezoubkovaný	imperforate
nepoužitý	unapplied	Nigeria	Nigeria
nepoznaný	unrecognizable	níže	lower, below
nepozorný	careless	nižší	lower
nepravdivý	artificial	Nižní Kalifornie	lower California
neprávě	improperly	Nizozemí	Holland
nepravidelný	irregular	nižší	inferior
nepřerušeno	uninterrupted	noha	foot, leg
nepřesný	inaccurate	nominální cena	nominal value
nepřetržený	uninterrupted	Norsko	Norway
nepřetrženost	continuation	nosič	carrier
nepřijatelný	unacceptable	nositi	to carry
nepřímo	indirectly	nouze	need
nepřipustný	inadmissible	nouzové vydání	emergency issue
nepřítomný	absent	nová cena	reevaluation
neprodejný	unsalable	Nová Guinea	New Guinea
neproměnný	unchangeable	Nové Hebridy	New Hebrides
neprovázený	unattended	Nová Kaledonie	New Caledonia
neprozkoumaný	unexplored	Nová Skotia,	Nova Scotia
nerost	mineral	Nové Skotsko	
nerostný	mineral	nově oceněno	reevaluation
nerovný	rough	nové utvoření	reproduction
nerovné	rough perforation		
zoubkování			
nerozeznatelný	unrecognizable		
nerozhodný	undetermined, undecided		

nové vydání	new issue	nový tisk	new print
novinková služba	new issue service	novověký, nový	modern, new
novinová daň	newspaper tax	Nový Brunšvik	New Brunswick
novinová známka	newspaper stamp	Nový Fundland	Newfoundland
noviny	press, news, newspaper	Nožiky	scissors, shears
novotisk	reprint	nucený	pressed, forced
novotisk úředně oprávněný	authorized reprint	nutiti	to drive, to force
nové vydání	new issue	nůžky	scissors
		Nyassa	Nyassa
		nynější	present, modern
		nyní	at present, now

O

obal, obálka	envelope, wrapper, cover	oběžník	circular
obálka se znám- kou a razítkem	cover, entire	obíhající	current
obálka s razít- kem prvního dne vydání	first day cover	objednati	to order
obarvený	colored	objednávká	order
obarvení	to color	objem	size
obava	doubt	objev	discovery, appearance
občan	citizen, civilian	objeviti se	to appear
občanské komité	citizens committee	obkreslení	copy
občanský	civil	obkreslený	copied
obanský výbor	citizens committee	obkresliti	to copy
obchod	firm, traffic, trade, business	oblahově modrý	sky blue, azure
obchodní tiskopis	business printed matter	oblast	region, locality, territory, district
obchodní smlouva	commercial treaty	oblast dolů	mine country
obchodník	dealer, merchant	oblastní	local
obchodník ve známkách	stamp dealer	oblíbiti si	to take fancy
obchodní značka	trade mark	oblíčeť	face
obchodovati	to trade	obloučkově protknuté zoubkování	percé on arc
obdélník	oblong	oblouk	curve, arc
obdélník na výšku	vertical oblong	obmezení	shortening
obec	settlement	obmezený	shortened, nar- row, limited
obecnstvo	public	obmýšliti	to signify, to mean
obecnice, obecní dům	city hall	obnos	rate, amount
obdélně	horizontal oblong	obnos poštovního	amount of postage
vodorovný		obnova	reconstruction
obdržení	receiving	obnovení	reopening, reconstruction
obdržeti	to receive	obnovení zásoby	replenishment of stock
obdržeti v pořádku	to receive in good order	obnovený oběh	renewed circulation
obecní zaměstna- nec, služebník, úředník	civil employée	obnoviti	to renew, restore, repair, reconstruct
oběh	currency, wheel, run, circulation	obor	province, field
obě strany	both sides	oboustranně	both sides
obět	victim	obracený	reversed
		obrat	reverse
		obrátili	to turn over
		obratník	tropic

March of the 80,000

Story of the Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia

By W. L. Russell

(Reprinted from "Stamps" with permission of author and of publisher)

The suggestion of stamps was approved by Gen. Klecanda, but he pointed out the technical difficulties of production. In September 1919 the first designs were prepared. The authors were Jan Maly, Karel Cila, and J. Svec. Of the various designs three were chosen, with slight modifications. They were lithographed in Irkutsk at the Makushin & Posochin Litho Works. The printing was done by Czech volunteers under supervision. In December 1919 the stamps were sold at FPO's gummed but imperforate. Later the sheets were sent to the Printing establishment of the Propaganda Council, and there perforated (gauge 11½). The latter were issued on January 14th, 1920. The paper used for the stamps was purchased from Japan. For purposes of record the establishment of Makushin & Posochin was located at 19 Bolshot street, and the Propaganda Council's Printing Works at 3 Soldat street.

By this time the troops were leaving for home and so the balance of the imperforate sheets was shipped to Prague and there gummed and perforated by the "Unie" (Perf. 13¾). Of course, these last were never used on service mail and the reason for their issue has never been cleared up.

Issue of the "Lion" Stamps

This design was prepared by the Committee of the Red Cross in Prague. The design was the joint work of J. Rossler-Orovsky and Lieut. Rybak, and each stamp was DIED OUT separately. Both Die and printing were the work of K. Kolman in Prague. Two hundred thousand stamps, together with the dies, were sent to Siberia, half via England and Canada, and the other half through Trieste and Japan. The first shipment reached Vladivostok considerably damaged by damp and cold. The second shipment arrived in comparatively good condition at the beginning of 1920. Part of these stamps went to the General Staff and a part reached the train of General Janin. As they were without a figure of value the FPO overprinted them with "1920" and the denominations, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50k and 1R. This was done in Irkutsk, which was then the definite postal H/Q of the Legion. Mail had to be sent to this point from the various sub-post offices scattered over Siberia. There were several of these sub-stations located in this vast territory. From them mails were delivered from time to time to Irkutsk by whatever means were available, such as cars, troop-trains, horse, bicycle, and also foot-messengers. From Irkutsk onwards the accumulated mails were sent in armored trains to Vladivostok, where they were entrusted to either American or Japanese ships via various sea-routes.

Amount of Mail Carried

It is estimated that the mail carried during the period that the Siberian FPO was in operation was four million letters, ten million newspapers, and four thousand registered letters. Of these 17,400 letters were for destination in, or arrival from, U. S. A.; England, 16,000; France, 14,800. From April 1919 to September 1920, Czechoslovakia sent to its armies in Siberia 500,000 letters and 1600 parcels.

The Field Post Served the Allies

It is important to note that the Czechoslovak Field Post operated for the

Allies as well as for themselves. An official reckoning of expenditures and receipts of this Field Post gives the following figures of allocations which fell on the Allied states or their armies, for the period of the carrying on of the Fieldpost up to December 31st, 1919:

	Dollars
U. S. A. -----	151,547.37
Great Britain -----	71,534.31
France -----	66,739.83
Italy -----	2,212.37
Roumania -----	4,056.01
Jugoslavia -----	5,530.93
Poland -----	9,218.21
Lithuania -----	368.73
China -----	368.73
Czech-Russian Formations -----	4,056.01

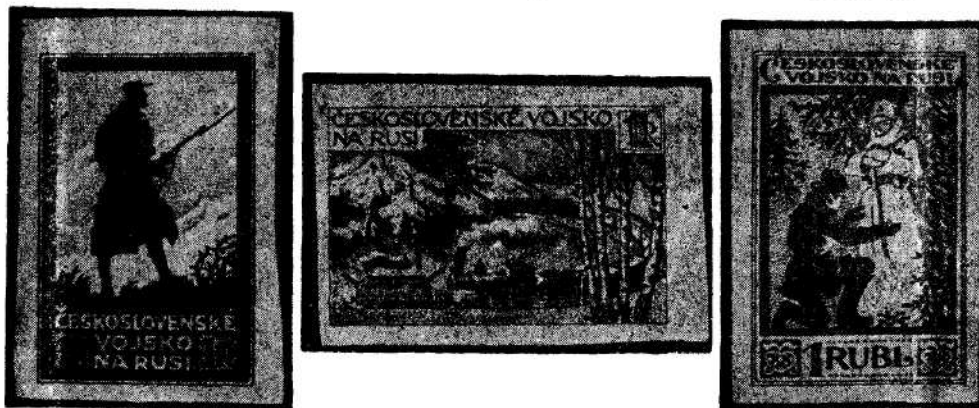
Japan had its own Field Post, therefore it is missing from the above tabulation.

Allied Troops in Far East

British troops were sent to Vladivostok to support the Czechoslovaks operating against the Bolsheviks. These comprised the 9th Battalion Hampshire Regiment, and the 25th Batt. Middlesex Regiment. The Middlesex Regt. landed in Vladivostok in August 1918, followed by the 9th Hants from Hong Kong, who traveled from Vladivostok to Omsk and Krasnojarsk in cattle trucks during December. After wintering at Omsk and Krasnojarsk, the troops were withdrawn in the Spring of 1919 to Vladivostok. In addition to these British units there were representatives of the other Allied powers, consisting of approximately 60,000 Japanese, 12,000 Poles, 9,000 Americans, 4,000 Canadians, 4,000 Jugoslavs, 4,000 Rumanians, 2,000 Italians, and 800 French. The Americans consisted of the 27th U. S. Infantry Regiment, 31st Infantry Regiment, and some 4,000 men of the 8th Division from Camp Fremont, Cal.

Stamps Prepared, but Not Issued

Four stamps were designed and lithographed in green, blue, violet, red, and brown before the final designs were chosen. They are essays only, and the four designs were proofed together on the one sheet in Irkutsk. They are extremely elusive, although they have only little value and none at all out-



Essays of stamps intended for use by the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia

side a specialized Czechoslovak collection.

(The author has drawn his information from a variety of sources, and acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Francis W. Beedon, the late J. W. Lowey, Anton Novotny and, of course, the Hirsch and Franek handbook.)

STAMPS IN HONOR OF ST. ADALBERT
(Reprinted with permission from "Svornost")



In each issue of our English section, we shall bring a description of an outstanding person, historical place, or feature of importance pertaining to stamps, particularly those of Czechoslovakia, the United States, and the United Nations. We are beginning with a brief story of St. Adalbert, in whose honor, on the occasion of the 950th anniversary of his death, Czechoslovakia issued three stamps in the value of 1.60, 2.40, and 5 Kčs, on April 23, 1947.

St. Adalbert, a great historical personage at the dawn of Czech history in the Xth century, is known as an outstanding representative of Czech cultural endeavours in the Roman period and a missionary in Hungary, Poland, and Prussia.

From his youth St. Adalbert displayed a desire for travel and prepared himself for missionary work, to which he dedicated his life. As soon as he finished his studies in Magdeburg he saw the necessity of spreading principles of morality in his homeland. He himself had the virtue of strict morals, lacking elsewhere to a considerable extent. As a young priest he waged hard battles for the maintenance of moral principles with incorrigible pupils. He was elected the successor of Bishop Dětman, but his noble efforts met with little understanding and he therefore left Prague on a second long journey to Italy which took him over the Alps to Verona. In his time there were few inns and so he slept in monasteries and everywhere where hospitable people were to be found. In Verona the Archbishop of Mayence presented him with a bishop's staff. He went on to Rome and settled in the monastery of St. Boniface.

Meanwhile, however, the Czechs sent two priests, Kristian and Radl, to urge him to return home. Their persuasion had little effect and only at the express wish of the Pope did St. Adalbert return to Bohemia with 12 Benedictines in 992, and in Břevnov, Prague, he founded the first Benedictine monastery, within whose walls many cultural relics of his life's work are preserved.

In other places, too, St. Adalbert's memory is recalled; in Milavčí, for instance, there is a well called St. Adalbert's well with which an interesting tale is connected as portrayed by a Czech painter, J. Luxa, on the ceiling and walls of the small church in Milavčí. The paintings show a tired St. Adal-

bert resting in a pasture. The tale has it that a shepherd, driving a flock of sheep by, blew a horn in the sleeping man's ear. God punished him by making him deaf and from that time on horns were never blown in the village, whips being cracked or bells rung instead. According to tradition, St. Adalbert consecrated a church in the village of Hlohová, Southern Bohemia, in 981, and he is said to have converted a large number of pagans there. St. Adalbert's footsteps are to be seen on the large root of an elm in Libakovice, as well as on a stone in St. Adalbert's chapel in Dražkov. By a chapel above the village of Vrčeň there is a stone in which the Saint is said to have left a hollow when he rested on it.

His last mission led St. Adalbert to martyrdom. He asked Prince Boleslav to give him a ship to take him to Prussia and the Prince gladly consented. St. Adalbert was tortured to death by the heathen Prussians in 997, thus crowning his life's work by self-sacrifice. He was buried as a martyr in Hnězdn Cathedral. His body was bought by Prince Boleslav and returned to his homeland in 1038.

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November 21st—Paul Marusic, 1720 S. Clinton, Chicago 16, Ill.

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