

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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EDITORIAL

Our last issue gave you an idea of our future Specialist. When we were publishing the Kvasnička articles we were spending about \$50 each month for cuts. When our treasury got low (so low it almost scraped the rock bottom and no rocks) we were compelled to economize and we did this so effectively the members could not read the Specialist on Sunday because it lacked pictures, and what good is a Sunday paper without pictures? We have reached financial normalcy but again we are promised articles, both informative and interesting, which may necessitate a greater outlay for illustrations. Frankly, we have members ready to drop out if we raise the dues to \$3. If we raise the dues of the sustaining and patron members we may nullify our plans for an increase in revenue. If we raise our advertising rates we may court financial disaster. Therefor we ask for volunteers who are ready to go beyond the normal line of duty, not only to retain and help those who are unable to pay more, but who are ready to pay a premium on the service they obtain. We hear so much about the have not nations, we lose sight of the fact there are in our own country, have not individuals. If Heaven should send us a moneyed angel, both the have nots and have enoughts can gain in worthwhile information.

Every day brings us auction catalogs from all parts of the world. The most recent and therefor recorded here, comes from "Köhler-Auktion, Wiesbaden, Taunusstrasse 79, Germany." The catalog received contained material dear to the heart of every Czecho collector. Any member interested in getting future catalogs of this company may write for same, but, please, mention you read about it in the Czechoslovak Specialist.

Our treasurer received a worthy admonition regarding our newly accepted constitution. From now on there are two classes of regular membership: The associate and active; the active are local members and the associate are those residing elsewhere than in North America. What we called associate members before are the present sustaining members, for obvious reasons and the patron type of membership remains unchanged. The nomenclature is self-explanatory and we trust that at least thru this year the titles of the past and new be retained without offence. This gives us one more opportunity to ask the associate and active members to raise their dues to the sustaining class and the sustaining member to patrons. Last year we had 15 patron members which in dollars and cents is equivalent to 75 regular members. We thank the sustaining and patron members for their extra contribution; without this support the Society would have to disband.

In the next issue of the Specialist our librarian Frank J. Kosik, R. 3, Box

463, Delavan, Wis., will ask for donations to the Fall Benefit Auction which will take place Nov. 29, 1958. Already he has received some very fine items, covers bearing genuine used copies of Pošta Československá 1919. Please give with an open heart and then bid generously for the material you'll want for your collection.

The May 17 issue of the magazine STAMPS will be devoted to your Society as a Special Czecho Issue. It will contain a lengthy article, well illustrated, from the typewriter of member Joseph Jiranek. The magazine is one of the largest philatelic publications in the world and we recommend it to our members. Why not write for a sample copy to Stamps, 153 Waverly Pl., New York 14, N. Y. Please mention the Czechoslovak Specialist.

The election of officers is scheduled for April and with this issue of the Specialist you will receive a ballot which you fill out and mail to the secretary, Mr. Melvin F. Klozar, 601 Tuxedo Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. The sooner you take care of this the less chance of forgetting it. We do expect a bigger response than we had with the constitution.

Some members in Britain and Australia foresaw difficulties purchasing the handbook when published. We made arrangements for members down under to order their copies through Mr. W. L. Russell, 13 Park Crescent, Moonee Ponds W. 4, Vic., Australia and those in Great Britain through Mr. Eric H. Rogers, 27 Brewster Rd., Leyton, London E. 10, England.

A very interesting letter came from Prague: "As you know we philatelists meet Sunday afternoon in a larger hall for "exchange sessions." Specially designated representatives of stamp groups show and sell stamps of the members' duplicates. The members themselves are not permitted to sell anything, but they are permitted to exchange stamps. Last Sunday the government wanted to stop these meetings because the present arrangement does not permit a strict overseeing of activities."

Did you pay your 1958 dues? Send your dues to the treasurer George C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

Last but not least: If you do not take active part in our participation of Compex; if you don't show your stamps at the Compex exhibition; if you do not take an ad or do not obtain an ad for the Compex Directory, yet you want to do something as a gesture of goodwill, send in a donation of \$1 or \$5 or whatever you can afford as a goodfellow or patron to either Jos. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill., or to Geo. Havlik, 2336 S. 56th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill. We want Compex 58 to be a success because our Society can benefit thereby.

NEW YORK GROUP MEETING

The last meeting of the group took place Friday, Feb. 21 in the rooms of the Collectors Club. The following were present: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, L. M. Horechny, E. J. Michaelson, W. V. Schoenig, Mrs. W. Reiner-Deutsch, N. Feiwelsohn, P. H. Flynn, G. P. Koplowitz, A. I. Kessler, O. Berger, F. Weis and J. Stein.

Dr. Reiner-Deutsch read a letter about Compex 58. L. Horechny gave his report on the same following the gist of his correspondence with the editor. It appears that the New York group will subscribe to about 25 frames. J. Horechny is chairman of the committee handling this and he will arrange for the transport of the exhibition material to Chicago as per instructions contained in the prospectus.

Because of the Compex show the New York group will hold its own exhibition in June instead of May as originally planned.

N. Feiwelsohn showed his collection of Czecho First Day covers as well as commemorative cancellations. It proved to be very interesting.

J. Stein spoke on the perforations of the Masaryk photogravure issues of 1925 explaining at the same time the different types of perforations in general use today. This talk was of especial interest to those who have difficulty understanding the line perfs, comb perfs, etc.

W. Schoenig demonstrated his Multigraph lettering machine which he employs on his album sheets. The demonstration was especially instructive and enlightening.

Next meeting will be held Friday, March 21 at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York at 7:30 P.M. E. G. Pobuda will show his Czech collection and E. J. Michaelson will speak on the subject "Printing Postage Stamps." All members and interested collectors are extended a warm welcome.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

Despite the subzero weather in the area nine stalwarts braved everything including the police to meet in the office of member Janecka. They were: Dr. J. Matejka, J. Jiranek, F. Zaviska, J. Velek, G. Kobylka, L. Linhart, F. Rosner and F. Kovarik.

F. Kovarik explained that we now are a chapter member of the S. P. A. as well as the A. P. S. thereby affiliating our Society with the two largest philatelic societies in the U. S. The benefits accruing from these memberships are many, even financial. We were to have a public presentation of the charter at this meeting but the weather had a hand in postponing the ceremony.

An invitation from the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club to attend their exhibition in the C S A Building in Cicero, March 22-24, was read and members were urged to participate.

Kovarik explained that many Societies are increasing their dues or curtailing publication of their official organs due to higher printing costs. Our printer wrote that the increase may not exceed 10% of the present cost and the assembled members decided that a campaign for new members and members in higher brackets be conducted and we may thus forego the necessity of any drastic action. We trust that the members will accept this challenge and do all in their power to increase the treasury sufficiently.

The editor announced that the Czechoslovakian National Stamp Show will be held in Brno in September and asked permission to show the Specialist and our dictionary. The permission was granted and the editor requested to exhibit our publications after filing the request on the official prospectus.

One of our members asks if we plan to conduct a benefit mail auction. All our previous auctions were conducted during our exhibitions but there are no facilities for such action during Compex and as this can be a source of revenue to the Society it was decided to hold a mail Auction during November. It is very important that an impartial member conducts this auction and at the suggestion of several members it was decided to ask our librarian to handle this sale. All members willing to donate material should send it to Frank J. Kosik, R. #3, Box 463, Delavan, Wis.

It was announced that the Hollywood Community House in Brookfield is available as a meeting place for the Chicago group. Most of the members present liked our present arrangement of meeting in one another's homes for the simple reason that the Mrs. has an opportunity of meeting the men he associates with at these meetings; that we have members living at considerable distances from that location and when we swing from one place to another we give an opportunity to all to get an occasional break travelling long distances; that the idea of a snack is part of the meeting. The opposition presented these arguments: Several of the members have homes too small to

accommodate a larger gathering; that a central location, not necessarily the Community House, can help in attracting more visiting members; that snacks could be arranged in most hired halls. It was decided to postpone a final decision on this subject until the next meeting.

A large portion of the meeting was devoted to our participation in Compex. We have had several requests asking about hotel accommodations during Compex; several of the committee plan to live at the La Salle Hotel for the duration and invite you to do likewise. All members planning to visit us at that time should contact Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., Room 216, Hotel La Salle, 10 No. La Salle, Chicago 2, Ill.

The Chicago group had hoped to have Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, our Society's second president at the Show. He explained that is not an opportune time for him. He wrote that during Easter week he'd visit our area and could meet with our members then. Kovarik was asked to make a definite date with him and we could arrange this in the La Salle Hotel. He shall also be invited to participate in the Compex meeting Wed., April 9, to get acquainted with this big undertaking. The date for the meeting with him is arranged for Monday April 7 at 7:30 P.M. and for specific room information contact Room 216 in the La Salle Hotel.

Dr. Matejka presented a full report on the progress thus far of the Middle West's biggest stamp exhibition. He stressed it is essential now to make provisions for a meeting of the Society. It will be necessary to greet all visitors from areas other than Chicagoland.

He also explained that Compex returned to the participating members the right to solicit donations from "Goodfellows" and "Patrons" (at \$1 and \$5 per insert). The Society would then publish the names of these donors on a special page or pages sold to the Society at cost and money thus raised would accrue to the Society. All members are kindly invited to participate as Goodfellows or Patrons and may send their contribution to Jos. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill.

Most members may have read that the International Geophysical Year stamp will be issued during Compex; this is a big boost to make the Show a success. The 30 bourse tables were sold soon after the notices went out; we can confidentially agree this augurs well for the Exhibition.

It is necessary to remind our members not to be too complacent about the success of our participation in Compex. The structure of the organization is such that one Society member may be billed by Compex for space used in the directory while another may get a \$100 bonus. You can get out of it only as much as you put in. The harder we work the better our chance for financial gain.

Our Society has several hundred dollars in bound Specialists and in the dictionary. About 30 dictionaries were slightly damaged in Kobyłka's basement during the big flood; it was decided to give these as premiums to anyone purchasing either \$10 worth of bound Specialists or Kobyłka albums (presented to the Society at cost). In such a way we can create good will and sales; only one who knows about the misfortune which befell the books would notice they were slightly dunked in the sewer drain.

Our handbook business was transacted around the festive board, probably in celebration of a job coming to a successful end. Of course, the success will come only when the last volume is sold.

The editor announced that only \$45 more is needed to pay for the printing of the handbook providing that those who sent pledges will come thru. The other expenses connected with this venture such as boxing, shipping, copies for review, etc., may come to another \$200. It was decided to accept only the additional \$200 above the printing cost and as a thank you gesture to those who make the project possible to sell their handbooks at 4.50 where-

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It is impossible to publish any philatelic work in the U. S. without mention of Scott. The editor contacted the publishers of the Scott Catalog and obtained permission to use Scott numbers in the handbook with a proviso that further permission must be obtained should we publish a new edition.

It was decided to make this a limited edition of 400 copies; if volume warrants a reprint we shall add further pertinent data which could not be published in the original edition because of financial limitations.

A letter from member John J. Britt was read in which he promised help from the "Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund" to aid our publication. Member Britt is to be thanked for his solicitous behavior; if our present venture meets with success it is planned to publish other handbooks later which may need a larger outlay of dollars and we shall then ask his kind espousal of our cause with the Fund directors providing the identity of the authors and Society is not impaired.

Our Big Brother Ray Van Handel sent us samples of cloth which is to cover our handbook from which the members chose a fine tan. He also sent several sketches of cover designs from which the members chose one with minor modification. A design for the inside cover is suggested to Ray. The page design was accepted as presented.

Some members suggested a pre-publication price one dollar lower than the regular price. Several members of the Society had experience along this line; your editor sent \$10 for a U. S. book six or more years ago and a like amount for an Air Posts Labels Catalog about four years ago. Neither book is yet published. We may have talked much and written more about our handbook but we are sure we had the right solution when we asked for a loan. What we need now are buyers so we could repay the loan. Unless we repay every cent, we'll never again have the confidence we have now. So, brothers and sisters, don't be afraid to order even more than one handbook because there will be some who will want to borrow the book instead of buying it.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN RUSSIA AND SIBERIA—1918 to 1920

Scott Catalog No. 31-45

By Joseph J. Jiranek

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Introduction

Stamp collectors who do not specialize in Czechoslovakia or who are not interested in military stamps may not be familiar with the fascinating story of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia and Siberia during World War I. In this article the author has tied together the historical, human, and tactical events, as well as the story of the Field Post, its establishment, operation, and finally its issuance of postage stamps which are listed in Scott's catalog as numbers 31-45 (Siberia).

The stamps themselves are rather attractive considering the strife and shortage of materials surrounding their production. These stamps serve as the key to open a door of history, and to give us a clearer look at what we now know to have been one of the greatest turning points of the twentieth century.

Just after the Revolution in Russia in October 1917, there was an army of 80,000 men, who, through their heroic actions had the Bolsheviks in very bad straits. Had the aid been given these men that on many occasions was requested, who can tell just what different path the history of the succeeding forty years might have taken, and just how our problems of today might have been altered?

The story which follows must be read with a consideration of the cold and forbidding Russian winter. It was an army operating in enemy territory, with no supplies coming in on a front four thousand miles long and never more than a mile or two wide. Opposition came from the Bolsheviks, Germans, Hungarians, and former prisoners of war who scattered through the length and width of Siberia. The entire country of Russia was in a state of anarchy with complete dissolution of all established law. This Czech army's efficient operation of the Field Post, their many victories and continuous fighting to keep the railroad open for themselves as well as for the other Allied Powers, i.e.; (1) Keep Siberia with its vast resources of food and minerals from falling into the hands of the Central Powers; and (2) keep German and other Central Power prisoners of war from utilizing the Trans-Siberian Railroad to travel west and rejoin their units and thereby swell the ranks of men who could be used against the Allied Powers on the Western Front. All these deeds and missions were successfully completed and the objective attained.

Formation of the Army

Because of the strong nationalistic movement among the minority groups of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, there was a tremendous urge for independence. This trend dwelt in the minds of the people who were always on the alert for any opportunity to bring about the overthrow of the Empire. Under law all young men were required to serve in the military for an extended period, so when World War I began there were many among the inducted troops who felt that they were fighting for that power which in victory would be strengthened and in an even stronger position to continue the subjugation of the minorities. Thus when the first Czech and Slovak contingents were sent to the Eastern Front, this nationalistic feeling plus the Slavic culture ties existing between them and the Russians made a common bond. To this was added the hatred of the Teutonic rulers, and mass desertions from the Austrian army continued at an alarming rate.



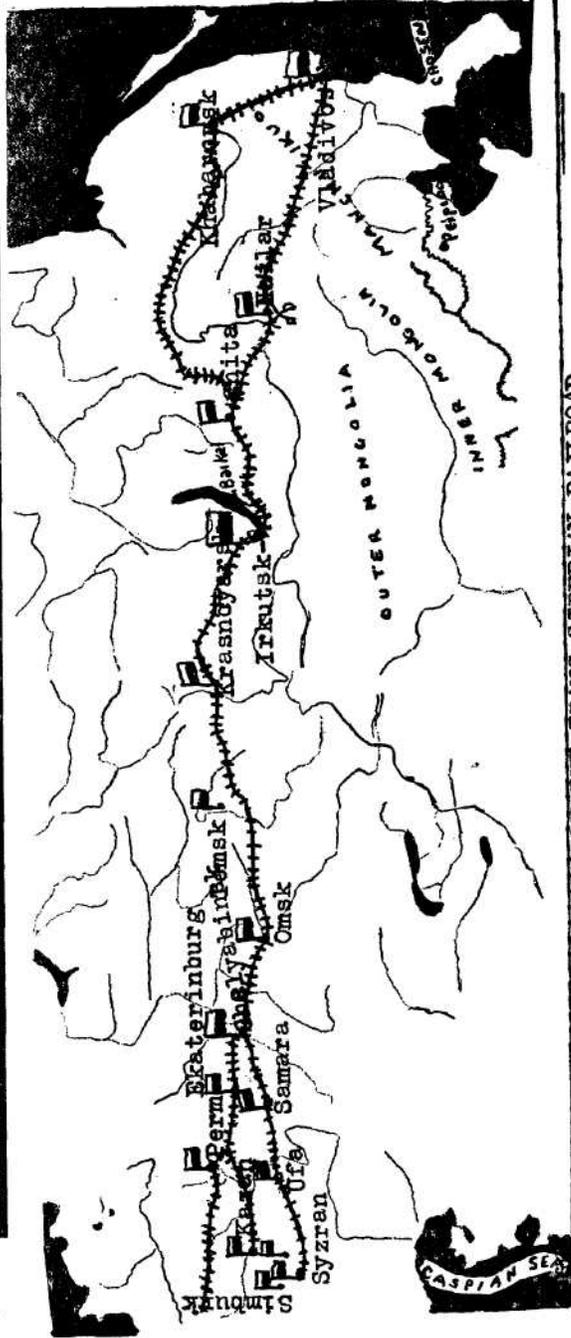
Two stamps at top, left, show the Prague Issue 1919 and 1920. Below them are shown the surcharges. The five illustrations at the upper right are imperforated essays. The three at the bottom right are the Irkutsk issue, issued December 1918, imperf.; January 14, 1919, perf. 11½; and the Baikal issue, issued February 1919, perf. 13¾.



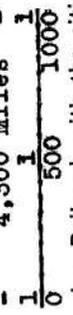
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A Czechoslovak
Legionnaire

The green denominational sur-
bottom right are the pictor-
alance 1920, in Prague, perf.



ROUTE OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILROAD
FROM SYZRAN - TO VLADIVOSTOK
4,300 Miles



The map illustrates the route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, with the cities controlled and occupied at one time or another by the Czechoslovak Army indicated by flags.

After desertion the troops were initially disarmed. Interrogation and a pledge of allegiance to the Czechoslovak National Council followed. They were then rearmed, formed into groups, assigned to units of the Russian Imperial Army, and given the same free franking privileges as the Russian troops. They served with great effectiveness and earned the respect of the Imperial Russian Government.

Effect of the October Revolution

The successes of the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution of October 1917, brought unsettled conditions, civil strife, nearly complete disintegration of the Russian Imperial Army and the almost complete collapse of the Eastern Front. Because the original purpose of the Czechs and Slovaks was to fight for the liberation of their homeland, and because of hesitation to mix in the internal affairs of the Russians, there was a spontaneous action on their part to separate themselves from the units to which they had been assigned and head for the nearest segment of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. This was the only mode of transportation left open to Vladivostok, at which point they hoped to procure overseas transportation to France where they could join the other Czechoslovak legions fighting for liberation. As the Legionnaires were assembling along the railroad, they were joined by Czech and Slovak civilians who were working in Russia for the former Russian Imperial Government.

Operation—"Exodus" to Vladivostok Across Siberia

Because the exodus was undertaken through hostile territory, and in many cases through pockets of resistance of either Bolshevik or repatriated German prisoners of war, it was a constant battle to keep the avenues of communication and supply open. Owing to the very slim supply line over such a long route, it was almost an impossible task to maintain it. As a result the troops were on their own. They had to get ammunition mainly from enemy stores and food had to be procured from the civilian population along the way.

Made up of determined men of high ideals, the legionnaires comprised about 80% college graduates. Even though their travels took them over thousands of desolate miles, they carried a library of several hundred volumes in each company.

They originally lacked only food. Ammunition, arms and field pieces were ample, due to their abandonment by the Russian Imperial Army in retreat. In addition to rifles, grenades, and bayonets, they had machine-guns, mortars, and also some artillery at the start which they later dismantled and utilized for armored cars. These were placed before the locomotive, as they rode daily through enemy territory and could expect to encounter pockets of resistance at every turn. In addition, they originally had a few planes, which they utilized in scouting ahead of the trains.

The seizure of the city of Syrzan, June 19, 1918 severed rail and wire communications between Siberia and Russia as well as from the traffic on the Volga River, cutting off Moscow from its main source of food supply. Further eastward movement was accomplished with the capture of Samara. In Siberia the capture of Irkutsk on Lake Baikal was strategic, as it was the junction of the Eastern Siberian Railroad.

On July 8, 1918, the Czechs and Slovaks were joined by the 1st Polish Corps under General Muonditzski. The capture on July 26, 1918 of Kazan and Simbursk, then Shamakovo, Stravapol, Srychinker, and Midelovka brought further advances.

With the food supply cut off, and the advance on Moscow by counter-revolutionary forces, the Bolshevik leaders had to flee to Kunstadt. They



Czechoslovakia

LATEST ARRIVALS

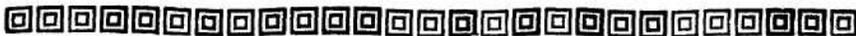
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394-96 Mining (elusive) (3)	.60	.25	Costumes III (4) --	—	.45
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781-84 Poets (4) -----	.45	.20	Nejedly (2) -----	—	.08
785-90 Cities (6) -----	.70	.30			
791-94 Komensky (4) ----	—	.20	C3 28/200h Prf, ultr (1)	5.00	—
795 Agriculture (1) ----	—	.03	C3 28/200h Proof		
796-800 Sports (5) -----	.50	.15	violet blue (1) ----	5.00	—
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807-10 Eng. School Ann (4)	.65	.35	C4-6 Airmails, perf. (3)	10.50	—
811-12 Lidice Mourning (2)	.20	.08	C7-9 Air Surcharge (3) -	1.25	—
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813-14 Same, sheet (2) --	2.00	2.00	C19-27 Airmails (9) -----	1.25	—
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Leipzig Congress (1)	.14	.06	C36-39 Airmails, Spas (4)	1.25	—
Television (2) -----	.20	.08	C40-44 Air views (5) ---	2.75	1.10
Zapotocky mourn (2)	.15	.09	C45-46 New Airmails (2) -	.60	.25

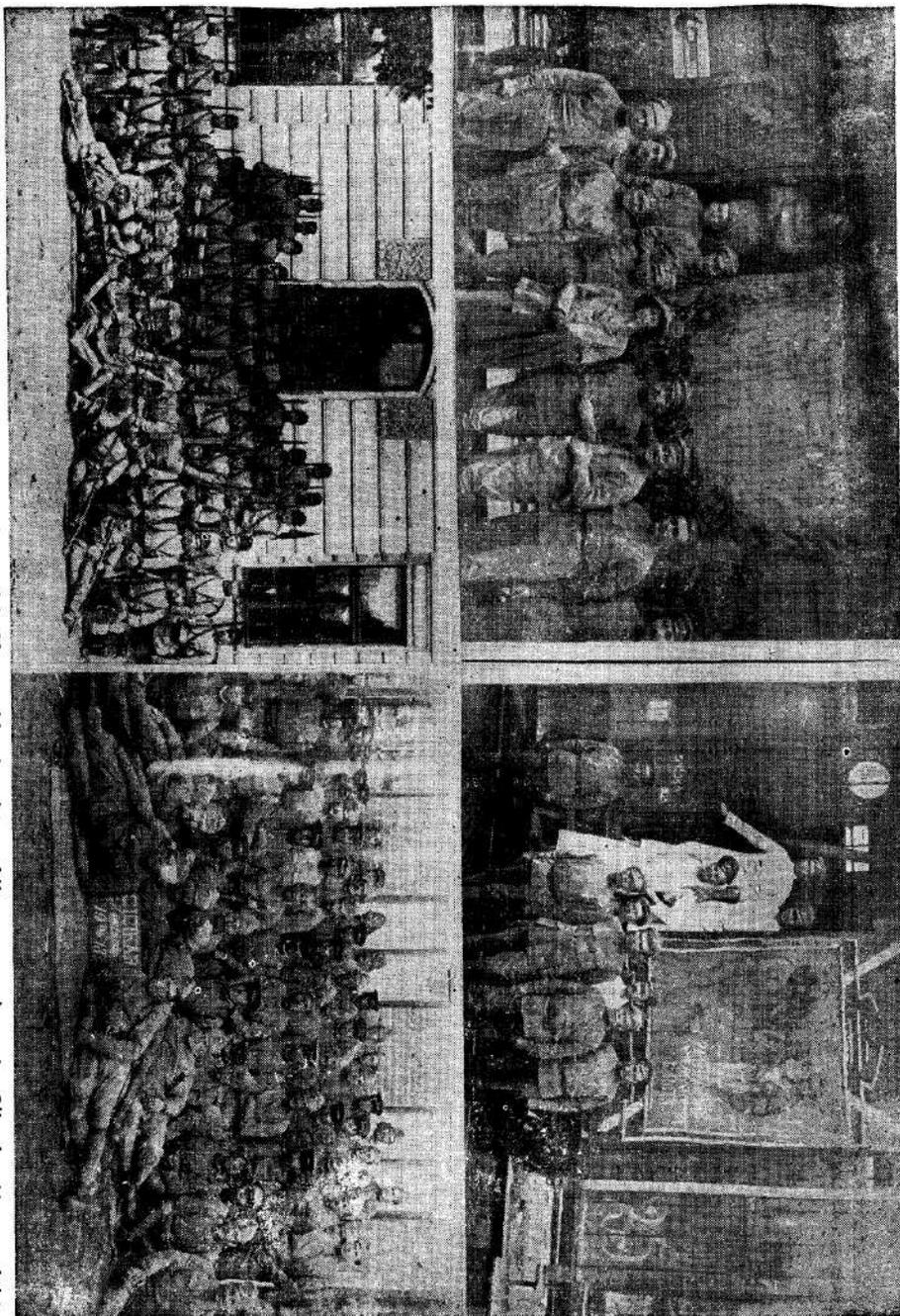
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Upper left: A group of Czechoslovak Legionnaires with Masaryk's daughter, Alice, somewhere in Siberia. Upper right: A group of Legionnaires standing before a box car housing the railroad ambulance. Lower left: Jugoslavian contingent which cooperated with the Czech Army in Siberia. Lower right: Legionnaires with cooperating Japanese soldiers on the Eastern Siberian front. Later fighting broke out between them.

pleaded with their men to fight against the Czechs, but despite their pleas, the city of Perm was captured by the Czechs in September 1918, where the bodies of five Grand Dukes were found in a well. Later, due to a shortage of ammunition and stores, the Czech Army had to withdraw from Volsk, Simbursk, and Kazan.

Developments in Siberia

As in Russia, there were reverses for the Bolsheviks in Siberia. Their council in Vladivostok was ousted and a General Dietrick was put in command. On July 11, 1918, the Bolsheviks were driven from Irkutsk, and aid began to come in from China and Japan.

On July 20, 1918, an announcement was made that the Czechoslovak Army would stay in Siberia and fight against the Teutons and the Bolsheviks, and would proceed westward through Manchuria. Because of an agreement with the Horwath Government (Provisional Siberian), a detachment of Cossacks and some artillery were to be used by the Czechs on the Ussuri River front. On July 28, 1918 the Commander-in-Chief of the combined Siberian forces, Thomas G. Masaryk was selected by the allied Supreme War Council, as the leader of the Czech Government.

Expeditionary forces of Japan, Britain and the United States advanced inland to support the rear of the Czech troops on July 30th, and about this time the Legionnaires were granted help by our American Red Cross.

On September 6, 1918, Chita was captured. This was the junction point of the Trans-Siberian and the Manchurian Railroads which put the Red army in peril. Contact between the Central and Eastern Siberian forces was established, giving them the control of the railroad between Irkutsk and Chita. The armies effected a union with loyal Russian and Allied troops on the Iver River, September 13, 1918. At this time General Janin was put in command of the Czechoslovak army.

With the coming of winter, the lack of supplies and ammunition, and the pressure from the Bolshevik army, the European segment of the Czechoslovak army withdrew slowly, losing Ufa and Samara on October 28, 1918. American troops were sent to Chelyabinsk to reinforce the Czechs.

With news of the end of the war in Europe on November 11, 1918, and liberation of their homeland, the Legionnaires voiced a desire to return to their homes. But General Stefanik stated that they were to remain in Siberia and hold the front. President Masaryk, of the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic, sent the troops a telegram urging them to hold fast on all fronts at all costs.

The Bolshevik Army facing the Czech Legionnaires comprised 227,000 men and with the advent of spring there was an expected increase plus the assistance of the German and Magyar officer staffs.

With the failure of the coup d'etat at Omsk the Czechs proceeded to clear the Trans-Siberian Railroad. A Bolshevik uprising at Tomsk was quelled and a declaration of martial law was established in November 1918. Later, during fighting in January of 1919, the Bolshevik Third Army was virtually destroyed when the Czechs and Siberians captured Perm. Continuing fighting against greater and greater odds, with no help coming from the Allied Powers, the strength of the Czechoslovak army was cut in half.

In May 1919 the wounded Legionnaires were transported to New York for medical treatment, and 100 arrived on June 15 to receive artificial limbs and dental care. The remainder of the Czech forces were to remain guarding the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

In December the army of 20,000 men was at Irkutsk, with General Gaida and his staff leaving for Czechoslovakia. Plans were under way in January of 1920 to transport the troops from Siberia aboard British ships. The re-

maining army west of Irkutsk was in a very precarious position. Fighting again started to center around Irkutsk.

Friction developed between the Czechoslovak Legionnaires and the Japanese, and fighting broke out in Hailer, Manchuria.

With the eventual evacuation of the remnants of the Czechoslovakian army in Siberia, the last of which were transported aboard the ship "General Grant," a unique heroic military adventure was at an end.

Establishment of the Czecho-Slovak Army Field Post to Serve all Allied Armies in Siberia

A decision to organize a Czechoslovak Army Field Post was reached during a meeting at Cheljabinsk in the summer of 1918. On July 10, 1918, Lieut. Anton Novotny was asked to draw up plans for a Field Post, and on August 11, 1918, he was named as head of the service. On September 16, 1918, the first armored mail train left Cheljabinsk and traveled through Samara and Ufa to Syzran. Two postal clerks were killed on this run due to enemy action.

The Czechoslovak Field Post also became a field post of all the Allied armies in Siberia, namely, for the United States, England, France, Poland, Jugoslavia, Roumania, Italy, China, and Lithuania.

Among the hardships of this new service were scarcity of material, inexperienced personnel, and the large area to be covered. At first the distance measured 2,500 miles (4,000 Km.) After the union was effected with the Eastern army, on October 28, 1918, the distance was increased to 4,350 miles (7,000 Km.), a two-weeks trip on the Cheljabinsk-Vladivostok line. All of these inconveniences were met and mastered so that even the civilian population took advantage of the postal service, since the Russian service functioned very poorly.

1909 10-Kopek Russian Stamp Overprinted

The Czechoslovak Field Post functioned under all conditions exceptionally well. At that time no definite postal arrangements had been made with the Russian post office, so it was necessary to prepay all letters at the rate of 10 Kopeks. To keep a correct record of the mail used by the Czechs, the chief of the Field Postal Service in Cheljabinsk, after an agreement with the Czechoslovak Field Post, suggested the issuance of the 10 Kopek stamps with the overprint "Czech Post." The use of this was also to eliminate confusion resulting from the poorly addressed material intended for the Czechs. The suggestion was accepted by the Russian postal authorities at Omsk, and in October 1918 the Russian blue 10 Kopek stamp of 1909 value was overprinted "Cesskya Pocta" in Russian characters.

(to be continued)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

457. E. H. Rogers, 27 Brewster Rd., Leyton, London E 10, England.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members are presented by the nominating committee for the term ending December 31, 1959, for the following offices: President, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr.; Vice President East, J. Stein; Vice President West, Rev. W. Barta, OSB; Vice Pres. Central, J. Velek; Councillors: East, P. Flynn; West, A. J. Cifka; Central, Ray Van Handel, Jr.; National Secretary, Jos. Jiranek; International Secretary, A. J. Hrivnak; Treasurer, Geo. C. Kobylka; Editor, F. J. Kovarik.

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