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A.P.S. Unit 18

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WASHINGTON 2006 VOLUNTEERS

Our Society is scheduling a significant presence at WASHINGTON'06, which is the United States' once-a-decade international show permitted under FIP regulations. The last one was PACIFIC'97 in San Francisco in 1997. WASHINGTON'06 is being held May 26 to June 3, 2006 at the new Washington D.C. Convention Center.

WASHINGTON'06 will be a philatelist's paradise. Highlights will include numerous first-day ceremonies (US and foreign), 200+ stamp dealers and postal administrations from around the world, and many philatelic society conventions, meetings, and seminars. There will be over 3800 frames (60,000 pages) of exhibits from around the world. Many world rarities will be on display, including selections from the Postmaster General's Collection and the Queen Elizabeth II Collection. And, of course, Washington, D.C. is a fabulous vacation destination.

Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, May 28 from 2 - 5 pm. This will include the Society's General Meeting, followed by 3-4 presentations on Czechoslovak philately. We will also have a Society information booth in the bourse/exhibition hall for the run of the show. (Continued on page 15)

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled.

- A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the May/Jun 2004 SPECIALIST. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr., Norcross, GA 30092, or e-mail: h.alan.hoover@mail.com
- A book sales division is run by Savoy Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears
 regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Savoy Horvath, S8207
 US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: cancleek@mwt.net
- A Society library is housed with Mark Wilson, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTs or making book donations, contact Mark Wilson, 316 Devland Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, or e-mail: scplibrary@knihtisk.org
- 4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousyoboda@comcast.net
- THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society.
 For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/e-mail above).
- 6. Our web site (www.czechoslovakphilately.com) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via e-mail, and more. The site is maintained by Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817, e-mail: sibpost@starpower.net.

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SOVIET TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1945

by Lubor Kunc

1. Historical Background

The period 1918-1941 was characterized by cooperation between the Soviet Union and Germany. Both countries had the same enemy: the Versailles international system excluded them from the "club of leading powers". Germany was excluded for a long time because of causing WW I, and the Soviet Union because of their agreeing to a separate peace with Germany in 1918 (the so called "Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty") and their establishing a communist regime in 1917. Some of the European scholars warned about this situation (e.g. Pan Europa Movement's founder Count Coudenhove-Kalergi), but the main powers -- USA, Great Britain, France -- insisted on keeping the regimes like was agreed in the peace treaties.

The first Soviet-German cooperation consisted of the production and testing of German guns in the Soviet Union (the peace treaties forbade doing this on

German territory). On the other hand Germany supplied various industrial goods and food to Russia during poverty years.

The logical result of the Soviet-German cooperation was the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of 1939 dividing central and eastern Europe into German and Soviet zones. Soon after the signature of the treaty Germany started the invasion of Poland (Fig. 1a), and the Soviet Union occupied the territories given to it by the pact. Thus WW II started

Both Hitler and Stalin expected the pact to only be valid until the moment when from former Czechoslovak territory ceded in their country was strong enough to defeat the other one. Hitler saw such a situation in



Figure 1a: Cutting of postcard being sent 1938 to Poland (as per Munich Treaty) on the last day before Germany attacked Poland.

1941. On June 22, 1941, Germany moved 190 divisions to attack the Soviet Union (153 German divisions, 37 German ally divisions; Fig. 1b). The attack was aimed at three main points -- Northern Russia (Leningrad; German troops commanded by Gen. von Leb), Ukraine and Central Russia (Moscow; commander Gen. von Bogh), and the southern zone of the Soviet Union (petrol fields, Caucasus; commander Gen. von Runschtet). The attack was successful, and the German troops reached the southern parts of Moscow in early December 1941.

Goods news for the Soviet Union was the Japan attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent US participation in WW II. This pushed Germany to move some troops to other battlefields and thus enabled the Soviet Union to resist the German attacks and to drive the German armies back.

In 1942 the German troops were more successful in the southern zone of the Soviet Union, they reached the Caucasus, occupied the Crimea, and moved in the direction of Stalingrad. In August 1942 the 6th Army under the command of Gen. Paulus started the attack on the city. The battle lasted into 1943. In January 1943

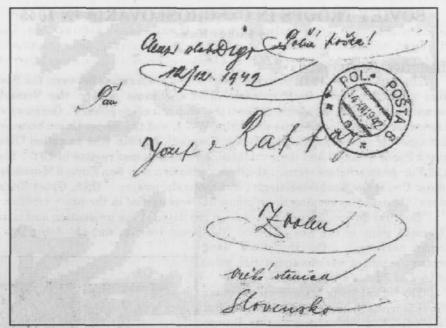


Figure 1b: Letter sent by a Slovak soldier via German FPO from occupied Soviet territory. the Soviet armies began a counter-offensive and defeated the German troops. This victory was soon followed by Soviet successes in the liberation of Kharkov and in the tank battle at Kursk.

These developments showed that Germany was losing the war, which caused its former allies (e.g. Romania) to turn away from Germany. Soviet troops pushed the battle from Russia into the Ukraine, and then in 1943 they liberated Kiev (the capital of the Ukraine). A similar destiny was experienced by the German troops in North Africa resulting in the withdrawal of Rommel's troops from that battlefield as well as the withdrawal of German units from the Caucasus.

In 1944 the Soviet troops defeated the Germans at Leningrad (the city was liberated after 900 days of siege), the Crimea, and Byelorussia. The battle line then moved from Soviet Union territory to central Europe, and Soviet troops occupied Budapest (Hungary) and Bucharest (Romania).

These developments impacted the European battlefields -- in 1943 the Allies landed in Italy beginning the liberation of that country and the defeat of Germany's closest ally in Europe. Then, in 1944 the Allies invaded at Normandy and Southern France and defeated the German troops there.

The year 1945 showed the superiority of the Allies over Germany. Soviet troops liberated Warsaw, Danzig, and, late in April, occupied Berlin. In western Europe, France, Belgium, and Italy were liberated and the occupation of German territory began. WW II concluded in Czechoslovakia with the liberation of Prague and the defeat of the remaining German troops. After the end of the war in Europe, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan (in August 1945) to support US campaigns in Asia.

2. Soviet Troops in Czechoslovakia 1944-1945

The liberation of the Czechoslovak zone was reserved by the Yalta agreement for the Soviet Union and was executed by the Soviet troops that were liberating the Ukraine. The Soviet army created a special supreme body called a "front" that contained individual armies. This formulation was the result of the extreme quantities of Soviet Union soldiers fighting in the war and by the need to coordinate the operations of individual armies.



Figure 2a: Soviet soldiers in Prague on May 9, 1945.



Figure 2b: Registered letter sent from Prague in May (paid in cash).

In July 1944 a portion of the 4th Ukrainian Front was separated out and the new 1" Ukrainian Front was formed -this 1st Front reached Prague in May 1945 (Fig. 2a/2b).

The original 4th Front (Commanders Gen. Petrov and Jeremenko) liberated Northern Moravia and Silesia (Olomouc - Fig. 3, Ostrava, Opava). An integral part of the 4th Ukrainian Front was also the Czechoslovak troops of the Soviet Union (commanded by Gen. Ludvik Svoboda; see part 3). The 2nd



Figure 4: First set of Czechoslovak stamps after WW II issued by the Czechoslovak governor of Carpatho-Ukraine in December 1944, and the Carpatho-Ukraine Czechoslovakia from various issue after its incorporation into the Soviet Union.



going the Figure 3: Revolutionary issue of Olomouc celebrating the liberation way via of the city by Soviet troops (see the Red Star on the stamp).

and participated in the liberation of Southern Moravia.

Ukrainian Front was

southern

Budapest,

Bratislava,

and Vienna

Thus, Soviet troops reached directions. The first area to be liberated was the village of Kalinovo

in 1944. Some of the troops were coming from Carpatho-Ukraine (Fig. 4) and Slovakia (Fig. 5). The troops liberating Northern Moravia came from Poland, while the units in Southern Moravia came from Austria and Hungary.



Figure 5: Czechoslovak commemorative postcard issued in 1945 celebrating the liberation of Košice in Eastern Slovakia.



Figure 6a: Soviet Marshall Konev in Prague in May 1945 -- he was accompanied by Czechoslovak President Beneš.

Progress was delayed by the heavy resistance of the German troops located in Bohemia and Moravia. Finally on May 9, 1945 the first Soviet troops commanded by Marshall Konev (future supreme commander of the Soviet forces in Austria) reached Prague. On May 9-10, the SS troops of Prague (the Wiking, Wallenstein and



Figure 6b: Example of Soviet field post office No. 57258 being situated in Prague (at Central Military Hospital).

Das Reich Divisions commanded by Count von Pükler) moved from the city to Milín near Příbram, where they encamped. They began to kill the local people and destroy the town of Milín. The town was defended by the partisan unit "Smrt Facismu" (death to fascism) and revolutionary guards. But because of the advantage that the German soldiers had in machinery and guns, the partisans were losing the battle. The situation was changed by the arrival of the 2nd Mechanized Guard Corps of the Soviet Army (commanded by Gen. Sviridov) on May 11, 1945, which used heavy artillery to defeat the SS troops. The battle for Milín was officially the last fighting of WW II in Europe.

The presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory had an important impact on Czech politics and the future destiny of the state (Fig. 6a/6b). Czechoslovakia became a part of the Soviet zone of influence. The roots of close Czechoslovak-Soviet partnership can be found in a treaty of 1943 (Fig. 7). And then, the Soviet "Red" Army was officially celebrated by the Czechoslovak authorities (Fig. 8a/b),



Figure 7: Czechoslovak stamp of 1948 celebrating the 1943 treaty (Sc. 369).

the Soviet Union-and its leaders began to be honored more than other Allies, and Czechoslovakia oriented its policies to be in accordance with Soviet expectations.

Czechoslovakia was pushed to "return" the area of the Carpatho-Ukraine to the Soviet Union (Soviet authorities organized a "free" referendum in the area with



Figure 8a: Czechoslovak special cancel of 1946 celebrating the foundation of the Soviet Army.



Figure 8b: Czechoslovak stamp issue of 1983 celebrating the Soviet marshals who liberated Czechoslovakia (Sc. 2462-64).



Figure 9: Czechoslovak stamp of 1948 showing the communist leader and president K. Gottwald (Sc. 366).

the result that the majority of the local people wished to join the Soviet Union). This resulted in the situation where the set of stamps shown in Figure 4 are not listed as officially from Czechoslovakia, but are listed by catalogs as private issues. Nevertheless, the governor was authorized by the Czechoslovak government to handle the communications and postal operations in the area.

In 1948 the Czech communists, supported by the Soviet Union, instituted a coup and took over governance of the country (Fig. 9) which continued until 1989. During this period Czechoslovakia experienced participation in communist international organizations (like the Warsaw Pact), occupation by other communist countries in 1968 led by the Soviet Union, as well as the fall of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe in 1988-89.

3. Czechoslovak Troops in the Soviet Union

Immediately after the establishment of the (German) Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Czechoslovak soldiers began to escape from the country. Their main focus was Krakow in Poland, where a recruitment center under the command of Lt. Col. Ludvik Svoboda was founded. The majority of them were later transported to France, but about 1/3 of the soldiers remained in Poland and were formed into the 1st Czechoslovak Brigade (situated in camp Lesná u Brnovovic) in August 1939. After the Germans attacked Poland in September, the Czechoslovak troops tried to leave the country and move via Ukraine and Romania to France. Unfortunately, the Soviet authorities detained the units and interned them on Soviet territory (during the period 1939-42).

The situation again changed after Germany attacked the Soviet Union in July 1941. The leaders of the Czechoslovak soldiers supported by Czechoslovak political leaders immediately started negotiations with the Soviet authorities which resulted in the formation of the 1st Czechoslovak Battalion in Buzuluk in January 1942. The unit commander was Ludvik Svoboda, and his superior was Gen. Theodor Pika, the



of 1968 (Sc. 1522) celebrating the battle.

head of the Czechoslovak military mission in the Soviet Union. The battalion was first used in battle in January 1943 in the Kuibishev and Voronež area. In March 1943 they took part in the battle of Sokolov (as Figure 10a: Czechoslovak stamp part of the Soviet 62nd Guard Division -- Fig. 10a). symbol of the Czechoslovak



Figure 10b: First Lieutenant Otakar Jaroš.

participation in the battle became first lieutenant Otakar Jaroš who was killed in the battle (Fig. 10b).

The Czechoslovak soldiers received the credit for the battle results, thus the Soviet authorities supported the enlargement of the Czechoslovak troops. In May 1943, the 1" Czechoslovak Independent Brigade was formed in Novochapersk. It used the Soviet field post office No. 38.032 (Fig. 11). The brigade's first battle participation occurred at Kiev (originally as a reserve unit of the Soviet 38th Army,

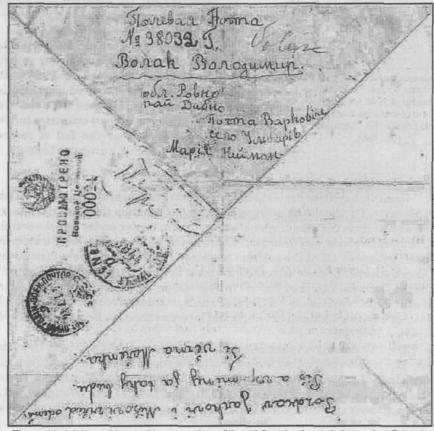


Figure 11: A letter addressed to a member of the 1st Czechoslovak Independent Brigade (2nd Battalion) on July 21, 1944 via Soviet FPO No. 38.032B.

later as part of the 51st Corps of the Red Army). In November/December 1943 the brigade was integrated into the 40th Soviet Army and was fighting at the Vasilkovo battlefield.

In July 1943 the 1st Czechoslovak Artillery Regiment was created and used the Soviet FPO No. 59.824. In January 1944 a new Czechoslovak unit was formed, the 2nd Czechoslovak Airborne Brigade (Soviet FPO No. 39.242). In May 1944, the 1st Czechoslovak Air Force Regiment was formed at Kubinka near Moscow (using Soviet FPO's No. 3.875, 18.399, 22.687, 27.972, 93.873, 93.874). In August 1944, the 1st Czechoslovak Tank Brigade consisting of 65 tanks was formed (using Soviet FPO No. 93.442).

An important impulse to the enlargement of the Czechoslovak forces in the Soviet Union occurred in February 1944, when the troops were moved to the Volyne area (being situated on the Ukraine-Poland border). This region was traditionally settled by Czech emigrants who had received their land from the Tsar of Russia. Many of the people living there still had command of the Czech language despite their families having lived in Russia for hundreds of years, and a lot of them decided to join the Czechoslovak forces. This increased the number of Czechoslovak soldiers. Altogether the Czechoslovak troops in the Soviet Union totaled 16,000 soldiers of which 12,000 came from the Volyne region!

The significant increase in Czechoslovak soldiers led to the establishment of the First Czechoslovak Independent Army Corps in the Soviet Union in April 1944. The army corps consisted of 3 infantry brigades, the 2nd Airborne Brigade, 1st Tank Brigade, 5th Artillery Regiment, and 1st Air Force Regiment. The commander of the troops was Gen. Ludvik Svoboda who was succeeded in 1945 by Gen. Klapálek (when Svoboda became Minister of Defense). The Czechoslovak army used the following



Figure 12: A card sent from Turč. Sv. Martin on September 1, 1944 by a Czech girl to Bohemia, censored by the German Army (Wehrmacht).

Soviet FPO's: No. 01.237, 01.387, 03.875, 12.037, 15.870, 17.429, 18.399, 22.687, 27.972, 52.040, 52.068, 52.081, 53.230, 63.017, 63.045, 63.231, 63.232, 63.233, 63.234, 68.507, 70.633, 70.867, 70.882, 71.428, 74.081, 83.630, 83.641, 93.873 and 93.874.

During the period August - October 1944 the Slovak National Uprising, that was declared by Ján Golián commander of the Slovak anti-Nazi forces, took place (Fig. 12). The capital of the uprising was Banská Bystrica. The anti-Nazi forces



Figure 13: General Ludvik Svoboda kissing the Czechoslovak flag at the Dukla battle field.

consisted of 20,000 guerilla fighters supported by the Czechoslovak government in exile as well as the USA, France, and Yugoslavia. To the largest extent the guerilla fighters were commanded by Soviet officers. The Slovak and German armies used 60,000 soldiers (incl. SS units) to combat the uprising. Thanks to the advantages of the number of soldiers and better military equipment, the Slovak/German troops overcame the uprising.

The Soviet military commanders then decided to support the uprising with their armies and ordered them to enter Czechoslovak territory. The 1st and 4th Ukrainian Fronts together with the First Czechoslovak the First Czechoslovak

Czechoslovak Tank Brigade) moved to the Dukla Pass to enter Slovakia. The fighting lasted from September to November 1944. Finally the Czechoslovak/Soviet forces defeated the German ones and entered Slovakia (Fig. 13). The symbol of the battle became R. Jasiok, a member of the Czechoslovak tank brigade, who was killed during the battle (Fig. 14).

These events changed the military situation in Central Europe, because the Soviet army began the liberation of Czechoslovakia by moving the German troops before them. The Czechoslovak forces of the Soviet Union took part in the liberation of many Czech and Slovak towns and villages. As the Soviet troops continued their advance, postal operations were renewed on the liberated areas (Fig. 15).

An important part of the Czechoslovak soldiers (all of the 4th Brigade) fought at Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia) from January to April 1945. The 1st Czechoslovak Tank Brigade fought in Silesia (both Czech and Polish parts) and finally Figure 14: Czechoslovak moved to the Olomouc and Litovel areas. The 1st stamp showing R. Jasiok Czechoslovak Air Force Regiment operated in Silesia



(Sc. 2510).



Figure 15: First Czechoslovak issues of 1945: Košice, Bratislava, Moscow and London issues.



Figure 16: Czechoslovak tank brigade reaching Old Town Square in Prague on May 10, 1945.

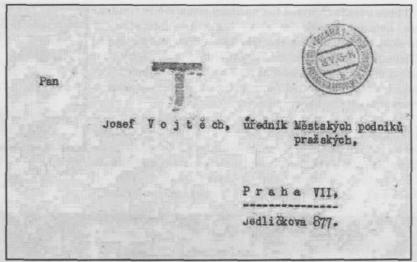


Figure 17: Unfranked, postage due letter addressed to the Czechoslovak Government in Prague bearing a special 16 May 1945 cancel commemorating the return of the President to Prague.

(Ostrava, Opava, etc.) while within the frame of the 8th Soviet Air Force Army. The First Czechoslovak Independent Army Corps was fighting within the frame of the 4th Ukrainian Front.

Soon

In May 1945 these Czechoslovak forces were moving westward in the direction of Prague -- e.g., the 1st Czechoslovak Tank Brigade reached Prague on May 10, 1945 (Fig. 16), and on May 14, the Czechoslovak air force moved from Ostrava air port to the one at Prague. On May 15, 1945, the First Czechoslovak Independent Army Corps was changed to the 1st Czechoslovak



1968 supporting Czech Leaders negotiating with the Soviet ones (first line shows the name of Czechoslovak President Ludvik Svoboda).

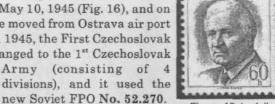


Figure 18: Ludvik after the Svoboda as president liberation of Prague, the (Sc. 1540-41). Czechoslovak leaders and

authorities returned to the city to re-establish Czechoslovak statehood (Fig. 17).

To conclude this article, let's discuss the destiny of Czechoslovak General Ludvik Svoboda (Fig. 18). You heard his name many times in the text, he became a hero and symbol of the Czechoslovak forces in the Soviet Union. During the period 1945-1950 he served as Minister of Figure 19: Special cancel of September Defense (participating in the communist coup in 1948). In 1950 the communist government fired him from all political and military functions, and he was forced to work as an accountant on a farm.

In the 1960's his civil rights were returned, and in 1968 he was elected to be Czechoslovak President (Fig. 19). While in office, he was faced with the 1968 Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia -- which he resisted. This was a big misfortune for him, because he really loved the Soviet Union from his war days, and now he had to see its army occupying his home. In addition, this invasion was ordered by the Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, who had served as a Major General in the Soviet Army forces which had liberated Czechoslovakia in 1945

Gen. Svoboda served as the president during the period 1968 - 1975, but had to leave office because of failing health, he died in 1979. He was replaced as President by G. Husák, a Slovak communist who had supported the 1968 Soviet invasion. Husák governed until the Velvet Revolution in 1989, when the office was acquired by Václav Havel.

Resources:

Fiala - Polní pošty Československých vojsk v Sovětském svazu v letech 1942-1945, Praha, SČF, 1989

Vykoukal/Litera/Teichman -- Východ. Vznik, vyvoj a rozpad Sovětského bloku 1944-89, Praha, Libri, 2000

Petr Gebauer's Czech Postal History -- http://phist.webpark.cz/index.htm

History of WW II -- http://www.nezahynem.wz.cz/

History of WW II -- http://www.rozhlas.cz/wwii/portal

History of WW II -- http://dejepis.info/

History of WW II -- http://www.fronta.cz/

Czech Military Club -- http://www.military-club.cz/

WW II Timeline -- http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/ww2time.htm

WW II Timeline -- http://history.acusd.edu/gen/WW2Timeline/start.html

History of Wars -- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/

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WASHINGTON 2006 VOLUNTEERS

(Continued from Page 1)

With many tens of thousands of collectors attending the show (an estimated 168,000 attended PACIFIC'97), this is an important opportunity for us to promote our Society to collectors from across the country and around the world.

This is where the Society needs your help. We need representatives to staff the Society booth whenever the show is open, generally 10 am to 6 pm daily. We ask all of our members to volunteer time at the booth while attending WASHINGTON'06 and hope that area members will especially help. We envision scheduling members in two-hour blocks. In addition to contributing to the Society, this will be a fun opportunity to meet fellow philatelists from around the world with similar collecting interests.

Please contact Society Secretary, Phil Rhoade, at the e-mail, phone, or address below to volunteer, indicating the day or days you would be available to help. Czechoslovak philately needs YOU!

Phil Rhoade, Secretary Society for Czechoslovak Philately 28168 Cedar Trail Cleveland, MN 56017 philip.rhoade@mnsu.edu 507-931-6808

President's Corner

Minnesota Stamp Expo was the site of the most recent Society board meeting and General Membership meeting (Fig. 1). The meeting was held on 21 July. Because the previous board meeting was held on 12 May, the agenda for the meeting at Minneapolis was rather short, however it did include the election of Society officers.

Your president, Tom Cossaboom; Vice-President, Rich Palaschak; and Treasurer, Ed Lehecka, were re-elected. Phil Rhoade was elected the Society Secretary.



Figure 1: Show entrance with our Czech and Slovak flags.

The major item on the agenda was a series of proposals from Mark Wilson, the Society's Librarian, regarding digitizing and placing on-line some copies of the SPECIALIST, especially older issues which are no longer in print. The board's discussion of this proposal led to a general discussion of the Society's future presence on the web. Unfortunately, Mark was not able to attend the board meeting. Rather than reach a decision without his input, the board decided that the President should appoint a committee to examine the entire question of the Society's presence on the web.

I have appointed Alan Hoover, Frederick Lawrence and Randy Frank to develop recommendations and present a report to the board at the next meeting scheduled for 27 May 2006. If any member of the Society has comments or suggestions regarding the Society's presence on the web, please contact Alan Hoover (address on page 2), the chairman, or one of the other committee members.

The board agreed to the location for Society meetings in 2008 and 2009. Your Society will meet at PRAGA 2008, in Prague, Czech Republic, if the show is held. To date, there is no indication that there will be a PRAGA 2008. If there is no PRAGA 2008, the Society will meet at Boxborough, Massachusetts in conjunction with the PHILATELIC SHOW sponsored by the Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs.

There will be two meetings during 2009. A meeting in January 2009 will be held in Tucson, Arizona, in conjunction with ARIPEX. The second show will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in conjunction with STAMPSHOW.

Finally, the board voted to name the Society's APS Award the Alfons Mucha Medal. This is the medal awarded by a show jury at an APS Champion of Champions show with at least three exhibits of Czechoslovak philatelic material.

Once the Society's board meeting was completed, the remainder of the weekend was devoted to enjoying the Minnesota Stamp Expo and the Minneapolis area. On Saturday afternoon, the Society held it's annual general membership meeting (Fig. 2). Following the meeting, Phil Rhoade presented his lecture on "The Murder of Lidice" and philately.



Figure 2: Meeting attendees -- (back row, I to r) B. Koschalk, R. Palaschak, A. Wachinski, H. Hahn, F. Lawrence, C. Rehman, (seated, I to r) O. Wyslotsky, T. Cossaboom, P. Rhoade, J. Verner.

The Society was very fortunate to have two members as part of the show jury. Henry Hahn and Frederick Lawrence used their considerable knowledge of Czechoslovak philately in the deliberations with Henry serving as jury chair.

Eight members of the Society -- Henry Hahn, Mirko Vondra, Olech Wyslotsky, Alfonso Zulueta, Jerry Verner, Al Kugel, Tony Dewey, and Phil Rhoade -- showed a total of 12 exhibits. Henry Hahn's exhibit was in the Court of Honor. The other 11 exhibits garnered the following awards:

Canadian Postal Stationery -- Mirko Vondra Silver Bronze Hradčany and Its Usages -- Olech Wyslotsky Vermeil

Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Czechoslovakia, 1569-1919 -- Alfonso Zulueta

Czechoslovak Provisionals -- Jerry Verner Czechoslovak Field Post in France -- Jerry Verner Silver Vermeil Gold, APS Philatelic Research Award, Society's Alfons Mucha Award

The Postal History of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1842

to 1918 -- Al Kugel

First U.N. Issue -- Tony Dewey

Czech WW II Era Stamp Shows -- Phil Rhoade Czechoslovakia: The Hussite Issue of 1920 --

Tony Dewey

Heydrich Deathmask Issue -- Phil Rhoade FDC's of the Czech Overrun Nations Issue --

Phil Rhoade

Vermeil

Gold

Silver

Gold Vermeil

Silver



Figure 3: Wives at the breakfast -- Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Rehman, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Cossaboom, Mrs. Palaschak, Mrs. Verner.

Society members held a couple of social functions. On Thursday evening, following the board meeting, board members and guests retired to a German restaurant for an excellent meal and conversation. Sunday morning saw the Society's traditional awards breakfast at another local eating establishment (Fig. 3). Between plates full of eggs, bacon and fruit, the Society's gold, silver, and bronze medals were handed out. The gold went to Olech Wyslotsky for his Hradčany exhibit. Jerry Verner garnered the Silver for his very interesting Czechoslovak Field



Society awards winners with President Cossaboom – (I to r) P. Rhoade, O. Wyslotsky, President Cossaboom, J. Verner

Post exhibit. Phil Rhoade took home the bronze for his Heydrich Deathmask exhibit (Fig. 4).

Congratulations to all the award winners.

Thanks to Phil Rhoade and Chuck Rehman for organizing the Society's visit to Minnesota Stamp Expo.

Tom Cossaboom

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ROMANIA DURING WW II AND ROMANIAN TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1945

by Lubor Kunc

It is not widely known that the Romanian Army took part in the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945. To make us familiar with this interesting part of Czechoslovak postal history, we will start with some historical background.



Figure 1: Occupation issues being used in Romania in 1916-1918
a) Austro-Hungarian Issues 1917 + 1918
(Sc. 1N1-1N24)



b) Bulgarian Issue of 1916 (Sc. 2N1-2N4)



c) German Issues of 1917-1918 (Sc. 3N1-3NRAJ1)

1. Historical Background

During WW I, Romania fought as an ally of France, Russia, Great Britain, and the USA, when Romanian King Ferdinand I decided to join the "Entente Alliance" in 1916. He made this decision because he was trying to get the Transylvania area (which was a part of Hungary at that time). The Romanian participation in WW I did not last long—in less than 6 weeks the country was

beaten by the united armies of Austro-Hungary, Germany, and Bulgaria. These three countries occupied the majority of Romanian territory and established a network of their own post offices (Fig. 1). The Romanian government moved to a small unoccupied part of the country, where it survived the war thanks to the protection of Russia.

Their having become a partner in the Entente Alliance was rewarded after the war when the main powers decided to give an

important part of Hungary to Romania. Romania was allowed to establish their own occupation zone in the Debrecen area (Fig. 2). Romania also received

the territory of the French occupation zone (the town of Arad) as well as the Serbian occupation zone in Temeszvar (Timisoara). The main gains for Romania were the incorporation of Transylvania (Fig. 3) and Bukowina/Southern Galicia (Fig. 4) into the state. Romania also tried to get the Carpatho-Ukraine. It occupied some parts of the area, but the



Figure 2: Romanian occupational issue for Debrecen (former Hungarian territory).



Figure 3: Romanian occupational issue for Transylvania (former Hungarian territory).



Figure 5: Romanian issue of 1937 celebrating the Small Treaty (Sc. 467-8).



Figure 7: Romanian "Pro Patria 1940" stamp with surcharge for armament (no Sc. #).

Peace Treaty gave the territory to Czechoslovakia, and Romania had to cede its zone to them (the list of towns being occupied by Romania during 1919-1921 can be found in Klim's Specialized Catalog, page 45 -- see Resources).

Romania became a key ally of France in the Balkan area during the period 1918-1940. It became a member state of the "Small Treaty" (the military pact between Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia; Fig. 5) as well as of the "Balkan Pact" (a military pact between Romania, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey; Fig. 6).

Despite the French support for. Romania, its situation was difficult, because the neighboring countries, Hungary and Bulgaria, hated Romania due to the territory that they had to cede to it after the war. The situation became even more complicated when Germany took over Czechoslovakia in 1938-39 and overran France in 1940, because then Romania lost its key allies. Yet, in 1939 Romania allowed the transport of Czechoslovak soldiers through its territory to Turkey and ultimately to France. On the other hand, Romania began the improvement of its military armaments (Fig. 7) and the establishment of good relations with Germany.



Figure 4: Romanian occupational issue for Bukowina (former Austrian territory).



Figure 6: Romanian issue of 1940 celebrating the Balkan Pact (Sc. 504-5).

This initiative was welcomed by Hitler, because Romanian territory was useful for attacking the USSR, and because Romania had petroleum resources needed by the German army. As a result Romania was incorporated into the Three Powers Pact (Germany, Italy, Japan) in 1940 (Fig. 8).

in the organization did not have the result that the Romanian leaders had expected. Because Hungary and Bulgaria were traditionally closer allies of Germany, Germany supported the demands of these two countries to get back the territories ceded to Romania after WW I. As a result Romania had to return the majority of Transylvania to Hungary and the Dobrusha area to celebrating the Three Powers Pact Bulgaria in 1940 (based on the second arbitrage of



Figure 8: Romanian airmail stamp of 1940 (Sc. CB1).

Romania's membership

Vienna). The German-Soviet Treaty of 1939 (so called Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact) gave the Besarabia area to the Soviet Union, however that territory was a part of Romania.



Figure 9: Romanian issue of 1941 for Transistria (Sc. 517-519).

This unpleasant development led to a coup in Romania, when in 1940 the government was seized by the "Iron Guard" supported by General Antonescu. This was a fascist group wishing the formation of a regime similar to the one in Italy. The "Iron Guard's" government lasted only a year. In 1941 General Antonescu, with the support of the Romanian army overthrew the Guards and declared a dictatorship in the country.

In the meantime there occurred an important change in international relationships -- Germany started its attack on the Soviet Union in 1941. General Antonescu immediately promised the participation of Romanian troops in the military operations. Romanian troops really started attacking the USSR. The Romanian army occupied Moldavia and continued

into Ukrainian territory, where the new Romanian province of Transistria (with the capital of Odessa) was founded (Fig. 9).

The successful development of the Romanian adventure lasted into 1943 (Fig. 10), when the Romanian troops were seriously defeated at the Stalingrad battlefield. After the battle the total number of dead Romanian soldiers reached 300,000, and many others were injured (Fig. 11).

After the battle of Stalingrad, the Romanian government saw that Germany was losing the war, and it tried to establish contact with the anti-Nazi Alliance to



Figure 10: A postcard sent on March 15, 1943 by a Romanian soldier to home.



Figure 11: Romanian stamp for Red Cross of 1943 (Sc. B203-5).

capitulate into the hands of the Western powers. Before this diplomatic task was fulfilled, the battle line moved from Soviet territory to that of Romania, and in April 1944 the Soviet army occupied Bucharest.

In August 1944, Romanian King Michael removed Gen. Antonescu from office and proposed a partnership with the Soviet Union. Soviet leader Stalin appreciated the step and accepted Romania as a Soviet ally with the aim of incorporating Romania into the Soviet zone of influence.



Figure 12: Romanian field post card showing King Michael sent on Jan. 28, 1945 from Hungarian territory via Romanian field post office 85 (later reaching Czechoslovakia).

The Romanian army joined the Soviet one in 1944 and attacked Hungary within the frame of the Soviet offensive (Fig. 12). The expedition started in Romania and continued via Hungary to Czechoslovakia, which was the most Western point the army reached.

Stalin's decision to accept Romanian partnership was a good one, it secured Romania for the Soviet Union after the war. Then in 1945 the official Romania-Soviet friendship organization ARLUS started its activity (Fig. 13). The Soviet Union got Besarabia and Moldavia from Romania, who was indemnified by getting Transylvania.

The USSR also installed a Romanian government which supported close cooperation between the countries. The government was not



Figure 13: Sc. B268-71



Figure 14: Sc. 642-5



Figure 15:



Figure 16:

accepted by the USA, but in late 1945 the United States accepted it as part of larger trade with the USSR. Romania signed a Peace Treaty in 1947 (Fig. 14).

In 1948 the communists took over the governing of Romania and created the "Romanian People's Republic". Romania later joined the Warsaw Pact and became a Soviet ally. Despite this, it declined to participate in the 1968 occupation of Czechoslovakia and became one of the few communist countries not supporting the campaign.

2. Romanian Forces in Czechoslovakia in 1945

The first Romanian troops fighting within the frame of the Soviet Army reached Czechoslovak territory in December 1944. They fought in Slovakia, and then the expedition continued via Moravia to Bohemia. The Romanian troops ended their campaign a short distance from Prague -- they reached Humpolec which is less than an hour from the city.

The Romanian troops consisted of 17 divisions of infantry and cavalry, 2 antiaircraft artillery divisions, air force corps, and a tank regiment. The units were incorporated into the Soviet 2nd Ukrainian Front ("Fronts" were special military bodies being supreme to individual Soviet armies; the 2nd Ukrainian Front contained, e.g. the 4th and 40th Soviet Army). A total of 248,000 Romanian soldiers fought with these troops, and about 38,000 of them were killed on Czechoslovak territory.

The Romanian troops liberated 1,722 villages and towns -- e.g. the 18th Romanian Army in cooperation with the 4th Czechoslovak Brigade of the Soviet Union liberated Vrútky (in April 1945). Other troops liberated Kroměříž, Tišnov, Zlín, and Kyjov. The Romanian units were situated in Czechoslovakia until July 1945 when they returned home.

Of course, the troops were accompanied by Romanian field post offices. At the end of this article can be found a list of the Romanian field post offices which were situated in Czechoslovakia from April to July 1945. The list has been reprinted from Peter Gebauer's web site (see Resources).

Figure 15 shows a field post card which was sent from Romanian field post office No. 30 (situated in Slapanice near Brno) on May 16, 1945 to Romania.

Figure 16 shows an official field post card sent from FPO 113 (Cavalry Division 9) on 21.4.1945. Around this date, the division was regrouped in the area north of Vracov - Bzenec (north of the Morava river). The cover is postmarked OFICIUL POSTAL MILITAR No. 113. The censorship is confirmed by the circular unit mark (at the left bottom) and by the rectangular "CENSURAT" mark.

This is the end of the story. Although the Romanian contribution to the liberation of Czechoslovakia is not very popular, the soldiers helped a great deal in our liberation, and they should be celebrated as the American and Soviet ones are. Pictures from one such celebration which was held in Brno in 2002 can be found in a link stated in the resources section.

List of Romanian FPOs being located in Bohemia/Moravia

(FPO No., location(s), military org.)

24 -- Račin, 9th Infantry Division

25 -- Fryšava, 4th Army

- 30 -- Slapanice/Blažovice, 1st Guard Division
- 38 -- Michalovice, 2nd Infantry Division
- 43 -- Škrdlovice, 3rd Infantry Division
- 44 -- Lhota u Nové Město, 6th Army Corps
- 50 -- Humpolec/Štoky, 1st Army
- 51 -- Roženecké Paseky, 1st Cavalry Division
 - 54 -- Ostrov nad Oslavou, 6th Infantry Division
 - 56 -- Zubři, 11th Infantry Division
 - 66 -- Světnov, 2nd Army Corps
- 71 -- Německy Sicndorf (= Dobronín), 3rd Mountain Division
- 76 -- Humpolec, 7th Army Corps
- 85 -- Úsobí, 10th Infantry Division
- 86 -- Sklené, 8th Cavalry Division
- 104 -- Humpolec, 4th Army Corps
- 121 Věž, 19th Infantry Division
- 122 -- Vitochov/Kundratice, 18th Infantry Division
- 176 -- Věžnice, 2nd Mountain Division
- 185 -- Krucemburk (= Křižová), 21*t Infantry Division

Basic Postmark Types



Resources:

Vykoukal/Litera/Teichman -- Východ. Vznik, vývoj a rozpad Sovětského bloku 1944-89, Praha, Libri, 2000.

Grecu -- The Romanian Fieldpost Mail from Hungary and Czechoslovakia (1944-1945). Romanian Postal History Bulletin Vol. 8 (1977), No. 2, p. 23.

Klim/Schödelbauer -- Specializovaný katalog známek a celistvostí Československa 1918-1939, Merkur-Revue, Brno, 2002.

Gebauer -- Czech Postal History at http://phist.webpark.cz/index.htm

History of WW II -- http://www.rozhlas.cz/wwii/portal/

History of May 1945 -- http://www.holesov.cz/historie/kveten45.php

Celebration of Romanian Soldiers in 2002 --

http://www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz/aktuality/ rum.htm

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Book Review

CENNÉ NÁLEPKY APOST 1994-2005

(Value Imprinted Postal Labels) by APOST Society

This is a new topic in Czech Republic philatelic collecting that was discussed briefly in previous Philatelic News and Views and Letters to the Editor columns.

Cenné Nálepky or Value Imprinted Postal Labels first appeared on a trial basis in 1993 in Kolín. They were officially introduced on June 6, 2004 in Kroměříž, and by October of the same year as Czech post offices were being automated, they were in use in 80 post offices.

This POFIS catalog of 108 pages with color illustrations, listings for every type of value imprinted APOST postal label ever issued, and a pricing chart, is the work of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists under the direction of an author collective of M. Langhammer, V. Jambor, P. Gebauer, and M. Fencl.

On page 107 can be found a detailed description on how to put together a collection of this material. There are three basic types of APOST labels:

- a plain label (used instead of a postage stamp)
- a registration label (which also includes postage costs)
- a message label (e.g., "Vizovice 155 Let Posty" or 155 year anniversary of postal service in Vizovice).

All APOST labels are cataloged by alphabetical order, their value categorized as 1, 2, or 3 -- with 1 being the most common and 3 being the most valuable. This grading is explained in greater detail on page 105 of the catalog. In general the pricing values range from 1 Kč up through 300 Kč.

APOST labels are currently collected in three ways -- soaked off of the paper (almost impossible to achieve), cut out of the paper along the label's borders, or on an addressed piece along with any other applied labels.

Savoy Horvath

Letters to the Editor

1 Door Low

Thought you might like to know that I got a response to my ad in the latest SPECIALIST, and I am supposed to be receiving a copy of Plate II of the 25h brown Legionářské in the mail this week. Thanks!

Mark [Wilson]

PRISONERS OF WAR IN ITALY DURING WORLD WAR I

by Piero Santangelo trans. by Vladimir Kralicek

One piece of knowledge -- which makes WW I even more tragic -- is the number of prisoners which each state at war captured and sent into prison. All of the adversaries tried to carry out, with greater or lesser zeal, the International Agreements signed in various locations -- The Hague in 1899, Geneva in 1904 and 1906, and finally again The Hague in 1907. These Agreements presented in a clear way the rights and obligations of the prisoners and of the States which held the prisoners in captivity.



Figure 1: Prisoner's assembly point in the reception camp of Gorizia in 1916

In Italy, which entered the war on 24.5.1915, a commission was set up for prisoners of war in conjunction with the Italian Red Cross. In Circular No. 125, dated 30.5.1915, the High Command sent out the first regulations dealing with the problem of assigning the locations as to where the prisoners would be kept. The prisoners were to be transported to locations sufficiently distant from the front, and their movement was the responsibility of the army units which captured them (Fig. 1 & 2). The first camp adapted for this purpose was the fortress in Alessandria --other structures were also adapted which were already functioning as: fortresses, castles, monasteries, and barracks. Later, when the number of prisoners was much greater than anyone had expected, it was necessary to accept that it was needed to build new internment camps that were associated with individual armies and located at one or more places within the army's area of activity:

I Army -- in Alessandria and Casale II Army -- in Casalmaggiore and Borgoforte

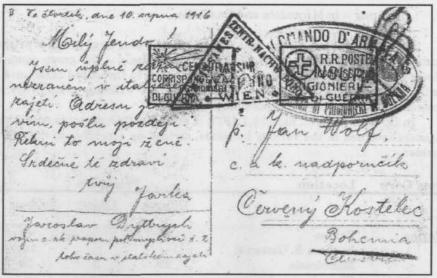


Figure 2: Card dated 10.8.1916 and sent to Bohemia. Sender writes that he is a prisoner, not wounded, and does not know the address of where he will be interned.

Cancel = "Comando D'Armata. Servizio di prigionieri di guerra".



Figure 3: Letter directed to Bohemia, bearing the Asinara camp handstamp, plus Italian and Austrian censor marks.

III Army -- in Mirandola and Guastalla

IV Army -- in Piacenza.

After the defeat of Serbia, in October 1915, the first large group of prisoners, numbering 24,000 individuals, was transported to Italy - the group comprising officers as well as regular soldiers. They were taken to the island of Asinara near Sardinia where, due to the small capacity of the existing camp, they were accommodated where and how possible (Fig. 3).

In Circular No. 212, dated 3.1.1917, is given the first accurate accounting of prisoners interned in the various locations, divided up according to the following scheme:

Army Corp	Location Prise			isoners	
Page 5	Al Samuel and St.	Officers	Cadets	Soldiers	
I Torino	Exilles	49		15	
The same	Luserna S. Giovanni			201	
	Moncenisio	22	3	12	
	Pinerolo			254	
	Venaria Reale	9	. 1	252	
	Torino Osp. M.re			22	
	Novara			_2	
Corp Total		80	4	758	
I Alessandria	Alessandria			393	
	Alessandria Osp. M.			107	
	Casale Monferrato			626	
	Castel Rocchero			227	
	Frinco d'Asti			361	
	Fossano	32		912	
	Gavi			567	
	Stazzano			408	
	Vigevano			309	
	Voltaggio			499	
10-27	Arquata Scrivia			129	
	Rigoroso			65	
	Pavia Osp. M.re			1	
	Savigliano			63	
Corp Total		32		4667	
III Milano		-		-	
IV Genova	Cortemaggiore	86	29	40	
	Casalmaggiore	25	8	447	
	Finalmarina	6	2	244	
	Genova	115	25	4948	
	Pizzighettone	16	4	435	

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

				1000
	Scandiano		Ugyigu	1036
	Taggia	11	4	344
	Parma Osp. M.re			6
	Piacenza Carceri M.ri			2
	Cremona Carceri M.ri	1		2
	Cogoleto Manicomio			8
Corp Total		260	72	7511
V Verona	Borgoforte		1	329
VI Bologna	Carpi			398
VI Dologna	Cento			301
	Cesena	17	1	353
	Bologna Osp. M.re	48	3	2
	Ferrara Osp. M.re	40		2
	Rovigo Osp. M.re			1
Corp Total	itovigo Osp. M.ie	65	4	1057
Corp rotar				
VII Ancona	Avezzano			6814
	Aquila	5	5	729
	Bucchianico	10	1	205
	Cittaducale			51
	Fonte d'Amore			3316
	Sulmona	5	1	322
	Servigliano			1015
	Urbania	7	1	537
	Sulmona Osp. M.re			15
Corp Total		27	8	13004
			A STATE OF THE STA	
VIII Firenze	Bibbiano	27	17	17
	Bibbiena	13	1	244
	Capraia	9		54
	Castel di Trebbio	18	2	169
	Firenze			449
	Pianosa	1		1
	Porto Ercole			448
	Ribolla (distacc. Lavori)			299
	San Gimignano			219
	Volterra			222
	Firenze Osp. M.re			1
	Firenze Manicomio			1
	Volterra			1
Corp Total		69	20	2125
TV Dames	Asimono	120	105	10760
IX Roma	Asinara	129	105	10769
	Cassino			4135

	Orvieto	6	2	565
	Montenarba			6
	Roma Osp. M.re	1	1	100
Corp Total	Itoma oop. III.	136	108	15602
Corp rotar		THE PARTY OF	La registra	10001
X Napoli	Casamaggiore	93	12	73
10,22	Campagna	12	3	188
	Padula (Vallodiano)		64	13074
	S. Maria Capua Vetere			4983
	Sala Consilina	3		
	Caserta Osp. M.re	2	1	383
	Napoli Osp. M.re	7	The state of the s	244
	S. M. Capua V. Osp. M.	6	3	121
	Napoli Carceri M.ri	1	The state of the s	
	Aversa Manicomio			1
	S. M. Capua V. Rep. Uff.	70	3	47
Corn Total	S. M. Capua v. Rep. Off.	194	86	19114
Corp Total		104	00	10117
XI Bari	Altamura			4419
444 45444	Barile			141
	Bitetto			118
	Castellana			29
	Conversano	76		27
	Matera	1		16
	Melfi	156	3	83
	Muro Lucano	10		32
	Ostuni			344
	Venosa	92		26
	Potenza			159
	Bari Carceri M.ri			1
Corp Total	Dari Carcori ini	335	3	5395
oup roun				
XII Palermo	Adernò	34	1	548
1000	Balestrate			583
	Catania Castel Ursino	36	7	271
	Catania Picanello			255
	Carini	21	1	382
	Cefalù	11	3	522
	Favara			498
	Monreale	38		541
	Marsala			515
	Milazzo	10	1	491
	Misterbianco			298
	Noto			374
	Paternò			325
	Pozzallo			437
	Piazza Armerina	221		81
	Stilo			367

	S. Giovanni La Punta	40	3	8
	Sciacca			30
	Trapani		1	963
	Terrasini	15	9	840
	Palermo Carceri M.ri	7		9
	Vittoria			100
Corp Total		433	26	8438
XIII Rodi	Rodi	2		13
TOTA	L 79,978			

Based on these numbers it is possible to estimate that, before the Circular date, about 16,000 prisoners were handed over to the French (Fig. 4) and about 4,000 had died, thus making it possible to quantify the number of prisoners interned in

Italy.

Through this same Circular it was given to understand that the camps at Avezzano and Cassino were enlarged and that it was arranged that new ones were to be built at Sora, Isernia, Vittoria, Nocera Umbra, Termini Imerese, Cefalù, Casal Borgone and Paternò. In the next two years many additional camps were introduced due to the increase in prisoner numbers -- which reached by October of 1918 to 150,000 persons.

In view of this situation, the High Command -- through Circular No. 23900, dated 22.9.1918 -- placed at the disposition of the individual armies the following camps in the vicinity of the battle front: I Army in Verona, III Army in Ferrara, IV Army in Cittadella (Padova), VI Army in Mirabella, VII Army in Castenedolo (Brescia), VIII Army in Resana (Treviso).

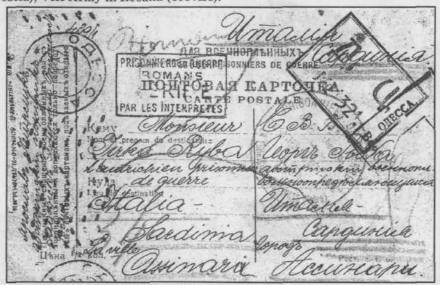


Figure 4: Card from Odessa dated 26.6.1917 addressed to the Asinara camp, from where it was forwarded to the Romans camp in France.



Figure 5: Pre-printed card from November 1918, with only the capture details, from the Lugagnano (Verona) camp and the Dep. Prigionieri di Mantova handstamp.

The sender is an Italian speaking soldier from Trieste (Terst).

On 24 October 1918 the Italian Army began its final attack towards Vittoria Veneto, and it can be calculated that from this day until the cessation of hostilities -- 4 November 1918 -- about 300,000 prisoners were captured. The largest part of this number consisted of soldiers from Austria-Hungary, who gave themselves up



Figure 6: Card sent by a Czechoslovak soldier in 1919 from the Forte Belvedere barracks in Florence, and sent on via the American Red Cross.

voluntarily to the Italians based upon the order of their High Command of the cessation of hostilities at 1500 (3 o'clock in the afternoon) on 3 November 1918, while the protocol accord, signed by the delegations, gave the end of hostilities as 1500 on 4 November 1918 (Fig. 5 & 6).

Once again to review the definitive data given out by the High Command on 1 June 1919 -- the number of prisoners taken by the Italian forces during the entire war was 477,024 persons.

Basic regulations for imprisonment and internment

The prisoners, after going through all of the formalities, were placed in locations designated for them. To avoid discords between the different nationalities of the Monarchy (Fig. 7 & 8), the prisoners were divided into two groups, that is:

ne Monarch	y (Fig. 1 & 8)	, the prisoner	rs were divid	ed into two gr	oups, tha
DOODOOSS std carty nu at a sa lacc mpartistin. D	Auf dieser Ki	ecasadonas arte dart sonar teik werden, D	Ezen a levelezi	30000000000 Napon mást ucm közülni. 9090 0000000000	Na topio is so pic jindi so pic jindi
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Bosoossesso Na ovoj depsanci ne- smie se inate nitm Soo sesptin. Soo	9 Jestem z 9999 M C 2 9999999999 999 Jaz sc 99999999 Z	9 Jsem zdráv a daří se mně dobře. 9000 estem zdráv i powodzi mi się dobrze. 9 9 A c agopon i neuř nege en goope. 2000 popososo Sono sano e sto bene. 9000000000000000000000000000000000000			
Na tei dopi ničestr dre	0900005939 solici se qe sine gegs prijavljeti. 0902030339	Su questa carro 9 fare ulteriori	ling non si dovra comunicazioni. 9 1000000000000	SOSOSOSOS His officeration no Sososososososososososososososososososo	RELEG MYS

Figure 7: Card with pre-printed text for Austro-Hungarian soldiers.

Text given in the nine languages spoken in the Monarchy.

- A) Slavic -- Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Croats
- B) Germanic Tyroleans, Styrians, Lower and Upper Austrians -- and Hungarians.

With Order No. 23000, dated 22.9.1918, and concurrent with the opening of camps in Verona, Ferrara, Cittadella, Mirabella, Castenedolo and Resana, there were introduced new regulations, to which the individual camp commands had to adhere. Paragraph 4 of the Order directs:

Prisoners must be immediately sorted out by their nationalities and the officers are to be accommodated separately from the other soldiers, and after the interrogation period must be sent to the following locations:

Officers, standard bearers, cadets, and deserters:

Czechoslovaks Poles Badia di Sulmona Casagriove (Caserta)

Rumanians Cittaducale (Aquila)
Jugoslavs Nicera Umbra

Italians Luserna S. Giovanni (Torino)
Other nationalities Cassino a Polla (Salerno)

Regular soldiers and deserters:

Czechoslovaks Avezzano

Poles S. Maria Capua Vetere Rumanians Casale D'Altamura

Jugoslavs Urbania

Italians Isernia a Lusserna S. Giovanni (TO)

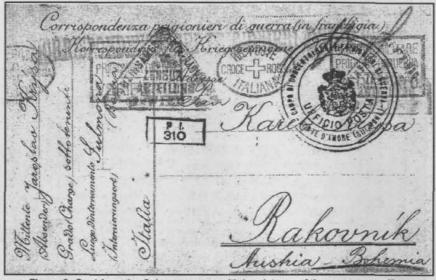


Figure 8: Card from the Sulmona camp, with handstamp of the camp post office.

Of interest is the fact that the prisoners are not divided up by their language, but by their nationalities.

The majority of the prisoners returned to their native countries during the second half of 1919, and the Italian authorities must have faced a multitude of problems as a result of the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the concurrent emergence of the new states.

Employment of prisoners

According to the Hague Agreement of 1907, article 6, it was possible for warring states to place prisoners of war into the work process, both for public and private work, with the exception of officers. In Italy the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce expanded the circular in which were introduced the agreed regulations for the employment of prisoners in agriculture and industry. In view of the great demand for a labor force, there were -- by Circular dated 14.11.1916 and compiled by special commission -- introduced standards which regulated this service.

(To be continued)

AMERICAN AND BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICE IN WESTERN BOHEMIA IN 1945 - ADDENDUM

by Lubor Kunc

In the previous SPECIALIST the concluding portion of this article stated that at the end of it would appear a list of the American APOs in Bohemia. Due to an error, no such list appeared. It is therefore published here.

List of US APOs being located in Western Bohemia

(APO no., location(s), duration, US military org., commander, where APO moved to)

- 2 Plzeň (Pilsen)/Domažlice (Taus), 12.5.-11.6.1945, 2nd Infantry Div, Gen. C. Andrus, France
- 5 Vimperk (Winterberg), 11.5.-21.5.1945, 5th Infantry Div, Gen. S. LeRoy Irvin/Gen. Brown, Germany
 - 26 Volary (Wallern), 24.5.-15.8.1945, 26th Infantry Div, Gen. W.S. Paul, Austria 79 Cheb (Eger)/Aš (Asch)/Frant. Lázní (Franzensbad), 4.6.-10.8.1945, 79th
- Infantry Div, ?, Germany
 - 80 Mariánské Lázní (Marienbad), 25.9.'45-?.1.1946, 80th Infantry Div, ?, France
- 90 Železná Ruda (Eisenstein), 5.5.-12.5.1945, 90th Infantry Div, Gen. McLain/ Gen. Van Fleet/Gen. Earnest, Germany
- 94 Strakonice (Strakonitz)/Sušice (Schuttenhofen)/Prachatice (Prachatitz), 11.6.-?.12.1945, 94th Infantry Div, ?, Germany
 - 137 Plzeň (Pilsen), 11.5.-3.10.1945, ?, ?, ?
 - 205 Plzeň (Pilsen), ?.8.-20.9.1945, ?, ?, ?
- 254 Sušice (Schuttenhofen), 11.5.-14.6.1945, 4th Armored Div, Gen. Wood/Gen. Gaffey/Gen. Hoge, Germany
- 258 Rokycany (Rokycan)/Holýšov (Holeischen), 11.6.-25.9.1945, 8th Armored Div, ?, ?
 - 305 Plzeň (Pilsen), 11.5.'45-?.1.1946, V Army Corps, ?, Germany
- 412 Planá u Tachova (Plan b. Tachau), 16.5.-15.9.1945, 16th Armored Div, Gen. J.L. Pierce, USA
- 445 Konstantinovy Lázní (Konstantinbad)/Tachov (Tachau), 11.5.-19.5.1945, 97th Infantry Div, Gen. M.B. Halsey, Germany
- 655 Wiesbaden (Germany), 5.5.-30.9.1945, HQ 12th Army Group, Gen. Bradley, USA

Philatelic News and Views

From Hans van Dooremalen:

--... just got the sad message that Jozef Tekel of Bratislava died last Sunday [Aug. 21] at the age of 51. As you may know he has been ill for some time. It is a big loss for Slovak and Czechoslovak philately.

From Richard Palaschak:

-- WASHINGTON'06 Member Update 11 is now available at http://www.washington-2006.org. Among the information that can be found in this latest update is: a preliminary schedule of events; a current schedule of society meetings listing dates and times for over 60 group planning meetings or seminars; the US Postal Service announcement that it will make two different cancels available each day -- one a specific daily commemoration and the other a special theme; that the US Postal Service plans first day issues for the first four days of the show and what they are; and a dealer listing of the nearly sold out bourse.

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....

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

1. On September 7, 2005, the Ministry of Communications issued a set of three commemorative stamps entitled Handicraft Relics -- Bells (Fig. 1). Bellfounding has a long tradition in our countries. The voices of bells have accompanied our everyday life for almost five thousand years. Even though they are almost hidden from our

sight, they measure our time, announce the arrival of holidays, sound the alarm, invite for prayers, accompany us also on our last way. Their voice did not change throughout the thousands of years, it still evokes the same emotions in us as it did in our predecessors. The shape of bells did not change either, nor did the old craft of



Fig. 1

bellfounding. Bells are founded of bronze in the same way as they used to be. A bell sounds with many different, unevenly sonorous tones which have to chime in harmoniously. In addition to the musical aspect bells have also an important artistic aspect; they bear inscriptions and plastic decorations of artistic value. The stamps were designed by Jan Kavan, engraved by Rudolf Cigánik, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in printing sheets of 50 pieces. The FDC's involved here depict belfries depicted in outline composition taken from a Manual of Casting by the Prague bell founder

Vavřinec Krička of Bítvška.



the highly developed bell-founding craft in the territory of the Czech Republic. The first, from 1322, signed Rudger, is located in the belfry in Benešov by the ruined Minor Franciscan monastery from the 13th century; the second one is from the belfry of the dean's church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Havlíčkův Brod, dated 1300, 1305, or most recently 1335 according to a different interpretation of the Latin abbreviations. A FDC in dark brown shows the belfry of

-- The 7.50 Kc stamp shows two of the oldest wellpreserved Bohemian bells that represent the oldest relics of

the dean's church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Havlíčkův Brod (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2

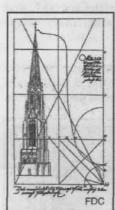
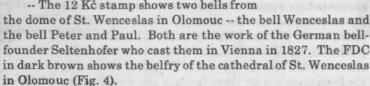


Fig. 4

-- The 9 Kč stamp depicts two renaissance bells from 1561 and 1596 that hang in the little romanesque church of St. John and St. Paul in Dobrš near Stachy in the Sumava Region. The author of both is Brikcí of Cimperk, who was representative of the top level of bell-founding, together with Tomáš Jaroš and Vavřinec Krička of Bítyška. A FDC in dark brown shows the belfry and church of SS John and Paul in Dobrš (Fig. 3).

-- The 12 Kč stamp shows two bells from



SLOVAKIA

by Gerald M. van Zanten

2. On May 15, 2005, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 9 Sk commemorative stamp entitled President of the SR -- Ivan Gašparovič (Fig. 5). Ivan Gašparovič was born on 27 March 1941 in Poltár. From 1959 until 1964 he studied law at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University (CU) in Bratislava. Following graduation, from 1965 until 1966 he was an articled clerk at

the District Public Prosecution Office in Martin, and from 1966 to 1968 he worked for the Public Prosecution Office, Bratislava. In 1968 he started work as a lecturer



Fig. 5

at the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology of CU Department of Law. He was elected a member of the Slovak National Council in 1992, subsequently becoming the Chairman, and later, until 1998, he was the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR). In 2002, Doc. JUDr. Ivan Gašparovič again resumed the position of university professor at CU Faculty of Law. He wrote and participated in the writing of numerous university schoolbooks and textbooks, scientific research, and articles in the field of criminal law. In the direct presidential election that took place in April 2004, Mr. Gašparovič

was elected President of the Slovak Republic. His term of office commenced after the presidential inauguration held on 15 June 2004. Within the first year of his tenure as President, Ivan Gašparovič visited all the important European and world institutions. He met with the highest officials of the European Union and NATO in Brussels. In September 2004, he gave a speech at the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. He thus became the first head of the country in the history of the Slovak Republic to make such an appearance. In February 2005, he hosted the heads of the United States of America and the Russian Federation during the Bush-Putin Summit in Bratislava, which was without doubt the most outstanding international political event that has taken place in the Slovak Republic in recent years. The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský, and produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague using rotary recess printing combined with recess printing. A FDC was issued.

3. On May 16, 2005, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk stamp commemorating the World Year of Physics -- Dionýz Ilkovič (Fig. 6). In December 2000, the World Congress of Physical Societies was held in Berlin. The more than 40 physical societies from

around the world that were present approved the proposal to declare 2005 as the World Year of Physics. UNESCO expressed its support for and approved of this proposal in 2003, followed by the United Nations in 2004. The background of this proposal was the centennial of the publishing of Albert Einstein's legendary scientific papers (the so-called "Annus Mirabilis" in 1905). These papers set the fundamentals for three fields of physics: the principle of relativity, the quantum theory, and the theory of Brownian motion. In so doing, the papers completely changed the then



Fig. 6

prevailing perception of the world. Einstein's revolutionary ideas concerned the fundamental aspects of physics, namely the existence of atoms, the nature of light and the perception of space, energy and substance. The aim of the World Year of Physics is to increase public awareness of and interest in physics through remembering Albert Einstein, the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics, the world-acclaimed celebrity, and the most famous physicist and mastermind of the 20th century. Physics has played a key role in the development of science and technology,

and beyond theory it also influences living standards in society. The stamp portrays a bolt of lightning -- a natural phenomenon in accordance with physical laws. Lightning is a strong electrical discharge that occurs among clouds or between clouds and land. The stamp was designed by Zdeno Brázdil and produced by WSP-CARTOR, France using multicolored offset. A FDC depicts Dionýz Ilkovič (1907-1980) -- a notable Slovak physician who became famous for his equation for polarographic diffusion current.

4. On May 23, 2005, the Ministry issued a 9 Sk commemorative stamp as the 2005 Children's Stamp (Fig. 7). FIFIK is a magazine with cutout pictures that is distributed at primary schools in Slovakia. This publication has been working with Slovak Post on the promotion of Slovak postage stamps to children for more than three years. Interesting information regarding philately is communicated to

children in an amusing way helping to increase their interest in stamp collecting. The mutual cooperation bore fruit as an idea to use a child's picture from the prof. Karol Ondreička art competition "The Month of Children's Works" as the design for the 2005 children's stamp. The competition is organized for physically and mentally handicapped children regardless of age and type of handicap. Every year thousands of drawing, paintings and 3D works of kids from special needs schools, children homes, hospital schools and special boarding schools are delivered to FIFIK, to the children's charity Korytnačka Association, and SPP who participate in the organization of the



Fig.

competition. A committee then evaluates the submissions of a high artistic standard. The late prof. Karol Ondreička was the long-standing chairman of the committee; he was succeeded by prof. Dušan Kállay. Over the seven-years of the competition, the committee has evaluated tens of thousands of children's works created under the guidance of their teachers and parents. The themes and motives are changed every year. One of the most popular themes -- which grasped children's imagination immediately -- was the design for a Slovak postage stamp. Individuals as well as whole class teams participated in this project. Out of the vast number of exhibited and awarded children's paintings and drawings, the Realization Committee of Stamp Creation for Slovak Post selected the entry from Juraj Kiš, a pupil at an elementary school for kids with special needs. The stamp motif came from Juraj Kiš, its graphic design was by Peter Čisárik, and its was produced by

WSP-CARTOR, France using multicolored offset. A FDC was issued.



Fig. 8

5. On May 23, 2005, the Ministry issued a 30 Sk commemorative stamp in honor of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (Fig. 8). Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) is an international competition and show of original children books' illustrations. The work used as the stamp design is an illustration which was awarded a prize by an International Committee at BIB 2003. In all, 311 illustrators from 38

countries presented their works at BIB 2003. The BIB 2003 Grand Prix was awarded to Iku Dekune from Japan. The awarded illustration, however, does not portray typical features of Japanese illustrating tradition. This artist's work has more the characteristics of European illustrations. The influence of the author's tutor, prof. Dušan Kállay, is clearly visible in her work. Kállay's importance is evident in the poetry, fantastical aspects of her creative work, and human or zoomorphic figures with their own nature and character appear in her colored pictures. The artist creates a cosy and intimate milieu. The stamp illustration is by Iku Dekune of Japan, graphic design is by Vladislav Rostoka, and it was produced by WSP-CARTOR of France using multicolored offset. A FDC was issued.

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