

BULLETIN

o. 2

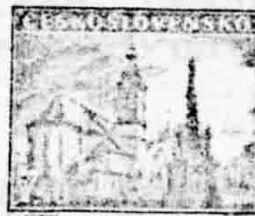
JUNE, 1975



29 — 1946



30 — 1946



31 — 1946



35 — 1946



32/34 — 1946



39 — 1947



36 — 1947



41 — 1947



44 — 1948



38 — 1947



40 — 1947



42 — 1947



43



54 — 1945



51 — 1946



Next Meeting

Please note that the next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 7th June 1975 at 2.30 p.m. at our usual venue: The Board Room of the British Philatelic Association (Building of the National Liberal Club) 1, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

At this meeting one of our members, Mr. A. J. Stoyel will give a display of pre-1918 Czechoslovak Postal History. His collection and knowledge on this subject are quite unique and we are very pleased that Mr. Stoyel has agreed to give this display. We do hope that as many members as possible will avail themselves of this opportunity to see Mr. Stoyel's remarkable collection.

Maps for Sale

A reproduction of an 1871 map showing Czech territories under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, size approximately 4'0" x 3'0" may be obtained from Mrs. P. Oliver, 116, Birchfield Road, Northampton or at the next meeting. Price £1 each.

Exhibition Covers

Our appeal for help in selling the remaining covers went unanswered. Only one cover was ordered. Our thanks go to Mr. Gracie of Fife who, although not requiring any covers, kindly donated £1.50 to this account.

- - - - -

Mr. Pettitt of Chippenham, Wilts, who puts in a regular attendance at our meetings is unfortunately in hospital at Bath. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him in the not too distant future.

The following is the first of what we hope will be a series of stories behind the pictures on Czech stamps, sent in by Mr.H.R.Sewell:

Millenary of Death of St. Wenceslas

Pofis 243 - 247

St. Wenceslas (or Vaclav) who died in 929 was Prince or Duke of Bohemia from 921. He succeeded his father Vratislav at the age of 13 or 14.

He was brought up by his grandmother, St. Ludmilla, but his ambitious mother, Drahomira, had Ludmilla murdered and herself acted as regent until Wenceslas came of age in 924 or 925.

He was a pious young man who encouraged the work of German missionary priests in the christianisation of Bohemia. His submission to the German King Henry I who came to Prague in 929 provoked some of the nobles into conspiring against Wenceslas and they instigated his young brother Boleslav to murder him. Waylaid by Boleslav on his way to church at Stara Boleslav, he was killed at the church door. He was early regarded as a martyr and as patron Saint of Bohemia, now part of Czechoslovakia.

According to a story of his life, written nearly 400 years after his death, he used to cut wood in the forest and carry it secretly to widows and orphans. With him went his servant Podiven, who did not feel the cold when he followed in the Saint's footsteps in wintry weather. This story is the basis of that well known Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslas.....".

oooooooooooooooo

CZECHOSLOVAK "POLNI POSTA" 1938

By Mr. W. A. Dawson

Introduction

The worsening of relations between Czechoslovakia and Nazi Germany had been a direct result of the demands voiced by Heinrich Henlein, leader of the Nazi inspired "Sudeten Deutscher Partei". Basically, these demands were of "self-determination" for the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia - in other words, union with Nazi Germany. These demands made by Henlein, were vociferously supported by the Reichsführer, Adolf Hitler, and the Nazi propaganda machine.

Full mobilisation of the Czechoslovak Forces had taken place in August, 1938. Thus, the armed revolt of the 2nd September, organised by the Sudeten Deutscher Partei was soon put down. This, of course, only brought fresh outbursts and threats from Hitler, and led to the meeting at Munich between the leaders of Germany, Italy, France, and England on 29th September. Czechoslovakia, whose fate was to be decided was not invited. On 30th September, 1938, the Munich Pact was signed by the four countries and Czechoslovakia had little option but to accept. Under the provisions of this agreement, the Nazis were given ALL they had been agitating for - not only the Sudetenland proper (Northwest Bohemia), but almost all the border areas of Bohemia and Silesia plus parts of Moravia. These areas included just about all of the Czechoslovak Military Defence installations, somewhat similar to the French Maginot Line plus the biggest part of Czechoslovak natural resources and industry. The occupation was to be completed in the period up to 10th October, 1938. It left Czechoslovakia defenceless and undefendable.

Organisation

The Czechoslovak Army Field Posts Organisation was put into effect on 1st October, 1938, the day the German occupation of the "Sudetenland" was officially to start. Its function was to handle personal mail to and from members of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces as well as official military mail.

The organisation was comprised of various units, as follows:-

63 or 64 Polni Posta (Field Post Offices), numbered 1 to 64. Note: There is some uncertainty concerning Polni Posta 29. The checklist produced in 1949 by the Czechoslovak Philatelist Ladislav Novotny does not list P.O.29. Subsequent writers make no mention of this omission. I have no proof either way. I have never seen or been offered anything from P.P.29. If any collector has any information on this point, I should be very pleased to hear.

5 Tridirna Polni Posty (Base Sorting Field Post Offices) numbered 1 to 5.

20 Vojenska Vlakova Posta (Military Train Post Offices) numbered 1 to 20.

1 Ustredna Polni Posty (Headquarters Field Post Office) this being actually located at Prerov in Eastern Moravia.

8 Sberna Polnich Posta (Base Collecting Field Post Offices), which were the entry point into the Field Posts system for mail of civilian origin. These Offices were located at Praha, Plzen, Pardubice (in Bohemia) Brno, Prerov (in Moravia), Kosice, Trencin, Vrutky (in Slovakia).

Mail from Military Personnel would be routed as follows:

Unit - Polni Posta - Tridirna Polni Posty - Vojenska Vlakova Posta - Ustredna Polni Posty - Civilian T.P.O. local Post Office - addressee.

Civilian mail to Military addresses would be routed:-

Civilian P.O. - Sberna Polnich Posta - Ustredna P.P. Vojenska Vlakova Posta - Tridirna Polni Posty - Polni Posta - Unit.

Note that in certain cases of outlying Polni Posta the Tridirna P.O. would be by-passed and the mail transferred to appropriate Vojenska Vlakova Posta en route.

The whole Polni Posta organisation was gradually run down commencing from 12th November, 1938. By coincidence, the first unit to close was Polni Posta No.1 on 12th November. In the writer's collection, there is a rather philatelic souvenir card with the message "Last greetings sent by the Field Post Office, from....." pertaining to the closure of P.P. No.1 - doubtless there exist similar souvenirs from other Field Post Units.

The last Field Post Office to close was P.P. No.59, which was located at Bratislava in Slovakia and which ceased operations on 6th December, 1938.

During the whole period of operations, postage for members of the Armed Forces was free for mail despatched through the Field Posts. Mail addressed to Military personnel from civilian sources had to be prepaid at normal internal postage rates.

Cancellations

All cancellers used by the Field Posts Organisation were double-ring circular hand date stamps with a moveable dating device within the central bridge. No machine cancellers were in use at any time.

Where Offices had more than one hand canceller, code letters were used always located in the segment below the central bridge. Most, but by no means all, also incorporated a time plug within the central bridge to the right of the date. In all instances, Roman numerals were used ONLY to denote the month - thus "13.X.38" or "13.X.1938" or "13.X.38-10", the latter instance showing use of the time plug.

Normal size for the handstamps was 31 mm to 32 mm across - exceptions occur only in Group 5 of the Polni Posta cancellations (q.v.). All were normally struck in black, though a few instances of blue/black and violet/black are to be found.

Notable exceptions to this rule are found for 38.X.38 struck in red, National Independence Day marking the 20th anniversary of the Independent Republic of Czechoslovakia. Other exceptions are found in green, to mark the closing date of the respective Polni Posta unit. In the writers collection there are also two other examples of "red" strikes - 6.X.38 for Tridirna Polni Posta No. 3, 6.XI.38 for Polni Posta 38. The reasons for these two "commemorative" strikes are not known to me - I can find no National reason for marking either of these particular dates so I can only presume that the reasons were either of purely a localised nature (i.e. to mark say 20th anniversary of the formation of a Regiment) or that it was struck in error in that colour.

The cancellers of the ordinary "Polni Posta" units fall into 5 groups, each with sub-types. These are all detailed below:-

Group 1 - Inscribed "Polni Posta 16" (or appropriate number) in the upper arc, with 3 stars or asterisks in the lower arc. (This is the most numerous group).

Type 1A - has date "13.X.1938" as appropriate, no time plug, but with code letter in lower segment.

Type 1B - has date as appropriate "13.X.38.12" with the time plug, and with code letter in lower segment.

Type 1C - has date as appropriate "13.X.1938" without time plug and without code letter. (Found only for P.P.40)

Group 2 - Inscribed "Polni Posta C.3" (or appropriate number) in the upper arc, "C.S.P." in lower arc with small ornaments to left and right, with time plug and with code letter in lower segment.

Type 2A - has the inscription "C.S.P." in narrow type lettering, with the ornaments being 4 dots arranged in star form.

Group 2 (Contd.)

Type 2B - has "C.S.P." in broader type letters, with the ornaments being six-pointed stars.

Type 2C - again has "C.S.P." in broader type letters, the ornaments being made up of 4 square dots.

Group 3 - Inscribed "POLNI POSTA" with appropriate number in the upper arc, "C.S.P." in lower arc with these letters, being of a thicker and rounded script type lettering (upper loop to "C") and small ornaments to left and right, with time plug in date and code letter in lower segment.

Type 3A - has the Polni Posta number shown as "C.9", having large "C" for cislo.

Type 3B - has the Polni Posta number shown as "c.47" using small "c" for cislo.

Type 3C - has a wide gap between "POLNI POSTA" and the number, where the "c" would be in types 3A and 3B.

Group 4 - Inscribed "POLNI POSTA" with wide gap followed by the appropriate number, (as in type 3C) in upper arc, "C.S.P." with ornament to left and right in lower arc, date as "13.X.38" having space for time plug with code letter in lower segment.

Type 4A - has two small dashes inserted in the place of the time plug, ornaments are six-pointed stars.

Type 4B - has the time plug inserted as appropriate, ornaments are made with four square dots.

Type 4C - has the time plug inserted as appropriate, ornaments are made with four round dots.

Type 4D - has the time plug inserted as appropriate, ornaments are larger six pointed stars.

Group 4 (Contd.)

Type 4F - has two small dashes inserted in place of the time plug, bold thick figures for the Unit number, ornaments are hollow crosses.

Group 5 - This group comprises those cancellers that had been in use during the hostilities against Hungary and Poland in 1919-1920. None of these have code letters.

Type 5A - is inscribed "Polni Posta 12" (number as appropriate) in upper arc, "C.S.P." with tail to foot of "p" and star ornaments to left and right in the lower arc, date as *13.X.38--" (dashes for time plug).

Type 5B - as inscribed "Polni Posta 50" in upper arc, "C.S.P." with tail to foot of "P" and stars ornaments to left and right in lower arc, and again two dashes in place of time plug.

Type 5C - is inscribed "Polni Posta 32" in upper arc, thicker "C.S.P." with tail to foot of "P" star ornaments to left and right in lower arc, two dashes in place of time plug.

Type 5D - is 34 mm in diameter inscribed "CESKO-SLOVENSKA POLNI POSTA" in upper arc, Unit number with stars to left and right in lower arc, date shown "13.X.38" as appropriate.

Type 5E - is 28 mm in diameter inscribed "CESKO-SLOVENSKA POLNI POSTA" in upper arc, Unit number with small ornaments left and right in lower arc, date as shown "13.X.38" as appropriate.

Type 5F - is 32½ mm in diameter inscribed "CESKO-SLOVENSKA POLNI POSTA" in upper arc, Unit number with larger stars to left and right in lower arc, date as appropriate "13.X.38".

The following is a check list of all the known cancellers for the ordinary Polni Posta units shown in their respective groups and types:-

Group 1. Type 1A - 1a, 7a, 11a, 13a, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a, 21a, 31a, 41a, 51a.

Type 1B - 1b, 7b, 11b, 13b, 16b, 17b, 18b, 19b, 21b, 23a & b, 24a & b, 26a & b, 27a & b, 28a & b, 30a & b, 31b, 33a & b, 34a & b, 36a & b, 39a & b, 41b, 42a & b, 43a & b, 45a & b, 48a & b, 49a & b, 50a & b, 51b, 52a & b, 54a & b, 55a & b, 56a & b, 57a & b, 58a & b, 59a & b, 60a & b, 62a & b, 64a & b.

Type 1C - 40.

Group 2. Type 2A - 2a & b, 3a & b, 4a & b.

Type 2B - 5b, 22a, 32a.

Type 2C - 5a.

Group 3. Type 3A - 9a & b.

Type 3B - 47a & b, 61a & b.

Type 3C - 15a & b, 37a & b, 53a & b.

Group 4. Type 4A - 10a, 14a & b, 20a & b, 38a & b, 44a & b, 63a.

Type 4B - 8a & b, 25a.

Type 4C - 6a & b.

Type 4D - 35a, 46a & b.

Type 4E - 12b.

Group 5. Type 5A - 12, 35.

Type 5B - 50.

Type 5C - 32.

Type 5D - 10, 25.

Type 5E - 22, 50.

Type 5F - 63.

The TRIDIRNA POLNI POSTA (Base Sorting F. P. O.) are numbered 1 to 5. Each of these five units used four cancellers, code letters "a", "b", "c" and "d" respectively. Cancellers for Units numbered 1 to 4 are inscribed "TRIDIRNA POLNI POSTA" with the appropriate number in the upper arc, and "C.S.P." in the lower arc. Those for No.5 are inscribed "TRIDIRNA POLNICH POST 5" with only three ornaments in the lower arc. Amongst this group of twenty different cancellers, there are other minor differences amongst them. These may be variations in spacing of the lettering, with or without the "c" (for cislo) before the number, time plugs or dashes, lettering of the "C.S.P.". However, this is of no great consequence, and the group constitutes 20 different cancellations.

The VOJENSKA VLAKOVA POSTS (Military Train P.O.) are numbered 1 to 20. Each of these trains used two cancellers, code letters "a" and "b", giving a total of forty different cancellers. All are similarly inscribed "VOJENSKA VLAKOVA POSTA" in the upper arc, with the train number immediately following. All have one star ornament central in the lower arc, two differing types of star being used. All quote the appropriate date as *13.X.38", without time plug. Code letters are in the lower segment, below the date beidge. As may be expected, there are very minor differences in the spacing and lettering of the main inscription.

For the Headquarters Unit (USTREDNA POLNI POSTY), there were five cancellers in use, code letters being in the lower segment "a" to "e". Handstamp code "a" was inscribed "USTREDNA POLNI POSTY", with "C.S.P." in the lower arc. The other four handstamps, codes "b" to "e" were inscribed "USTREDNA POLNICH POST" with only three star ornaments in the lower arc. Appropriate dates are shown "13.X.38 12" with time plug.

Cancellers in use at the Base Collecting F.P.O's were the only examples giving the locations of the Unit. All were inscribed "SBERNA POLNICH POST" in the upper arc, with the name of the town in the lower arc with separating ornaments to left and right. Each office used five cancellers, with code letter "a" to "e" in the lower segment. All these forty handstamps had dating and time plugs in the central bridge. Again there are minor differences in letterings, spacings and in the style of separating ornaments.

To be continued
in next issue.

Members' Wants Lists

Mr. J. Austin
(New Barnet)

Pofis No.

2030/31 In blocks of four.
2032/34
2048/52 In blocks of four.
2054/59 In blocks of four.
2061
2062/64 and all stamps after this
date.

- - - - -

Mr. R. Gracie
(Wife)

S.G.No.

Novotny 1970 No.

244c 203
N249 N9
D252 D34
D256 D41
N333 OT2
N334 OT3
MS377b NA18

- - - - -

Mr. B. Jones
(Luton)

Mint Art Set 1968:

- - - - -

Mr. P. Rocke
(New Barnet)

Unmounted mint, most issues of period
1949-1960 and some Slovakia. Will
buy or offer in exchange new issues
1973-75 and used of earlier periods

- - - - -

Mr. H. Sewell
(Penzance)

Stamps of Austria and Hungary with
Postmarks dated between 28th October
1918 and 28th February, 1919.

- - - - -