

WWII CZECH PATRIOTIC LABELS

This exhibit presents patriotic labels (cinderellas) published during World War II in support of Czechoslovakia and its people, including Czech and Slovak soldiers and airmen who had made their way to Great Britain and were still fighting.

After the occupation of Czechoslovakia (October, 1938–March, 1939) prior to the start of World War II and for the duration of the war, several different issues of patriotic labels in support of occupied Czechoslovakia and its people were published in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. Some were prepared by/for the Czechoslovak soldiers and airmen who had escaped to Britain, others by various Czechoslovak patriotic organizations. These labels show the continued patriotic fervor exhibited by exiled Czechoslovaks and the support expressed for occupied Czechoslovakia and its citizens by Czechoslovak patriotic organizations located in other countries.

The most comprehensive listing of these WWII-era labels appears in *Czechout* (3/2000, pp. 68-73). *Czechout* is the journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB). *Czechout* records 16 relevant singles and sets; all are represented in this exhibit. An additional eight (8) labels, not listed in this *Czechout*, are also shown.

Exhibit Organization

Labels are shown in roughly chronological order.

The heading for each label/set shows the publisher and city (if known) in the upper left. The nation and year are shown in the upper right. The specific publisher of the labels used on Czech field post in Britain is not known; these pages have a generic Free Czechoslovak Forces in Great Britain heading. They were produced in Great Britain by Czechoslovak soldiers/airmen and/or their patriotic associations/organizations.

Where applicable, reverse sides are generally shown at 60%. Translations/quotes are shown in *italics*.

AMERICAN CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION
Chicago

UNITED STATES
1939



Label Translations

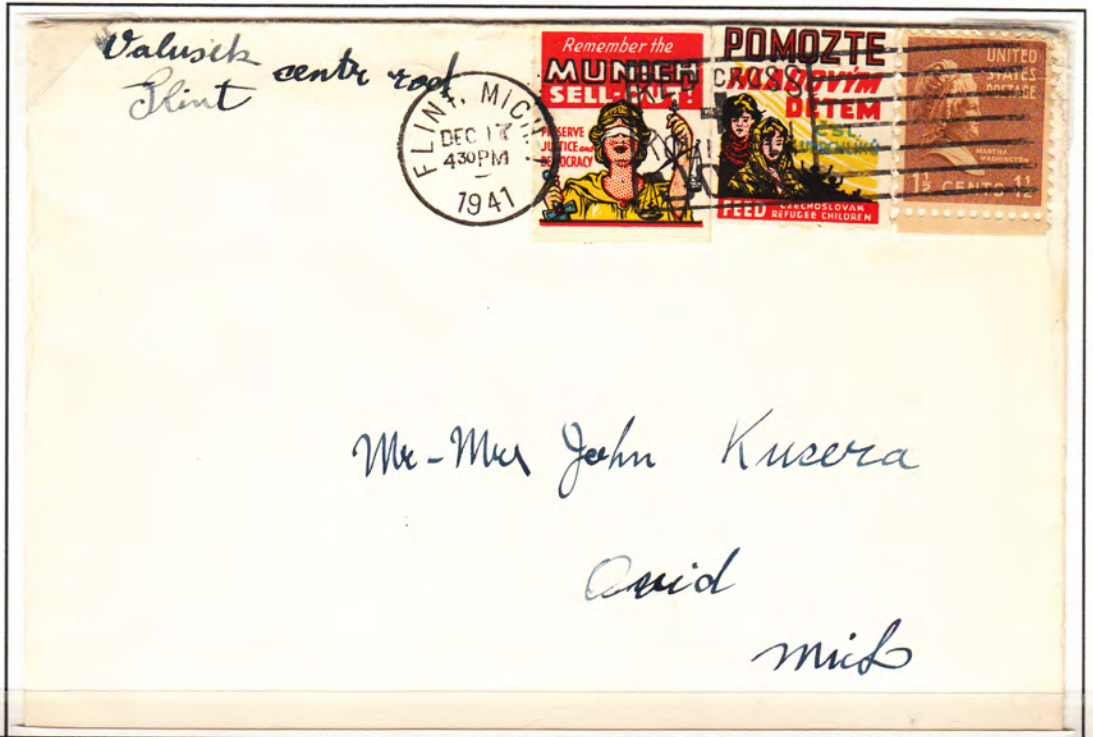
Top Row

- #1 - *Help the hungry children of Czechoslovak refugees*
- #2 - *Protect democracy*
- #3 - *Ask for Czechoslovak products*
- #4 - *What unites our hearts, the sea cannot separate*
- #5 - *For Czechoslovak refugee children*

Bottom Row

- #1 - (no Czech)
- #2 - *We were and will be! Truth wins!*
- #3 - *Everything for the child and the future of the nation*
- #4 - (no Czech)
- #5 - (no Czech)

Correct 1½¢/2 oz.
third class rate



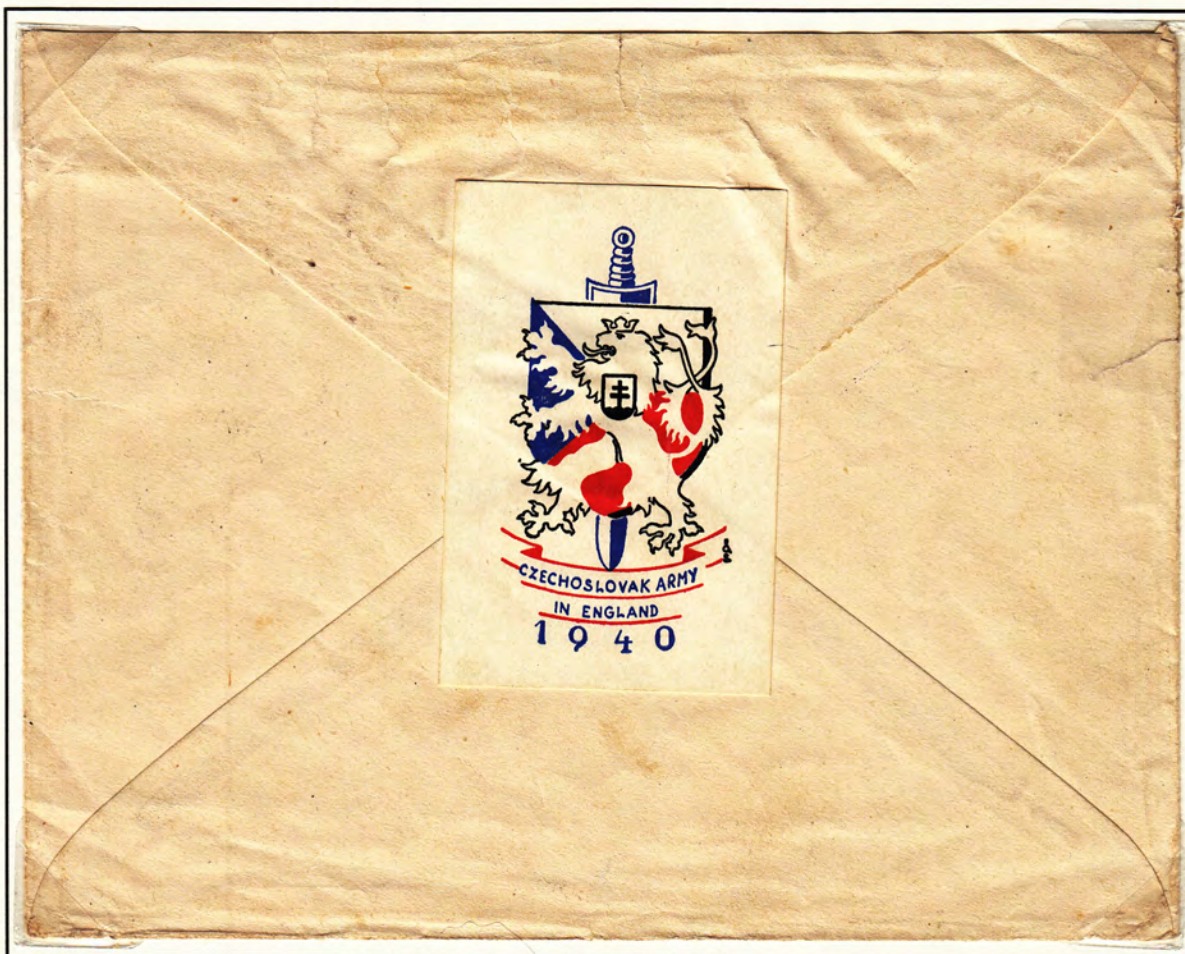
Color Proof Sheet
Imperf., gummed





Czechoslovak Field Post postmark
December 20, 1942

The Czech words above the tank: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*
The round, red emblem to the left of the bird is a Sokol logo.
Sokol is spelled out with the central 'S' and 'okl' diagonal (LL to UR).
ŽŽ stands for *Župa Zahraniční* = *branch posted abroad*.



1939



1941



Misperf

1940

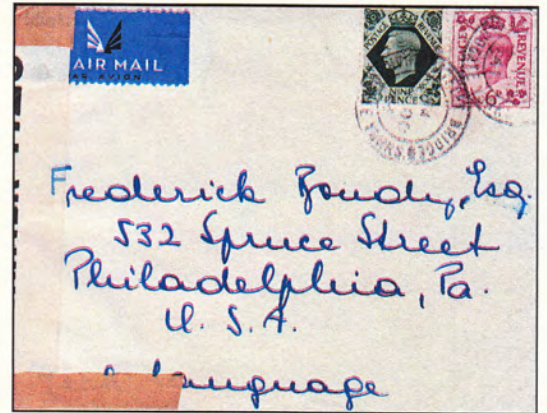


Note Printed in England handstamp
at bottom left of sheet.
(Lower right as shown)



Censored cover to United States

Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire
to Philadelphia
October 3, 1941



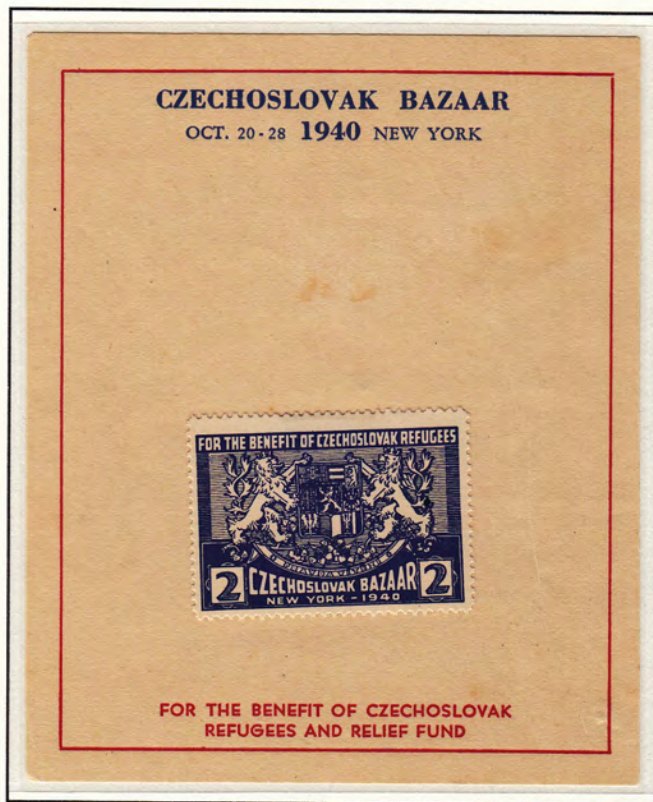
“V” represents “Victory”

•••— is Morse Code for “V”

Zvítězíme! = *We will be victorious!*

Right: Same design used
on matchbook cover





Issued for the Czechoslovak Relief Fund
Sold during 1940 season of the New York World's Fair
for \$1 and 2£ each.

BOHEMIA RELIEF

UNITED STATES
1940



Also published in orange

AMERICAN SOKOL

UNITED STATES
1941



Sokol is a patriotic and athletic organization.
A Slet is a mass gymnastic festival.
Issued for the 1941 Slet held in Chicago
at Soldier Field.



Zvítěžime = We will be victorious

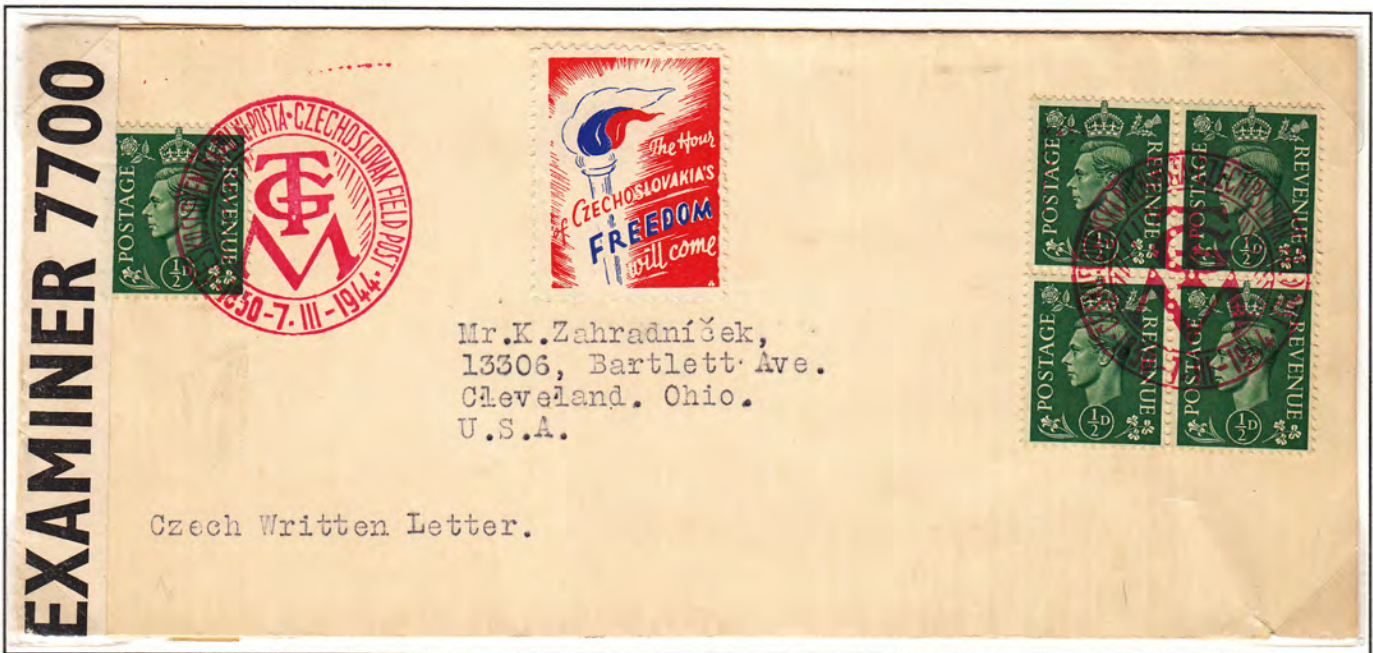
One reference states these were issued in 1940,
others 1942. 1942 seems most likely.

Published in panes of 50 (10x5)



25th Anniversary of Founding of Czechoslovakia

October 28, 1943 "Buy War Bonds" postage meter franking.
Stahle cachet honoring Lidice, the small village near Prague destroyed
in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi gover-
nor of Bohemia & Moravia (occupied Czechoslovakia).



Censored Czech field post to Cleveland

Commemorative postmark honoring Tomas Garrigue Masaryk (TGM), Czechoslovakia's first President.

Reverse has the label shown on page 3.

Czech field post to Czech Red Cross in London.





Czechoslovak Club, Newcastle on Tyne

Following German occupation of Czechoslovakia, significant numbers of Czechoslovak soldiers and airmen were able to escape via Poland, the Middle East, North Africa, etc. Once the war started, many made their way to France. About 2500 of these men were formed into the 2nd Infantry Regiment (2 Pěší Pluk) in Agde, southern France, one of several Czechoslovak units formed in France. These units fought in the Battle of France. After the fall of France in June, 1940, most of the Czechoslovaks were evacuated to Britain, with some stationed near Newcastle on Tyne.



Crest of 2nd Infantry Regiment

Label on reverse of cover below
(shown full size)





Labels (five from a set of six) issued by the Czechoslovak Military Mission in Jerusalem

Prepared by the Mission's Propaganda Department with a print run of 5000 in October 1942.

Sold for 1 Piastre (10 Mills, Palestinian), with the net proceeds used to buy Czech and Slovak books for the soldiers.



Czechoslovak field post postmark (October 28, 1943) commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918.



May 30, 1943 to E.J. Muzzy, Jamestown, New York.
President of the War Cover Club (now Military Postal History Society)
The other label (Feed Innocent Refugee Orphans) issued by Czechoslovak
Relief Central Committee (complete sheet shown on next page)



Sold in booklets of 100 (5 sheets) for \$1.00

This label was authorized by the Department of War Services, Canada,
with all proceeds going to the Czechoslovak Red Cross in London.



PUBLISHED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK RELIEF CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO COMMEMORATE THE DEDICATION OF AMERICAN "LIDICE" FOR THE BENEFIT OF VICTIMS OF NAZI BRUTALITY - - - CREATED BY MACHA STUDIO

Issued in two sheet formats: 4x4 (shown) and 8x2
Both formats were issued perforated and imperforate
Examples of all are in exhibitor's collection

Note that six of the labels specifically refer to Lidice, the Czech village destroyed on June 10, 1942 in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi Reichsprotektor (governor) of Bohemia & Moravia (occupied Czechoslovakia)



Alliance Relief Fund

Chicago, November 25, 1943



UNITED CZECHOSLOVAK RELIEF
Chicago

UNITED STATES
1943



First Day Cover of Czechoslovakia Overrun Nations Stamp

July 12, 1943



1943 London Czechoslovakia Stamp Exhibition

November 8-20, 1943

Held at the British Council Czechoslovak Institute Hall in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

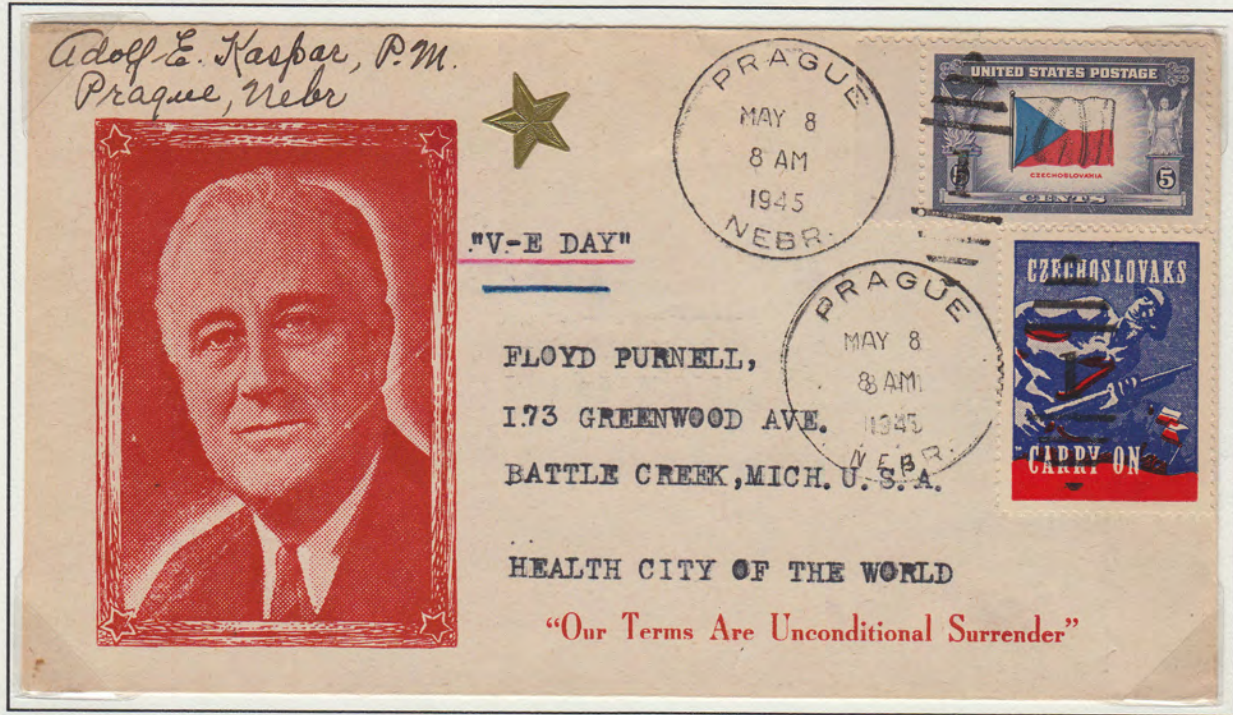
Souvenir sheet issued in conjunction with the show, with the permission of the Czechoslovak Government in exile in London. The stamps are modified designs of Czech stamps issued before the war, are denominated in Czech currency (Kč, crowns), but have no postal validity. The top stamp shows the Founding Fathers of Czechoslovakia: Eduard Beneš, Tomáš Masaryk, Jan Stefanik. The other stamps represent the four regions of Czechoslovakia: Bohemia (5Kč, Charles Bridge), Moravia & Silesia (2Kč, Velehrad Monastery), Slovakia (3Kč, Bratislava) and SubCarpathian Russia (10Kč, Jasina wooden church).



First known use in 1945.
Conflicting reports whether
issued in 1943 or 1945.



Imperf pair



Victory in Europe (VE Day), May 8, 1945
Postmarked Prague, Nebraska



Red slightly left



Red high



Red slightly right

Labels with top selvage and red misregistrations.