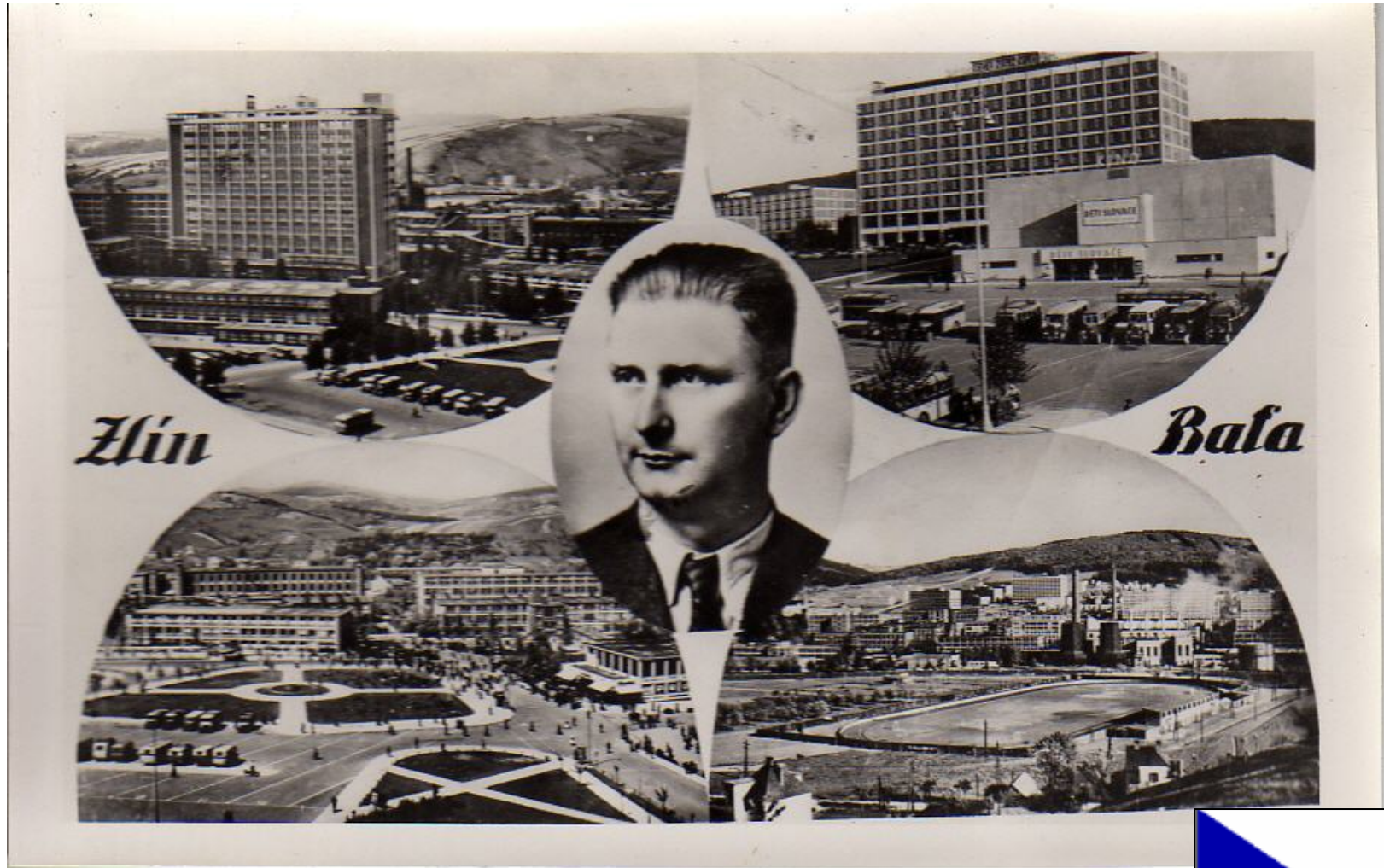




# Dr. h.c. Jan Antonín Baťa





# Report Filed by R.W. Ketcham Council to the Bata Companies

## *Filed with the U.S. Treasury Department 8/18/41:*

“Since the Czechs have been for centuries hereditary and traditional enemies of the Germans, and the management and employee personnel of the Bata group was principally composed of Czechs, the latter looked forward with increasing uneasiness to the growth of German aspirations for expansion. They foresaw long ago before Munich the probability that war was coming, and that in such an event Czechoslovakia might cease to exist as a nation. In such a case, Zlin would come under Nazi control, which would subject the enterprise to governmental and economic control of a character utterly inconsistent with their system.”

“It is believed that these persons (referring to the directors), in common with almost **25,000 or more employees remaining at Zlin, are secretly loyal to the Czechoslovak Government in Exile**, but they are compelled to maintain the appearance of submission to German control.”

*Note: Ralph W. Ketcham handed this report to David Williamson, Esquire of the Department of State on 8/19/41.*

# Feb. 4, 1942: Bata Conference with Representatives of the U.S. Government

United States  of America

***“KETCHAM: I feel that the motivating influence [of Jan Bata] has been to keep together a means of livelihood and a method of living for a group or community of Czechoslovakians, that the primary interest in the welfare of the people was in Jan Bata's mind, and not the dollars and cents; that the dollars and cents represented by that investment of buildings and machinery in Zlin is gone, and Jan knows it; that anything he should do to protect the lives of those 30,000 Czechs in Zlin, he would do, and to prevent the Germans, if possible, from uprooting that establishment and scattering the Czechs all over Europe, feeling they would never be brought together again if such a thing happened.”***

*Note: Ralph W. Ketcham, a legal representative of Jan Bata in the United States.*



# Officials of the U.S. government who heard Jan Bata's message

## Conference of Representatives of the United States Government with Representatives of the Bata Shoe Company, February 4, 1942

### TREASURY - Foreign Funds Control

Mr. J.S. Brock, Chairman  
Mr. Walter M. Day  
Mr. John Richards

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Harold Kline

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mr. E.E. Schnellbacher (Commercial Intelligence Unit)  
Mr. Julius Schnitzer (Commercial Intelligence Unit)

### BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

Ensign Jerome Alper  
Mr. Walter Surrey

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Phillip Thayer (World Trade Intelligence)

**From the Bata Shoe Company:** Frank Muska, Ralph W. Ketcham, W.D. Jameson (former Senator), Studley (enlisted in U.S. Navy), Thomas J. Bata (Canadian company)s

**THOMAS J. BATA:** "Actually, Jan Bata had been the staunchest enemy of the Munich surrender. His opinion was that the country ought to have fought. After Munich, he and I traveled to England, and possibly as a little warning, we were stopped at the border and taken off the train by the Gestapo. They asked if we were Jews, and when we answered that we were not, that officials said, "Why not?" I might also mention that while I was detained six hours for questioning, Jan Bata was held for twenty-four hours."



## Justice for J.A.Bata

Excerpt from “Czech Struggle for Freedom and Democracy”  
October 9, 1948, No. 6 by Karel Locher

“before the war was declared, Jan A. Bata had managed to send out of the country numerous industrial installations, technicians and skilled workmen, whom he had placed at the disposal of the Allies. At the end of 1939, when I succeeded to cross the frontier, I was told in Zagreb and in Belgrade how Bata was helping all those who resisted the German Nazis. In the beginning of January 1940, the same was reaffirmed by Miloslava Sisova, editor of the “Narodni listy” in Paris.”


“The Jan Bata organization spent during the wartime, for the Benes Government in London, the total of 80 million pre war crowns.”

*Note: Karel Locher was the Secretary of the Czech National Committee in London during the war.*



# Letter from Frank Muska to Jan Masaryk

From the S S Volendam, December 23, 1939...In the letter below, Frank Muska requests Minister Jan Masaryk not to disclose his contributions on behalf of Jan Antonin Bata. In Muska's words, "leave out any mention of the contributions and that he promises to assist in all circumstances."

  
 HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE  
 S.S. Volendam 29/12/39

*Fárejný pane ministr:*  
 -Chu zpráva ze Anglické vlády, vevaná National Committee. Rád bych vám se omluvil. Jde to jistě o vaše záležitosti. Blahopřání vám k tomu, že jste se rozhodli. Připravil jsem vám krásný vánoční dárek pro celou rodinu a sám doma - bude to pro mě vzpruha a houka která vám bude potřeby.

*Fakují Vám za tyto věci, dopis který jste mi poslal. Věřím si, že vám bude velmi mile. Pokud byste měl nějakou záležitost, která by vám byla záležitostí, budu vám velmi rád, že vám budu pomáhat. Pokud byste měl nějakou záležitost, která by vám byla záležitostí, budu vám velmi rád, že vám budu pomáhat.*

M268

*Je to velmi krásný, jak jste prezident Masaryk. Klášer, vaxer pro Bata. Jistě, že to bude velmi krásné. Jde to jistě o vaše záležitosti. Blahopřání vám k tomu, že jste se rozhodli. Připravil jsem vám krásný vánoční dárek pro celou rodinu a sám doma - bude to pro mě vzpruha a houka která vám bude potřeby.*

*Je to velmi krásný, jak jste prezident Masaryk. Klášer, vaxer pro Bata. Jistě, že to bude velmi krásné. Jde to jistě o vaše záležitosti. Blahopřání vám k tomu, že jste se rozhodli. Připravil jsem vám krásný vánoční dárek pro celou rodinu a sám doma - bude to pro mě vzpruha a houka která vám bude potřeby.*

M269



# Czechoslovak Passports

“In the days of the Nazi occupation up to the first months of the war, your father (J.A. Bata) met with Osusky and Jan Masaryk and tried to explain to them the reasons why he could not adhere personally and openly to the underground movement. He probably met with Dr. Benes also. When he found out that passports belonging to his employees who had enlisted in the Czechoslovak Army had been found in a ditch in trucks between Paris and Bordeaux he became convinced of his point of view of not releasing any written and signed declaration.”

Jiri Udrzal, Bata Employee



**A Leader of the  
Czechoslovak Resistance  
and its Secret Financier**

**Dr. Jan Antonín Baťa**

*Pseudonyms used  
during the war:*

**“Jan z Trocnova,”**

**“Jan Nikodém,”**

**“Jan Neznámý”**







## 1. Secret Support for Crisis Movie

### CRISIS: “edited in Secret by Bata Shoe Film Department”



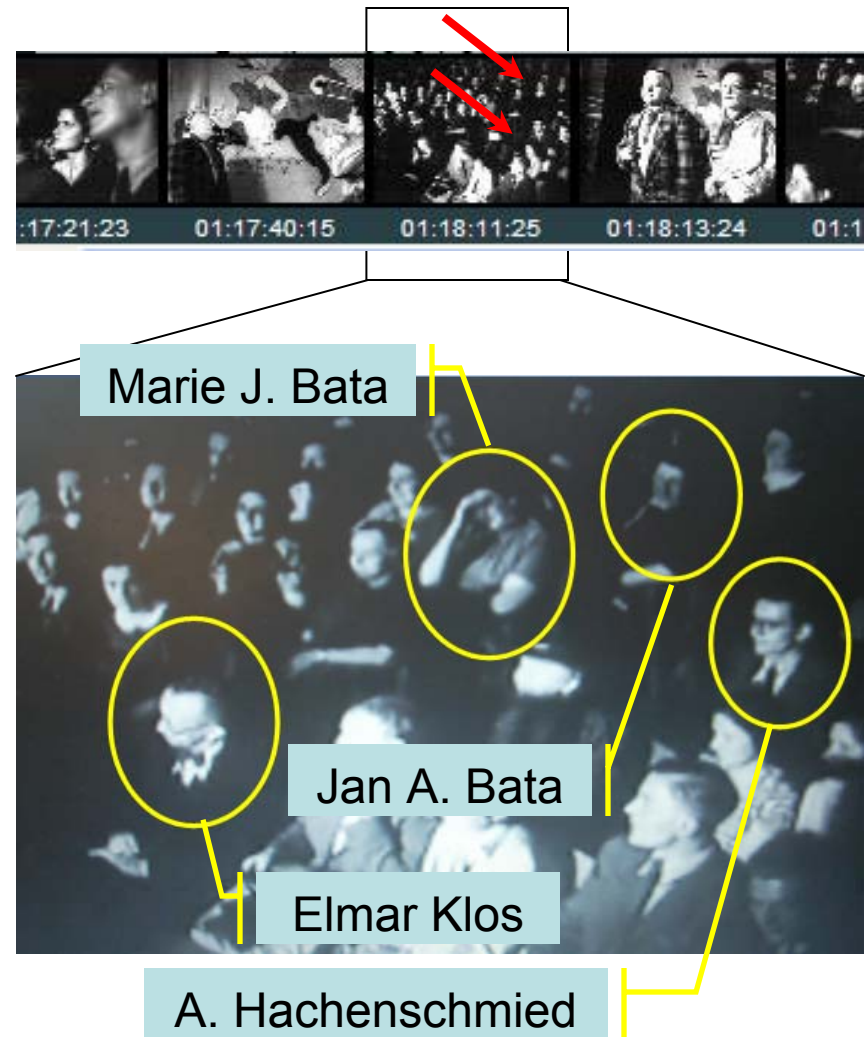
“Modern sources also note that the film was produced by the Mayer-Burstyn Film Corporation and that it was edited in secret at the Bata Shoe Film Department, the location of which has not been determined. Kline reportedly helped a number of people involved in the film, including Hans Burger, Alexander Hackenschmied and comedians Voscovec and Werich (presumably the comedians referred to in the plot descriptions) to escape Czechoslovakia just before the film was released.”



# A Czech Film Warning the World About the Nazi Danger

All images from Krize (Crisis) film.

When the Crisis (Krize Czechoslovakia) movie was finally shown on Czechoslovak television in the late 1990s (originally released March 13, 1939 in New York). The highlighted segment and below was edited from the film that the Czech people saw. Upon closer inspection of the edited segment. The edited segment reveals that Jan A. Bata, his wife Marie, and Director Alexandr Hackenschmied are seen together in what is likely the Bata Velky Cinema in Zlin.





## 2. Financial and Military Contributions

Jan Bata Established **Zlinska Letecka (ZLAS)** aircraft company  
1934

Developed **Zlin XIII** fighter plane 1937

Jan Bata Established pilot training program for at least **250 pilots**

Jan Bata Established **Fatra** for producing protective gas masks

Jan Bata Established A Huge Raw Materials Base for the Czech  
military (a one year's supply of key raw materials including:  
**tires, gas masks, acti-carbon, synthetic rubber, fiber, tanin,  
hides, etc.**)

Jan Bata Established **Kotva** (A key company for rescuing people  
of the Jewish faith)

Jan Bata company and employees donate **30 Million CSK Crowns**  
gift for the defense of the nation 1938

Jan Bata's fundraising activities raise more than **1,000,000,000**  
**CSK Crowns** twice the amount requested by the  
Czechoslovak government for defense of the nation 1938



### 3. Financing of Czech Government in Exile throughout War

- Funds for General Sergej Ingr (for resistance 500,000 Czech Crowns per month delivered in suitcases)
- Funds for President Benes in London (1,000,000 French Francs)
- Funds for Štefan Osuský in France (1,000,000 French Francs)
- Funds to rebuild Bombed House of Czechoslovak Airmen
- US \$10,000 Check for Jan Masaryk (signed by Jan Masaryk)
- Funds to purchase two Spitfires for Czechoslovak pilots London
- Funds for Slovak Uprising



# Bata Contributions

KARL STEFAN  
to Mrs. Hovavala

HOW ADDRESS  
HOVAVALA, HONOLULU

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  
November 22, 1943

Mr. W. E. Bradford  
Office of the Alien Property Custodian  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

Along with our telephone conversation regarding the contributions made to the Czech cause by the Bata Shoe Company, Inc. and their employees, I am enclosing a copy of the statement to which I referred. I assume this is a total of contributions made up to July 24, 1941. I have written to Mr. Hoza asking if he could bring this information up-to-date in order that we would have a clearer picture of the contribution matter.

When I receive the above information, I will send it to you. I would appreciate it also if you could get any information on this matter which, to me, seems quite important.

Sincerely yours,  
*Karl Stefan*  
Karl Stefan

July 24, 1941

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
for the Czechoslovakia cause in the present war by the  
Bata Companies and their employees.

<u>1941 (July)</u>	Contribution toward the rebuilding of the bombed house of Czechoslovak Airforce	Ruppees 20,000 -	7,000.00
<u>1939/41</u>	Maintaining of the Czechoslovak Consulate in Bombay		15,000.00
b)	Czechoslovak authorities in U.S., 1940 -		10,000.00
	" " " "up to 6/30/41-		5,000.00

b)	Czechoslovak authorities in U.S., 1940 -	10,000.00
	" " " "up to 6/30/41-	5,000.00
c)	Contributions in Canada, approx.	10,000.00
d)	Contributions in France; Morocco; before occupation -1940	5,500.00
e)	Contributions in unoccupied parts of France and Morocco (support of refugees) 1941 -	5,000.00

wish of the Shareholders of Bata Tilbury, England, and Atlas Exporters and Importers Limited, London, to donate one Spitfire each, to the Czechoslovak Force in London

50,000.00

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 284,000.00

*Katherine H. Harker 250*

B.)	It is the wish of the Shareholders of Bata Tilbury, England, and Atlas Exporters and Importers Limited, London, to donate one Spitfire each, to the Czechoslovak Force in London	50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL -		\$ 284,000.00



## 4. Czech Secret Resistance Army June 1939

Jan Bata's letter to American Ambassador in 1946 states: "I persuaded my general manager Ciperá to accept the post of the Minister of Public Works and in June 1939 he has informed me that the underground chain, which I had asked him to arrange with London, was functioning and that every military specialist required in England was being delivered within three days."

**A Man Called Intrepid** - "The assassins, volunteers from the Czech secret resistance army, slipped out of their occupied homeland, were flown to Camp X [Canada], and there prepared for their mission."

Jan Bata's letter, "I have been informed that Opálka, the foreman of our Batov factory, was one of two persons executed for the shooting of Heydrich. I have not corroborated this."

Opálka's aunt, Marie Opálková, was executed in Mauthausen on 24 October 1942. His father, Viktor Jarolím, was also executed about the same time. At the time of the Munich Agreement, Adolf Opálka left Czechoslovakia with his cousin František Pospíšil. Both men were trained as Czech STS paratroopers for missions in the Czech Protectorate.



## 5. Operation Salvation

### The Rescue of Bata and non-Bata Jews

- Rescue of an estimated hundreds of Jewish employees in danger from Nazis.
- Underground escape railroad using Bata organization in Europe as escape path
- Creation of KOTVA organization to help hundreds of non-Bata Jews to escape from Czechoslovakia
- To remove huge stores of raw materials out of the reach of the Nazi.



## The purpose of KOTVA

“Until August 1939, we created a total of 700 representative offices around the world. Each such office meant at least two Jewish families, some of them even more. I do not believe there was any other organization in the world who would have provided – though itself being non-Jewish – so much effective help to its fellow-citizens in distress.

I did not want to boast of it, **though I am proud of it.**

There was only one reason why I did that. It was loyalty to the people I was working with. If someone wanted to knock their heads because they were born Jewish rather than Christian, I perceived it as an imperative of my own morals to liberate them from that situation, as far as it was within my powers.”

**Dr. h.c. Jan Antonín Baťa**  
**Chairman of the Board, Kotva**

"At my expense over 400 Jewish families employed by me were removed from Czechoslovakia to points outside Europe.”

**J.A.Bata, letter to American Ambassador Brazil June 14, 1946**





## 6. Jan Bata's Czech Fighter Plane

### Baťova stíhačka...



"The Zlin XIII at that time was an extremely fast aircraft, whose development at the end of the thirties of last century was financed by industrialist J.A. Bata Zlin."

"J.A. Bata was a visionary. He sensed the approaching war, and therefore, he stood behind the development of a simple, cheap fighter aircraft. The Zlin XIII was exactly it," Mikulecky said.



**iDnes.cz**  
*September 28, 2007*  
*Translated from Czech*



## 7. Slovak Uprising: Bata Funds 843 National Underground Committees [HELA]

According to the testimony of **Dr. Vavro Srobar, Czechoslovak Finance Minister**. According to Minister Srobar, “the attempts to collect money from Slovakia were not successful.” The resistance was unable to collect the funds necessary from rich Slovaks, nor were they able to collect the money from the Slovak bank as had been promised just prior to the uprising...Srobar, through a connection in the intelligence community, learned from Alois Stvan, a Bata man where the money could be found to fund the Slovak Uprising. Alios Stvan “told Minister Srobar that it [the money] would be from the Bata Works in Slovakia...Minister Srobar “agreed to the proposed plan and after some days Stvan, Malota and Lepik came and brought Kcs. 5,000,000 in a suitcase...When [Dr. Srobar] asked how it was possible for the [Bata] company to give so much money, Stvan, Malota, and Lepik smiled and said that Zlin was informed.” Earlier attempts to acquire the money from the Czechoslovak Government in Exile in London had not been successful, but Alois Stvan informed them that Bata had given them the means and “now they were to be used.” Further, “Vavro Srobar confirmed to the National Court that without the financial support just mentioned [from Bata], the preparations for the uprising would not have been possible as far as they involved the organization of Underground National Committees, and confirmed that this support was given without reservations or conditions.”



## Support for Slovak Uprising

- Setting up national resistance movement HELA (843 groups)
- Bata men preparing for battle (below)
- Bata men killed in battle (more than 250 men)



Captain Trojan  
Top Director  
Bata Slovakia

Batovany (renamed Partizaknske) – Preparing for Battle

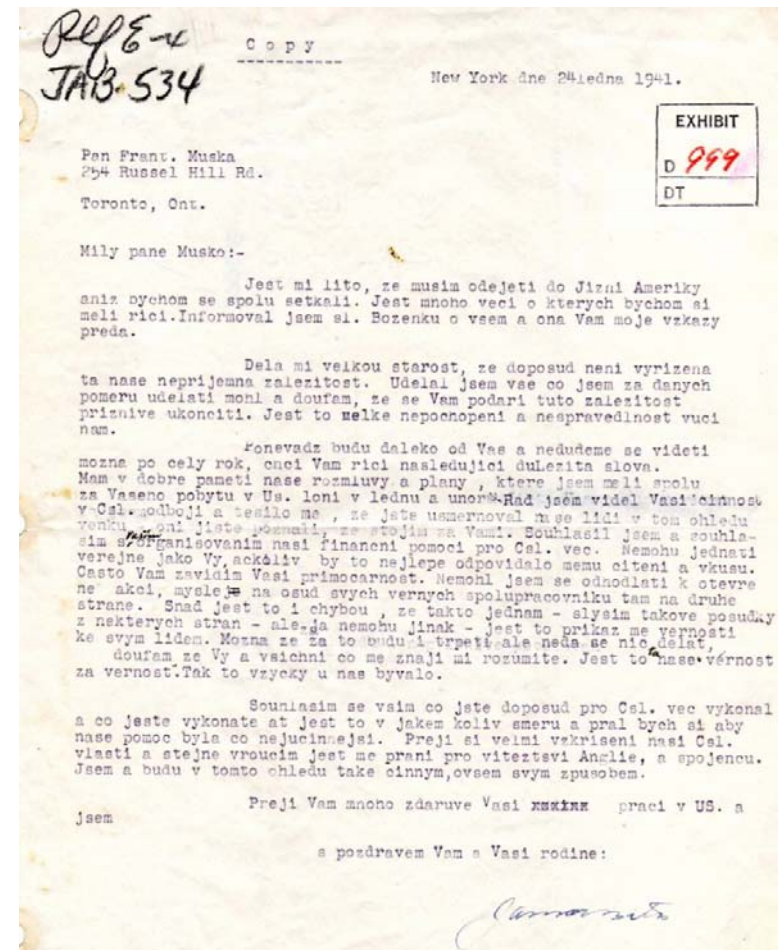
Research material prepared by John Nash (Bata) © 2010



## 8. Financing the Czechoslovak Resistance

**Jan Antonin Bata clearly describes to Frank Muska how satisfied he is with Muska's activities for the Czechoslovak Resistance in 1941:**

"I have seen with satisfaction your activity in the Czech Resistance and I was glad that you put in line our people in this respect – they have certainly recognized that I am standing behind you. I was and am agreeable with your organizing our financial assistance for the Czechoslovak matter. I cannot act publicly like you, although it would correspond best to my feeling and taste."



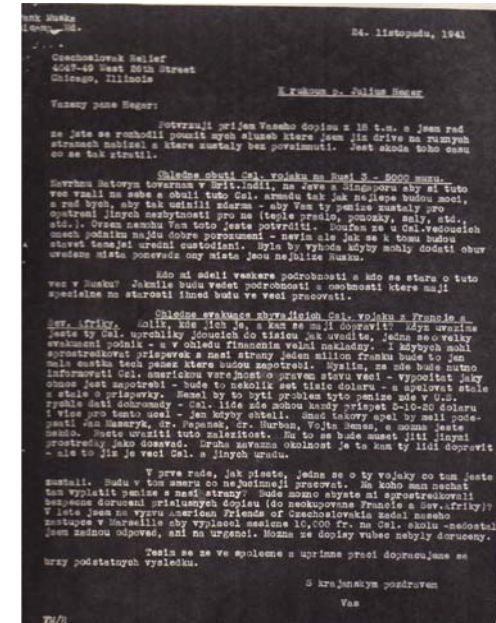


## 9. Evacuation of Czechoslovak Soldiers from France

**Frank Muska's letter to the Czechoslovak Relief fund Nov. 24, 1941:**

**“Regarding footwear for the Czechoslovak Army in Russia 3,000 – 5,000 men. I will suggest the Bata factories in British India, Java, and Singapore to take care of this matter to provide footwear for the Czechoslovak Army as well as they can and I would like them to do so free of charge – so that you keep the money for obtaining other essentials for them (warm underwear, socks, shawls, etc., etc).”**

**“Regarding the evacuation of the remaining Czechoslovak soldiers from France and North Africa. How many, where are they, and where should they be taken to? When we take into consideration also these Czechoslovak refugees of whom there are thousands...Even if I could negotiate a contribution of one million francs from our side it would only be a small part of the money which will be needed.”**





# 10. Bata Pilots by RAF Squadron

[batanash@gmail.com](mailto:batanash@gmail.com)

- 310th Squadron
- 311th Squadron
- 312th Squadron
- 313th Squadron
- 68th Squadron

Jan Bata's Chief Pilot → ŠERHANT, Jan F/Lt 68 Squadron Pilot † 13/02/83  
 Jan Bata's Navigator → DOLEZAL, Oldrich F/O 311 Squadron Pilot † 28/02/83  
 BAUER, Jiri Sgt 310 Squadron Pilot † 28/06/44;  
 HORAK, Josef AC2 Depot ACH General Duties;  
 KOCFELDA, Pavel P/O 313 Squadron Pilot † 06/10/92;  
 ŘEZNIČEK Jiří F/O 313 Squadron Pilot † 01/06/57;  
 ŠIŠKA, Alois W/O 311 Squadron Pilot  
**BATTLE OF BRITAIN ROLE OF HONOR:**  
 Jan Bata's former Test Pilot for the Bata Zlin XIII Fighter Plane → Jan Ambrus (Czech CO), Squadron Leader 312 PIPA, Josef F/Sgt. 312 Squadron Pilot † 02/01/77  
 PRCHAL, Eduard F/Lt 310 Squadron Pilot † 04/12/84  
**BATTLE OF FRANCE:**  
 PIPA, Josef F/Sgt. 312 Squadron Pilot † 02/01/77  
 PRCHAL, Eduard F/Lt 310 Squadron Pilot † 04/12/84

## 310th Squadron

Chmelík Jaroslav Lt. Col., 310th Squadron, Pilot † 2/23/2003;  
 BREZOVSKY, Frantisek W/O 310 Squadron Pilot † 15/02/59;  
 CHMELIK Jaroslav Sgt 310 Squadron Pilot;  
 DOUBAL, Adolf F/O 310 Squadron Engineering Officer;  
 KAUER, Jaroslav F/Sgt 310 Squadron Pilot † 23/12/44;  
 SVOBODA, Jan F/O 310 Squadron Pilot;  
 ŘEHOŘ František F/Sgt 310 Squadron Pilot † 31/08/44;  
 NAVRÁTIL, Antonín S/Ldr 310 Squadron, Air Traffic Control † 29/07/94;  
 NEUMANN, Stanislav Cpl 310 Squadron Clerk † 28/05/72;  
 KUDĚLKA, Josef LAC 310 Squadron Fitter II E;



## 313th Squadron

BRHEL, Rostislav Sgt 313 Squadron Pilot † 08/08/57;  
 ALÁŠEK, Karel F/O 313 Squadron Pilot;  
 VELVARSKÝ, Bohuslav Sgt 313 Squadron Pilot;  
**Misc. Squadrons**  
 HADRAVEK, Jan P/O 111 OTU Pilot † 07/08/43;  
 KOTIBA František W/O 51 OTU Pilot † 20/06/44;  
 WAGNER, Jan S/Ldr Engineering Officer † 24/11/85;  
 Sr. Lt. VEJRAZKA; Pilot;  
 SAMEK, Jaroslav AC2 Depot ACH General Duties;  
 ŠEDA, František Sgt 9 SFTS Pilot † 12/08/41;  
 PODHAJSKY, Jiri AC2 Depot Trainee, Navigator;  
 HAVLICEK, Vladimír F/O 240 Squadron, Pilot † 23/12/41;  
 RÁČEK, Josef AC2 Depot Trainee, W/Op;  
 NECHVATAL, Borivoj AC2 Depot ACH General Duties;  
 NEČAS, František F/O HQ London Accounts;  
 KRUZIK Bedřich W/O 68 Squadron Navigator † 03/09/71;  
 HRALA, Jozef F/Sgt 27 OTU Pilot † 13/10/42;  
 KRÉNEK, Karel Sgt Depot Pilot † 22/03/62;

## 311th Squadron

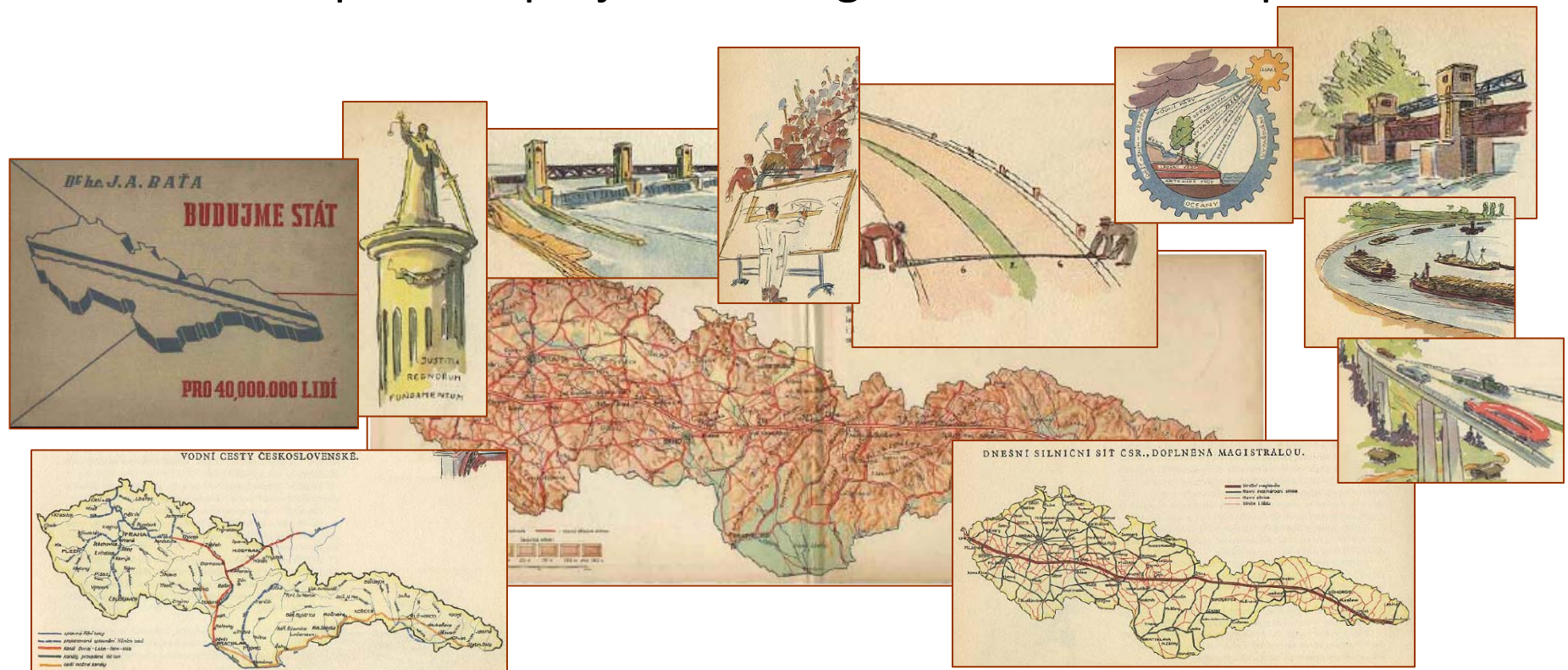
ŠEBESTIK, Josef F/Sgt 311 Squadron Bomber Pilot † 04/12/44;  
 HRADIL Josef, Sgt, 311 Squadron, Wireless Operator †  
 ????  
 ŠAČHA Stanislav, W/O, 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 02/01/86;  
 František Mezulánik, 311 Squadron Pilot (may be living);  
 KLVAŇA Jaroslav W/O, 311 Squadron Air Gunner † 5/9/83,  
 ANDERLE Leo, 311th Squadron and the 138th Pilot (55 missions);  
 ŠPALEK Josef, AC2 311 Squadron ACH General Duties;  
 MÜLLER Bedřich LAC 311 Squadron Maint. Assistant † 05/04/84;

KADLČÍK Václav, Sgt, 311 Squadron Pilot;  
 DIVINA, Stanislav F/Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 1947;  
 DROBNIK, Josef Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot † 17/05/87;  
 FIALKA, Karel F/Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot † 01/08/63;  
 ZIKA, Jan AC2 311 Squadron ACH General Duties.;  
 HALA, Jaroslav P/O 311 Squadron Pilot † 03/10/44;  
 HANZL, Vladimír Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot † 03/03/42;  
 HOLES, Bohumil Sgt 311 Squadron Flight Engineer † 06/11/90;  
 HRUZA, Josef LAC 311 Squadron ACH General Duties;  
 JANKOVIČ Karel Cpt 311 Squadron Armourer;  
 KNAPEK František Sgt 311 Squadron Air Gunner;  
 KRÁL František (alias NOVAK) F/Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot;  
 KRÁL Ludvík F/Lt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator;  
 KUBÁN, Jan Sgt 311 Squadron ACH General Duties † unknown  
 KUDLÁČ, Pavel F/O 311 Squadron Pilot † 05/10/76;  
 LANDSFELD, Jaroslav Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator 10/24//09;  
 LAZAR, Jan, Rudolf P/O 311 Squadron Pilot † 08/06/84;  
 MELLION, Hugo, Clerk 311 Squadron;  
 MULLER, Bedřich LAC 311 Squadron Maint. Assistant † 05/04/84;  
 NAVRÁTIL, Frantisek F/O 311 Squadron Wireless Operator;  
 NERADIL, Jan Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot † 15/09/42;  
 NOVAK (Holba), Jan W/O 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 10/10/2010;  
 PAVLIK, Emil LAC 311 Squadron Flight Mechanic E;  
 PAZOUREK, Vladimír LAC 311 Squadron ACH General Duties † unknown;  
 PEPRNICEK, Jan Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 11/04/42;  
 PETRUCHA, Jaroslav Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 02/07/41;  
 PILAT, Adam Sgt 311 Squadron Fitter I † 11/11/87;  
 POSNER, Erich F/Lt 311 Squadron Medical Officer † 16/08/76;  
 POSPIŠAL, Karel P/O 311 Squadron Pilot;  
 PRAGL, Josef, Alois Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 22/07/88;  
 PRIBYL, Karel LAC 311 Squadron Fitter II A † 31/05/82;  
 RANOFREJ, Bartolomej Sgt 311 Squadron Flight Mechanic A;  
 REMENÁR, Jozef F/Sgt 311 Squadron Air Gunner † 03/10/44;  
 SEBESTIK, Josef F/Sgt 311 Squadron Pilot † 04/12/44;  
 ŠEVČENKO, Jaroslav LAC 311 Squadron Flight Mechanic E;  
 SPALEK, Josef AC2 311 Squadron ACH General Duties;  
 ŠTRÉGL, Karel F/Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator;  
 ŠUSTR, Jan F/Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator † 25/11/88;  
 VACEK, Albert F/Sgt 311 Squadron Wireless Operator;  
**312th Squadron**  
 HOLMAN, Ladislav Cpt 312 Squadron Flight Mechanic E † 08/04/69;  
 MAZŮREK, Ludvík F/O 312 Squadron Intelligence Officer;  
 VACULIK František F/Sgt 312 Squadron Pilot † 20/09/44;  
 GREGOR, Arnost F/Sgt 312 Squadron Fitter II E † 1965;  
 VACULIK, Frantisek F/Sgt 312 Squadron Pilot † 20/09/44;  
 SKÁCILÍK František P/O 312 Squadron Engineering Officer;  
 SOUKUP, Vladimír W/O 312 Squadron Pilot;  
 KRUTIL, František AC1 312 Squadron Flight Mechanic E;



# 11. Jan Bata's book used to rescue Czechs from Nazi persecution

**Budujme Stat Pro 40,000,000 Lidi** book used to rescue Czechs from German threat by putting tens-of-thousands of Czech to work on road and aqua duct projects throughout the Czech Republic.



Budujme stat: <http://bsp40m.czechian.net/001.php>

Research material prepared by John Nash (Bata) © 2010



## 12. Heydrich Assassination

- More than 16 former Bata employees identified as Czech STS paratroopers
- Logistical support of assassination provided by Czech Bata organization
- Use of Bata Shop in Prague for Display of Heydrich Assassination Evidence at Bata store in Prague

In order to protect the Bata organization from retribution. The directors skillfully used the Bata shop in Prague to hide the Bata organization's involvement in the Heydrich assassination.

### Former Bata Employees:

**British Security Coordination (BSC) Agent, Canada:** Louis de Wohl, Propaganda

**Czech STS:** František Pospíšil (BIVOVAC)

**Czech STS:** Josef Cernota (WOLFRAM)

**Czech STS:** Otmar Riedl (BENJAMIN)

**Czech STS:** Franrisek Trpik (GLUCINIUM)

**Czech STS:** Josef Valcik (SILVER-A)

**Czech STS:** Josef Bublik (BIOSCOP)

**Czech STS:** Jiri Potucek (SILVER-A)

**Czech STS:** Bohuslav Nocar (SILICA)

**Czech STS:** Jaroslav Kotasek (SPELTER)

**Czech STS:** Jan Hruby (BIOSCOP)

**Czech STS:** Frantisek Bogataj (CARBON)

**Czech STS:** Josef Bierský (WOLFRAM)

**Bata related:**

\*Jan Kubis (left bicycle at Bata store)

\*Ivan Kolarik (escaped to brother's house in Zlin)



Bata store window Prague, 1942





# Heydrich Extermination of Czechs

**Page 34:** Heydrich, the architect of this triumph in Nazi deceptive operations, was Stephenson's opponent in the developing battle of wits.

**Page 341:** Heydrich was Hitler's favorite intelligence chief.

**Page 347:** The only stars de Wohl ever consulted were in BSC.

**Page 347:** September 1941, "Hitler wrote the Reich Protector: 'I have accepted your plan for destroying the Czech nation. Basically it will cover three points: the Germanization of as great a proportion of the Czechs who cannot be absorbed and of the intelligentsia hostile to the Reich; and resettlement of the space freed by these measures with good German blood. To that basis **I add my decree:** that Czechs about whom there exists doubt from the racial standpoint - or who are antagonistic toward the Reich - must be excluded from assimilation. This category, 'Hitler underlined, "must be exterminated." This Bletchley transmission of this grim message confirmed the decision of Heydrich's distant judges in New York, where star gazing de Wohl had already written the death sentence in his syndicated column: "Hitler's chief jackal is moving into the house of violence."

Notes from intelligence book: A Man Called Intrepid by William Stevenson

Research material prepared by John Nash (Bata) © 2010



## 13. Material Aid for Allied Cause

- Bata companies throughout the world supplied material support for the Allied Cause through
  - Production of boots
  - Production of gas masks
  - Production of other materials and equipment



Bata employee during a War Bond drive In Hawaii, carefully hiding Bata from photographer.



## 14. Jan Bata Offers to Produce Rubber for United States and Allied Nations

Jan Bata's letter to Jefferson Caffery, United States Ambassador, September 15, 1942 states:

The USA and Allied Nations are thirsty for rubber. Especially since the Japanese hold almost all the oriental plantation bases to create their monopoly in rubber.

The worlds production in 1933 was 1,020,000 tons. The USA consumption was about the half. - War will have lifted it to million tons yearly. Some 100,000 tons, if that, can be produced in the syntetic rubber plants, that Mr. Jesse Jones is organizing. - Some 100,000 tons more can be obtained from wild rubber countries including Brazil and its plantations.

To produce 1,000,000 tons of syntetic rubber, USA would need at least 300 plants, each one with the capacity of 10 tons daily. - One such plant costs about 2 milion dollars and takes at the top speed 6 months to get going. - Consunes outside man-power and money a good lot of material, that has to be set apart from other, more needed investments. - In my judgement of an expert, who has produced syntetic rubber before the war, it would take 7-10 years in the way of synthese, to meet the requirements of crude rubber. - Be it the alcohol type or the prene or acethylen or carbide type of production, will come to more or less the same. -



## 15. Protecting Students and Professors

D-549 Letter from Jan A. Bata (Belcamp, MD) to  
Dominik Cipera (Zlin) 12/27/39

**“I consider it imperative to increase our research departments as much as possible, to gather up five thousand people, professors and scientists, who we would let do research under the guidance of people from our production (chemists, mechanics and electricians) and these people would be replaced by senior students from the Universities, Technical schools and Industrial schools – who are at present unemployed.”**

**“I am confident we can find five thousand of them.”**

*Note: The Nazis executed nine Czech student leaders on Nov. 17, 1939, and ordered the closure of all Czech universities on Nov. 19, 1939. After the closure of the universities, they deported more than 1,000 students concentration camps.*



## Other Resistance Activities

### **Armed Resistance Activities at Bata Czechoslovakia,**

435 Bata people fought in the Slovak Uprising;

320 Bata people served in other combat actions;

142 Bata people fought in Czechoslovak Army abroad;

96 Bata people served in the underground movement;

65 Bata people were imprisoned;

39 Alumni of the Bata school were executed or tortured to death by the Nazis;

35 Bata people participated in partisan activities;

16 Bata people participated in fights at the barricades;

Bata's Slovak Resistance Groups During world War II

Slovak Resistance Groups, consisted of partisans, headed by Staff Captain Trojan; and "Hela"

**Note:** After the battle, there were 250 widows and orphans in Batovany. Town of Batovany renamed Partizanske. Bata company renamed ZDA (Zavody 28 Augusta). Both the town and the company were renamed to commemorate the place where The Slovak Uprising began.



## Remarkable Bata plane to return to the Czech Republic in 2011

- Jan Bata's plane was used to make the first business trip around the globe, completing its first mission May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1937.
  - Flown by ŠERHANT, Jan and DOLEZAL, Oldrich two Czech aces who flew for the RAF
- Second mission, Bata's plane was used by Canada's air force to search for submarines along the Canadian coast during WWII.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and last mission, upon return, J.A.Bata's plane to return home and be registered as a **national treasure** (2011).





# Worldwide Bata Organization

## Jan Antonin Bata, Chief Executive Officer

### **USA, United Kingdom and Canada:**

Donald M. Hill - USA (trust agreement)

Responsible for Bata international financial structure

Frank Muska - USA (power of attorney)

Authorized Muska to finance Czechoslovak resistance

Frank Kraus – United Kingdom (power of attorney)

Preparation pre-Munich (35-37) 20,000 tons of rubber and chemicals (A ten year supply for normal company use)

Preparation of a 30,000 meters squared refrigerated warehouse for hides

Organizing transport of refugees

John Hoza USA (power of attorney)

Burning records in advance of German occupation

Shipping out equipment before, during and after occupation

Thomas J. Bata Canada (sent to Canada, reported to J.A.Bata)

Directors operating by authorization and direction of J.A.Bata.

### **Czech Republic:**

Hlavnicka Czech Republic (power of attorney)

Assisting Jewish families to escape from Czechoslovakia (Operation Salvation).

Cipera Czech Republic (power of attorney)

Minister of Public Works

Set up the underground resistance movement with London

Use Building a nation book to keep Czechs in in country (Public works project)

Malota Czech Republic (power of attorney)

Switzerland to redirect orders away from Zlin at beginning of war (from 70 Bata purchasing stations)

Delivered funds for Slovak Uprising

Courier for messages to London and OSS via Switzerland

Vavrecka Czech Republic (power of attorney)

Minister of Propaganda

Providing political asylum for professors and students

Assisting Jewish families to escape from Czechoslovakia (Operation Salvation)

Propaganda to protect Bata organization's resistance activities against German occupation

Josef Troyan (Director Bata a.s., Slovakia)

**Leader Slovak Uprising, Batovany Partizanske**

**Financing for Slovak Uprising**

**Organized entire Bata organization Slovakia to fight SS**

**Arranged 17 freight cars of weapons and ammunition for uprising**

**Organized 834 cells of HELA resistance organization**



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Note: Supporting documentation is available on this presentation.

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