

Dr. Jan Antonin Bata, Timeline of Events

1933 - 1939

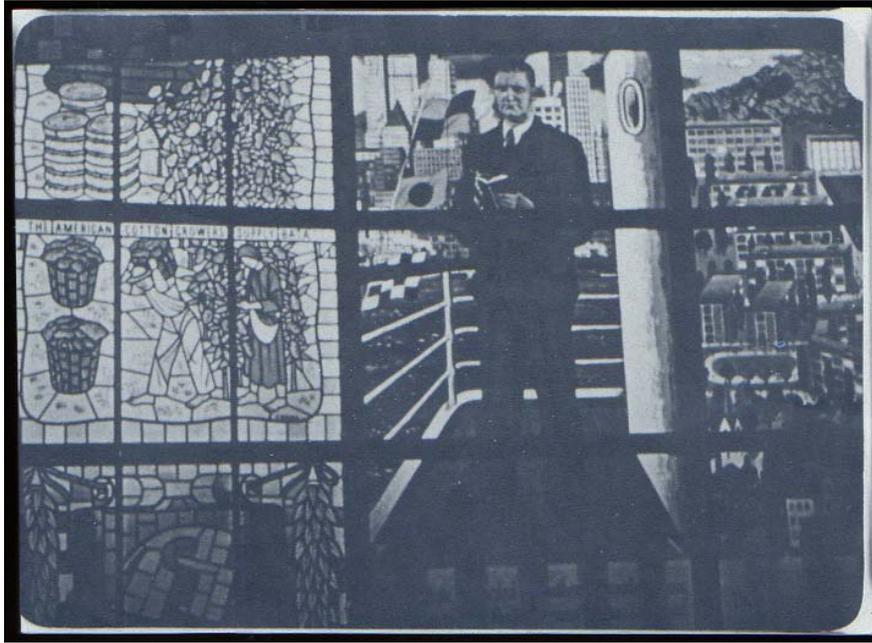


Photo above: Dr. Jan Antonin Bata on glass panel at the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair¹ in New York

The following historical timeline regarding Dr. Jan Antonin Bata, his employees and companies is far from complete, but does capture some significant events that took place before and during the Second World War.

January 30, 1933: Hitler Appointed Chancellor; becomes the leader of Nazis.

March 5, 1933: National Socialists win sweeping victory; no further efforts made to quell violence.

March 10, 1933: Jewish department stores boycotted.

March 15th - March 21st, 1933: Germany - heavy propaganda campaign, calling for revenge if harm comes to Hitler.

March 29, 1933: Germany - Volkischer Beobachter article blaming the boycott on Jewish people.

¹The Czechoslovak pavilion at the World's Fair became a symbol resistance to Nazi domination. On May, 31st, 1939, former Czechoslovak president Edvard Benes spoke at the dedication of the pavilion, his speech highlighted the struggle of the Czechs and Slovaks. Mayor La Guardia noted that "This pavilion, ladies and gentlemen, is the free and independent Czecho-Slovakia of the near past and the free and independent Czecho-Slovakia of the near future." See link: <http://www.slavsofnewyork.com/2008/11/other-week-slavs-of-new-york-was-lucky.html>

March 30, 1933: Germany - Julius Streicher, editor Der Sturmer, Chairman of the Boycott Committee. Boycott campaign continues on March 31st.

April 1, 1933: Article - Anti-Jewish Boycott (Bata mentioned in the Boycott in book entitled, Preussen, Deutschland und der Westen).

April 2nd, 1933: Article - Jewish shops closed, Bata shoe house locked.
December 17, 1934: Article (Berlin)

Tietz jetzt völlig judenfrei

Der „Angriff“ hetzt gegen Bata

Berlin, 17. Dezember. Die neue Welle des Antisemitismus hat jetzt zu einem Resultat geführt, das viele Kreise über die Wirklichkeit aufklären muss, der sich die deutschen Juden nach wie vor und jetzt in erhöhter Masse gegenübersehen. Die Familie Tietz, die schon vor einigen Monaten versucht hat, ihre Firma arisch zu machen, indem sie 80 Prozent ihres Besitzes an die dazu gegründete „Heute-Kaufhaus-Beteiligung G.m.b.H.“ abgegeben hat, ist jetzt aus dem grossen Warenhauskonzern der ihren Namen trägt, völlig ausgeschieden. Da auch die westdeutsche Kaufhof A.G. unbenannten Umständen schon vor längerer Zeit ausgeschieden ist, verschwindet damit die Familie Tietz aus dem deutschen Warenhausgeschäft.

In dem Masse in dem die wirtschaftlichen Schwierigkeiten des Dritten Reiches sich verschärfen und sich die Verachlung der Situation für die heidnischen Massen antizipiert, wird vorwiegend die antisemitische Hetze weiter gesteigert. Die nationalsozialistische Provinzpresse ist wieder schlaft dabei, die sogenannte Judenfrage zu behandeln und nur die wenigen im Ausland geleiteten grossen Zeitungen schweigen sich über das Thema aus. Auch sie berichten aber über die wegen Verletzung der Preisstimmungen erfolgten Geschäftsschliessungen und der aufmerksamen Beobachter kann feststellen, dass von diesen Massnahmen überwiegend jüdische Firmen betroffen werden.

Neben den rein antisemitischen Tendenzen im Wirtschaftsleben, die allen Verordnungen und Anweisungen der leitenden Stellen zum Trotz neuerdings immer stärker durchbrechen, macht sich auch noch eine scharf antikapitalistische Agitation des radikalen Parteiflügels bemerkbar. Hier ist es namentlich der Dr. Göttsche, der hinter den Kulissen eine muntere Hetze gegen die Aktien-Gesellschaften und die grossen jüdischen Warenhäuser betreibt.

Nachdem man die Firma Tietz endlich judenrein gemacht hat, bläst Göttsche nunmehr in seinem „Angriff“ zum Sturm gegen die in Deutschland niedergelassenen

ausländischen Firmen. Sein erstes Angriffsziel ist dabei die tschechische Schuhfirma Bata. Der „Angriff“ beschuldigt die Firma Bata, dass sie „den deutschen Arbeiter schlaftrüchlich ausbeute und denükt, indem sie in der Produktion ein Präzisionssystem zur Anwendung bringt, von dem in Wirklichkeit nur die Gefrässigkeit des Kapitalismus profitiert.“ Seit dem nationalsozialistischen Sieg, so schreibt der „Angriff“ weiter, habe man nicht aufgehört, die kapitalistischen Methoden zu bekämpfen. Dieser Kampf werde auch vor den deutschen Filialen der „tschechisch-jüdischen“ (!) Firma nicht Halt machen. Der Werberat der deutschen Wirtschaft weigere sich jetzt schon, jede Reklame der Bata-Fabriken zu genehmigen.

Beerdigung der Verdauert Opfer

Bremen, 17. Dezember. Am Montag fand in Anwesenheit der Reichlichen Behörden die Beisetzung der 16 Opfer des Zusammenstosses zwischen einem Artillerie und dem Sonderzug des Reichskanalarz Hälter statt. Die Reichsregierung war nicht vertreten und auch sonst wurde die Beerdigung so unauffällig wie nur möglich durchgeführt. Selbstverständlich tut die deutsche Presse das Ereignis mit wenigen Zeilen ab.

Gegen die Staatsfeinde

Wien, 17. Dezember. Der Staatssekretär für die öffentliche Sicherheit Hammerstein-Bugard wandte sich in einer Rede, die er in Salzburg hielt, scharf gegen das Neuaufkommen der nationalsozialistischen Tätigkeiten. Die Staatsfeinde, so erklärte er, die den Kampf mit Explosivstoffen, nichtlichen Schiessereien, Messendischen in der Rücken, Lügen und Verleumdungen führten, seien unwürdig, den Namen eines Deutschen zu tragen. Die Regierung wisse, warum sie ihren Kampf führe und, wenn die Feinde des Staates erkannt hätten, dass das Land von starken bewaffneten Kräften geschützt sei, so würden sie die Lust verlieren, ihre Tätigkeit mit ihrem Kopf zu bezahlen.

Tietz now completely free of Jews

“Attack” rushes against Bata

August 15, 1935:Poster (German) - Bata Boycotted as Jewish Shop.

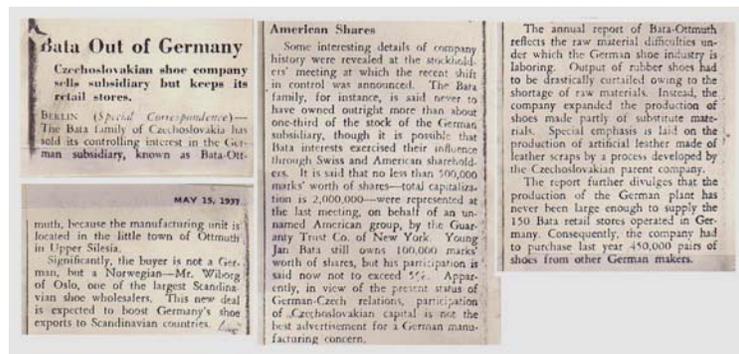
"Deim Juden haben gekauft. August 1935. A public notice listing names of people caught buying from Jewish owned stores (see below). Translation: From Jews they have purchased on 31 July, 1935 at the Schoken Store, the employee Ilse Johanna Uhlmann, typist at the Electrical Company. On 31 July, 1935 at the Tietz Store, the employee Arno Richard Lutzner, city technician at the Electrical Company. On 8 August, 1935 at the BATA shoe store, the employee Johannes Weichert, Department Head at the Kuchwald Hospital. This offence against notice Number 2 reminds every German city employee of their duty and that they have been advised. The declaration shall be posted in all city work rooms until 15 September 1935. Signed by W. Schmidt, Mayor of Chemnitz, August 15, 1935²"



March 2, 1936: Article - Measures against Bata also in Germany.

May 15, 1937: Article - Business Week, Bata Out of Germany

In a letter from J.A.Bata to the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil), Bata tells Ambassador that he was forced by Nazis to sell his interests in Germany.



June 11, 1937: Book - States that Bata is a forbidden word in Germany, or that Bata is forbidden from doing further business in Germany.

1938: Letter to U.S. Ambassador (Brazil)1946 - Jan Bata built up defensive industries for Czechoslovakia at the request of General Syrový, General Cizek, and Minister of Defense Machnik for the creation of gas masks, tires, acticarbon, synthetic rubber, fiber and tannin.

March 1938: Radio Speech by Dr. Jan A. Bata the American People (audio available)

Bata: "The Czechoslovak Republic looks like an anvil, and the people who live there used to play in its history sometimes the role of the hammer, sometimes that of the anvil. In both

² University of Minnesota, Holocaust & Genocide Studies:
<http://www.chgs.umn.edu/educational/brokenThreads/intimidation.html>

instances, the character of these people has been hammered into its present form."

Bata: Czechoslovakia "is not a place which could be held easily by a people with of weak character, or a place in which a people could allow itself to weaken. But a constant presence of powerful and fighting neighbors was not a disadvantage for our people. It brought us also some great advantages which changed the Czechs into the most advanced Slavonic tribe, and turned them into pioneers of Western civilization. The character of our people developed under such circumstances into a character of men on guard. Watchfulness, modesty, a certain determination, and inventive intelligence are the strongest positive qualities which lie at the bottom of our national soul."

Bata: Czechoslovakia's origins "needs to be traced back to the circumstances I first mentioned. And, all these qualities helped us mostly to our keep our nationality, to regain our political freedom, and to form in a comparatively short period of twenty years, a strong central European country which is the outpost of the Western culture and civilization."

Bata: It has been "about five-hundred years since the people in this country has adopted their democratic principles and even suffered for them, and paid for them with their national freedom."

March 1938: Otto Heilig Papers (page 6) - Hours after the Anschluss, Jan Bata sent his private plane to take the Meisel brothers (two of Bata's Jewish employees) out of Austria to safety. Both Meisel brothers were employed in unoccupied territory by Jan Bata throughout the war.

1938: Bata Saves Life of Friedrich Eisenstein (b. Aug 31, 1914) Vienna. "Friedrich worked for the Bata shoe company starting at age 15 as an apprentice in Zlin, Moravia till retirement for over 40 years. Bata Senior saved his life - sent him to the Congo to open up a Bata Shoe shop. 1938 He left Prague, crossed Germany and waited a week at the Belgium port of Antwerp for the boat to travel to the Belgium Congo..the radio announced that the borders of the Czech Republic/Germany had been taken over by the Gestapo...a week later he wouldn't have made it! When he arrived at the port of Matadi, the Belgians, as allied forces had to put him in custody for 2 months as he had a Reichspass from Austria."

May 1938: First Czechoslovak Mobilization

June 1938: Otto Heilig Papers (page 5): Jan Bata returns from Berlin after meeting with the German Minister of Commerce regarding reasons why the schuhjude campaign against Bata continues; Minister tells Bata that reasons are of German national interest.

July 1938: Jan Bata's Director Vavrecka in co-duties becomes Czechoslovak Minister for Propaganda

1938: Dr. Jan A. Bata helps raise funds to defend Czechoslovakia - When the Czech Government called for gifts for the National Defense and

jittery bankers tried to sabotage it. Dr. Bata did the incredible. He focused his skills on fundraising, exceeding the one billion-crown mark, surpassing the government's request by 500 million Czech Crowns, in a period of ten days. Jan Bata and his coworkers were the largest donors, giving more than 1 million dollars; not in bonds, nor redeemable funds, as a gift.

August 3, 1938: Bata Provides the Truth: Under the title "Bata is a Czechoslovak Jew," Zlin Magazine, Dr. J.A. Bata, Chief, Bata Works

PARISER TAGESZEITUNG

<p>überhaupt für alle zur Staatsverteidigung bestimmten bewaffneten Organe... Was aber das köhnste ist, ist die Frage der staatlichen Zuverlässigkeit. Diese wirft die Sudetendeutsche Partei einfach über Bord und stellt über die staatliche Zuverlässigkeit die nationale Zuverlässigkeit, die von besonderen Organen der Nationalität kontrolliert werden soll. Im deutschen Falle wäre dies natürlich ein Organ der Sudetendeutschen Partei... Hoffen wir, dass die objektive öffentliche englische Meinung zu unterscheiden vermag, worin die Vorschläge der Sudetendeutschen Partei mit der Souveränität des tschechoslowakischen States unvereinbar sind."</p> <p>BATA STELLT RICHTIG</p> <p>Unter dem Titel „Bata — ein tschechischer Jude“ schreibt in der Zeitschrift „Zlin“ der Chef der Bata-Werke, Dr. J. A. Bata, u. a.:</p> <p>„Bata — ein tschechische Jude, so wird Bata immer wieder in der deutschen Presse tituliert. Diese Behauptung wird schon seit Jahren in der deutschen Presse aufrecht erhalten. In der Zeit, da mir noch die Aktienmehrheit der Bata-Gesellschaft in Olmuth in Oberschlesien gehörte, kamen diese Gerüchte zum erstenmale auf. Damals wurden sie von den verehrlichen Konkurrenten im Dritten Reich als Konkurrenzmanöver in die Welt gesetzt. Aber auch in Deutschland gibt es Deutsche, die soweit ihr Gerechtigkeitsasinn in Betracht kommt, noch einigermaßen rückständig sind. Sie haben den Nachweis erbracht, dass Bata der Nachkomme einer alten katholischen Familie ist, deren Zuerstbestenwelt zum Katholizismus gleichfalls sehr weit zurückdatiert, zumindestens bis in das Jahr 1578, aus welcher Zeit die ersten Eintragungen in der Kirchenmatrik stammen. Ich würde mich aber auch nicht</p>	<p>nicht schämen, wenn ich Jude wäre, trotz aller Angriffe in den deutschen Zeitungen. Auch als Jude würde ich mich jedem andern Menschen auf der Welt gleichwertig fühlen. Bei dem kürzlich in Berlin stattgefundenen internationalen Kongress haben sich zahlreiche Persönlichkeiten aus den höchsten Berliner Kreisen, einschließlich des Unterrichtsministers, davon überzeugt, dass ich keineswegs wie ein Jude aussehe. Ich bin nun neugierig, wie lange diese Leute die lägenhaften Behauptungen sich gefallen lassen und wie lange sie sie unbeantwortet lassen werden. Ich schicke allen meinen neuen Bekannten in Deutschland Artikel und Beweise für die Lügenhaftigkeit der eingangs zitierten Behauptung. Es liegt mir eigentlich nichts daran, Es würde mir jedoch daran liegen, zu erfahren, ob es heute überhaupt noch jemanden in Deutschland gibt, der den Mut aufbringt, sich gegen die Lüge und den Betrug in der Propaganda zu stellen, oder ob ihnen all das schon gleichgültig ist. Darüber werde ich noch der tschechoslowakischen und der Weltöffentlichkeit Bericht erstatten. — J. A. Bata."</p> <p>INTERVIEW MIT MOTTA</p> <p>In der „Prager Presse“ veröffentlicht Motta, dem Chef des Politischen Departements der schweizer Bundesregierung:</p> <p>„Sie fragen, wie unsere Beziehungen zu Deutschland sind? Gut. Ich bin absolut sicher“, der Minister unterstreicht die Sicherheit seiner Ueberzeugung in Ton und Geste, „es ist alles in Ordnung. Bei allen Schwierigkeiten, die jemals auftauchen, hat Deutschland zum Schluss immer nachgegeben, wenn es erkannt hatte, dass unsere Sache gerecht war. Aber wenn irgend jemand uns angreifen sollte, — es wäre ein mutwilliges Verbrechen, denn es</p>
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August 4, 1938 Runciman Mission to Mitigate Sudetan Disturbances.

Runciman Mission begins to break down by August 28th.

A comment from J.A.Bata's personal notes (1949), "JAB [Jan A. Bata] talked to Runciman and his economic adviser when he came to Prague and later talked with General Spears. JAB knew from them that there was danger that if Czechoslovakia made a stand the English might not help.

Jan Bata in 1938 gave notice to the British through the intermediaries of Lord Derby, Lord Carlyle, General Spears and others before Munich that: "the fortifications of Czechoslovakia would perhaps decide the destiny of imperial Britain." Jan Bata knew what he was saying. It was the indomitable son of Moravia who spoke through his own words. The Czechoslovak forces would supposedly have to contain the immense

ambition of the Reich. But the Englishmen were blinded, judging that Hitler would be satisfied with only Bohemia.³

August 11, 1938: Wireless to the New York Times - **BATA RETORTS TO NAZIS**; Shoe Man Not a Jew, but 'Would Not Be Ashamed' if He Were Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

August 15th - 22nd, 1938: A Time Magazine article reflects that the Anti-Semitic campaign against Bata in the German press had been taking place for the last week.

August 17, 1938: Documents on British foreign policy records; "the words of Dr. Jan A. Bata, a leading Czech industrialist, who had attacked the weakness and indecision shown in high quarters towards irredentists."⁴

September 1, 1938: Documents on British foreign policy records; Benes comments regarding visit from Jan Bata, "he [Jan Bata] has been making lately '**no surrender**' speeches.

September 12, 1938: September 12, 1938: (Prague, Czechoslovakia) Wireless to the New York Times - Outbursts of the Nazis. "In Eger Nazi mobs attacked a local Social Democratic workers' club, firing twenty-five pistol shots into a building without hitting any one. With police aid the workers were able to beat off the attackers. Henleinists stormed through the streets, breaking into and plundering a local branch of the Bata Shoe Company and other Czech and Jewish-owned shops.

September 13, 1938: Article - Jan Bata, Is a Czech Jew.

October 5, 1938: Czechoslovak President Benes Resigns.

October 18, 1938: Jan Bata and Czech Diplomats meet H. Goering in Berlin. At the meeting, Goering gives a typical speech of cooperation and integration of Czechoslovakia with Germany; that Dr. Bata is a logical choice to lead the Czech nation; promises Bata certain advantages for his businesses in Germany if he cooperates with the Reich. Jan Bata responds negatively to Goering offers of advantages. In Dr. Bata's opinion, the economies of Germany and Czechoslovakia should remain separate and independent for competitive reasons. Dr. Bata further points out that "Economic co-operation between Germany and Czechoslovakia would be the same as a marriage between two men: it could never beget any children." Following Dr. Bata's comments, Goering gets very excited and puts the meeting to an end. Jan Bata and his diplomatic party drive back to Templehof and fly back to Prague. Dr. Bata verbally reports to Prime Minister, Jan Syrový and Mr. Beran an influential Czech diplomat in Prague.

³ O mundo compreenderá: a história de Jan A. Bata by F.M. Archanjo; 1949.

⁴ An irredentist is a person who advocates the recovery of territory culturally or historically related to one's nation but now subject to a foreign government.

November 20, 1938: BATA HELD BY MISTAKE; Head of Czech Shoe Factory Arrested by Nazis in Error. J.A.Bata was taken off the train by the Gestapo and brought to the Gestapo headquarters at city hall. The Gestapo questioned J.A. Bata for thirty-six hours. During questioning, Dr. Bata was asked dozens of times whether he was Jewish. Dr. Bata was released due to the intervention of the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Dr. Frantisek Chvalkovsky. Clipping from the New York Times, dated Nov. 21, 1938.



November 30, 1938: After Munich Treaty, Czechoslovak Attorney, Emil Hacha selected as President of Czechoslovakia. Hacha had been president of the Czechoslovak Supreme Administrative Court.

November 1938 - February 1939: Otto Heilig Papers (page 9) - Dr. Bata assists 45 Jewish families in escaping from Czechoslovakia; provides funds living expenses from his personal dollar account.

December 1938: Jan Bata's Director Ciperka in co-duties enters Czechoslovak Cabinet as Minister of Public Works.

1939: Bata Aids 300 Jewish Families to Escape from Nazis. Charles Morgenstern Affidavit (May 1, 1957).

January 1939: Jan Bata receives word that Nazi invasion is expected within three to four months.

March 14, 1939: Strussler (later Stoppard) and Other Families Escape with Bata Aid. From the Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama, Volume 2: (p. 1282)"In July of 1938, Thomas Straussler (his natural name) was born to Eugen and Martha Straussler in Zlin (Moravia), Czechoslovakia. the senior Straussler was a physician with the Bata shoe firm, one of the largest employers in the region. On March 14, 1939 - the day the Nazi's invaded Czechoslovakia - the entire Straussler family left with other Jewish families working for Bata and headed for the company's factories in Singapore....At four year old, Tomas, his older brother Peter, and his mother were evacuated to India because of the Japanese invasion. His father remained behind, however, and was killed."

March 15, 1939: Jan Bata Aided escape of 70 to 80 Jewish Families from Czechoslovakia Prior to March 15th (Maria Morgenstern Affidavit)

March 15, 1939: Germans invade Czechoslovakia, Jan Bata outside of Czechoslovakia in Rumania); Dr. Bata's family held captive, under house arrest by German army in Zlin until their final escape in June of 1939.

March 20, 1939: Time Magazine, article on film **Crisis 1939:** "Much of Crisis is thus devoted to shots of urchins playing in summer camps, Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria saying '**Thank you' to Czech benefactors, orators addressing crowds.** Nonetheless, pieced together with considerable skill and photographically first-rate, the picture is a reasonably coherent photographic appendix to last summer's headlines. Effective sequence: Czech soldiers lugging cannon up a mountainside for the defense that was never undertaken."

March - April 1939: France, Jan Bata negotiates with German authorities for his return to Zlin. In return for Dr. Bata's return, the German authorities agree that Bata employees get unrestricted travel as they had before the occupation. Dr. Bata uses this ploy to help his last Jewish employees to escape to safety from Czechoslovakia.

June 1939: Jan Bata, wife, young son, and youngest daughter escape by car through Slovakia; one daughter escapes with help of Bata people by train to unoccupied Europe.

June 1939: Jan Bata instructs Bata director in Zlin to set up underground chain with London.

July 1939: Jan Bata visits Czechoslovak pavilion at the World's Fair in New York where a huge exhibit of Bata story is at the forefront of the exhibition. The Czechoslovak pavilion serves as a symbol of Czechoslovak resistance. At the end of the World's Fair, Jan Bata buys pavilion and the money goes to representatives of the Czechoslovak government in exile in the USA.

August 19, 1939: Jan Bata Aids in the Escape of the Morgenstern Family from Czechoslovakia. The Morgenstern's escape form Zlin through Bata Company in Belgium. Jan Bata personally arranged for monthly funds for family, and later made available US \$3,000 for the family's entry into the United States. See Maria Morgenstern affidavit.

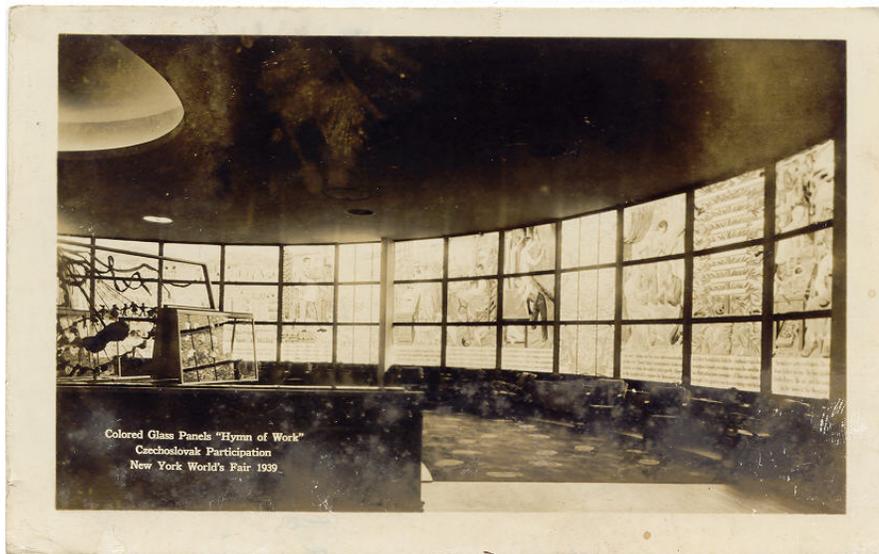
1940: Bata Assisted Meisel Family's Escape: I came to discuss with Gerhard his cousin Hanus Meisel, who like him and his family was missing from the many lists of victims which I had analysed. I told him the fate of JUDr. Bedrich Heller, his wife Marie Heller and their son Hanus Heller. I found this family also on the police registrations of departure from Valasske Mezirici. But they went to Prague and I found them to have been deported with the second transport from Prague to Lodz. That led to their killing in Zamość. Hanus' parents obtained for him a student visa to leave for the US. Also with the help of Bata. In 1940, when Hanus left Prague he was 18.

January 29, 1941: Jan Bata answers Smear Campaign.

WHO IS BATA?	
THE STATEMENT IN THE TIME MAGAZINE	HIS ANSWER OF THE SMEARING CAMPAIGN
1938	TODAY 1941
Europe's outstanding example of mass production in industry, the great Bata Shoe Co., in Zlin, braced itself last week against a dire economic threat.	The article at the left resulted in my being put into a German prison in November 1938, after Munich. You Americans applauded it.
Recent German press stories have declared: "The Bata Family are Czech Jews".	Recent stories in some American newspapers have declared: "Jan Bata, persona grata in Germany, seems to be a Hitler agent".
If this charge can be made to stick, Bata chain stores in Vienna and other parts of Greater Germany face confiscation.	If this charge can be made to stick, Bata factory in Belcamp, Md., and Bata shoe stores in USA face confiscation.
Even if not made to stick, it may seriously injure their business.	Even if not made to stick, it may seriously injure their business.
Actually, most of the Bata family are tall, big boned, straight nosed, bristle haired blondes.	Actually the Batas are Czechs and shoemakers by centuries of tradition. — Never have they been anything else.
But last week in his native Zlin, which lies in Moravia, well back of the Sudeten German district, Shoe Master Jan Bata, half brother and successor of the late Thomas Bata, who was killed when his private airplane crashed, (Time, July, 25, 1932), felt obliged to make an answer.	But last week the smearing press campaign attacked Belcamp for its location, trying to make it appear suspicious. This site was bought by Bata Company in 1933, when there was no problem of National Defense or Hitler. So I felt obliged to make an answer.
He announced in the magazine Zlin, that he had sent German officials genealogical data, tracing his Roman Catholic ancestry back to 1576.	I am asking the State Dept. to investigate: (a) Jan Bata's work on this hemisphere. (b) Origin of the \$100,000 spent by competition for a smearing campaign against Bata in USA
"Really, I don't care about those false statements," wrote Jan Bata.	"Really I don't care about those false statements," I repeat today.
"I am only curious to see whether there is still someone in Germany today with the courage to place the truth above the lying propaganda".	I am only curious to see whether there is still someone in USA, which I have admired all my life with the courage to place truth above lying propaganda.
"I would not be ashamed to be a Jew, despite all the attacks of the German press".	I need not be ashamed of my Czech nationality, of my work, nor of the 100,000 friends-workers on five continents.
"I would feel equal with all people".	I am a mere visitor here. But I believe in fairness and justice.
"But, I am not a Jew".	I am not Hitler's agent. I am an agent of a 400 years old guild of Czech Shoemakers.
	DR. JAN A. BATA
	THE EVENING "SUN" BALTIMORE, JAN. 29, 1941

August 29, 1944: Slovak Uprising begins against German occupation. In a book entitled, *They Chose Life: Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust*⁵, "In Slovakia, a national uprising beginning in August 1944 brought out some 2,500 Jewish participants. During September, a Jewish unit of 161 men who had escaped from a forced labor camp at Novaky fought off SS troops at Batovany⁶ (now Partizanske)." The leader of the resistance in Batovany was Captain Joseph Troyan (Jan Bata's top director in Slovakia). More than two hundred Batamen died in battle during the uprising. Jan Bata's company funded the Slovak Uprising at a national level, funding more than 800 national resistance committees. Without this national organization, the Slovak Uprising would have been impossible.

Throughout the war, Jan Bata and his firms around the world gave material aid to the Czechoslovak cause, giving millions of dollars in donations, boots and other supplies for the Czechoslovak Army, and placing his multi-national business of more than 40,000 employees at the disposal of the allied cause.



Alexandr Hammid took photo above of the Bata glass display called the "**Hymn of Work.**" The photo is from the Bata pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Alexandr Hammid changed his name from Hackenschmied upon his arrival to the U.S.A. Before emigrating from Czechoslovakia, and from the mid-1930s, Hackenschmied worked for Jan Bata at the Bata Film Studios in Zlin. Hackenschmied made numerous advertising and documentary films for Bata. One of the most famous was directed by Elmar Klos in 1937, entitled *The Highway Sings*, showing auto tires in motion. Hachenschmied accompanied Jan Bata on the first

⁵ By Yehuda Bauer, 1973 (page 50).

⁶ The city of Batovany was founded by Jan Antonin Bata in 1938. Batovany was renamed after the war to Partizanske (to memorialize partisans) Jan Bata's large shoe industry in the town was renamed to ZDA an acronym in Slovak for the 29th of August, the date the Slovak Uprising began.

ever business flight around the world in 1937, documenting the expansion of Bata throughout the world. Dr. Bata's round-the-world journey started from Zlin and returned to Zlin on May 1, 1937 to a cheering crowd of more than one hundred thousand Czechoslovaks.

After the Munich Crisis, Hackenschmied co-directed a key documentary film entitled, **Crisis 1939** with Herbert Kline. This feature film was about the 1938 Sudeten Crisis, released briefly before the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. This documentary was developed with the full cooperation of the Czechoslovakian government (Jan Bata's key director, Hugo Vavrecka was then the Czechoslovak Minister of Propaganda). The film covered all phases of the life of the Czechoslovak people, their hopes and fears, and the final disaster as the Munich Treaty left the Czechs without the support of their "peace-in-our-time" allies, and unable to stop the takeover of the Sudeten territory by the "Tomorrow-the-World" Nazis.

During the war, Alexandr Hammid directed a documentary called the "**Hymn of the Nations**" produced by the U.S. Office of War Information (OWI).

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