

An Unknown Chapter of the Bata Story



This Presentation

It was hard for me to decide what would be the best topic to write about with respect to J.A.Bata. Should I write about the astronomical growth of the Bata organization under his leadership, or the fact that he built dozens of industries including: shoes, machinery, film, chemicals, airplanes, whole cities, or that he moved a mountain, completed the Bata canal, or about important books he wrote such as Building a Nation to Support 40 million People, that he built up the Bata organization to more than 100,000 employees. That said, it was hard to decide what to write about.

But after some thought, I decided that the first step would be to go back in time to show step by step what J.A.Bata actually did for the freedom and independence of Czechoslovakia. To accomplish this, a significant amount of research needed to be done to dig out the facts. It is my hope that you will find the material I uncovered as interesting as I did. John Nash



Me and grandpa above
circa 1963.

Why did Tomas Bata choose to sell his businesses to younger brother Jan Bata?

This question has confounded historians for more than 85 years.

With the worldwide depression in full force by 1930, Tomas Bata made the decision to sell his business interests to his brother Jan Bata. Tomas had decided the needs of his country outweighed his personal business needs. Tomas had decided to run for the Presidency of Czechoslovakia to replace the aging President, Thomas Masaryk.

Tomas explained to Jan, "you have no idea how much work that of the head of state is. To get results, one would have to utilize every second. Therefore this represents that task for two men. The head of the company is one, that of President another. Especially now when everything is so completely confused and a war is nearly in view."

Tomas foresaw a conflict of interest with his business interests by running for president. His solution to this problem was to separate his business interests from his political interests. The way he chose to solve this was by selling his business interests to his brother Jan Bata. This also explains why Tomas Bata wrote his will and sales agreement to ensure that his wishes were carried out.

Tomas would take on new responsibilities as president and reorganize and restore Czechoslovakia economically and put the country back to work while Jan would take over the businesses and ensure its long term success. It was Tomas Bata's logic that put Jan Bata in charge of the Bata concern in May of 1931. This also explains why Jan in later years, showed no interest in politics. After Tomas' death Jan used all of his strength and skills to accomplish both his task and Tomas' task by building up the Bata concern in an unprecedented way to accomplish the dreams and ideas he and his brother shared. Evidence of Tomas Bata's interest in politics can be seen in the book, Tomas Bata Knowledge in Action.

Conference and Agreement with Tomas Bata, Sr. in 1930, J.A.Bata Archives, August 25, 1947.

Germany Opposed to Bata

Berlin archives reveal German government attitude toward J.A.Bata in 1938-39

The Nazi Economics Ministry memorandum states:

"The struggle against Bata has been one of the central points of the Sudeten-German Party's political program. Bata was not only the head representative of Czech chauvinism and a pioneering fighter for the Czech-ization policy in the Sudetenland, but also his economic, social and political system has been bitterly combated by the Sudeten-German Party as the antithesis of National Socialism... Under these circumstances it was decided that the complete dissolution of the Bata shoe organization should be demanded and Implemented."

Dr. Gerhard Keiper,
Auswaertiges Amt,
Werderscher Markt 1,
10117 Berlin,
Deutschland,
R103837.pdf,
pages 16-17,
1938-1939

Bata Forced Out of Germany

German Foreign Office memorandum of November 8, 1938 with attached memo explaining the reasons why the Nazi regime ordered the closing of all Bata's approximately 500 stores in the Sudetenland:

"The reason for this order is the political stance taken by the Bata managing directorate during the political events leading to the handing over of the Sudetenland, and the conviction that the preservation of the extraordinarily networked system of Bata affiliates in the Sudeten-German region is not consistent from an economic-political standpoint with the principles of the National Socialist governance of the economy. The efforts of the Reich Commissar are directed to having Bata completely liquidate his affiliates and transfer them into other hands."

Dr. Gerhard Keiper, Auswaertiges Amt, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin, Deutschland, R103836.pdf, page 8, 1938

Nazi Propaganda Against Bata

Bata was a Catholic, but "this fact did not hinder the Nazi propaganda machine for reasons of their own, to refer to my boss Jan Bata as 'Der Schujude Bata.' Our small subsidiary in German Silesia was a thorn in the flesh of the German shoe industry.

I witnessed then an unexpected and rather courageous gesture. In June 1938, three months before the Munich deal, Mr. Bata published in the house organ an information which might be reduced to this: I just returned from Berlin where I met the Minister of Commerce and Industry. When I inquired why the 'Shuhjude' campaign [against Bata] goes on, in spite of my formal proofs to the contrary at the local German Consulate, I was told: You know, Mr. Bata, this is just a matter of national interest, nothing personal."

Otto Heilig, Sao Paulo, Brazil, February 7, 1972, U.S. Holocaust Museum

Gestapo Arrests Bata

THOMAS J. BATA (Tomik): "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, the 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."

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

No Surrender Speeches 1938

“The officer’s manifesto, summarized in No. 610, had specifically commended ‘the words of Dr. J.A.Bata’, a leading Czech industrialist, who had attacked the weakness and indecision shown in high quarters towards irredentists.

Thursday (September 1st). F.O. are agitating about publication of Benes’ proposals; we are far from keen on doing this; as in Germany and Sudeten Germany they would be received with derision. Visit from M. Bata – “just a shoemaker”; I advised him to stick to his last as he has been making lately “no surrender speeches. He gave me a two hour lecture on his scheme of developing Czechoslovakia.” [from J.A.Bata’s book, Budujme stat pro 40,000,000 lidi]

Note: Irredentists are people who advocate the restoration of a country of any territory formerly belonging to it.

The Czech Defense Donation Action

During the Munich Crisis the Czechoslovak government could not procure loans to purchase needed armaments to defend the country. The governor of the National Bank, Dr. Englis who initiated the fundraiser became very pessimistic about its chances for success. He was worried that they would not be able to raise more than 300 million Crowns.

They called on Jan A. Bata for help. Jan Bata in turn reached out to his employees all over the world. Jan Bata, the Chief of the Bata concern promised that he personally would match all the donations of his employees. In the first day, Jan Bata and his employees donated 30 million gold crowns the first and largest donation. Over the next five days, donations for the Defense Action were oversubscribed by 1.2 billion Crowns.

Jan A. Bata,
Batatuba, Brazil to
Dr. A. Kolb, Zurich
Feb. 20, 1948

Bata's Anti Nazi Comments Followed by Threats (1941)

U.S. Naval Intelligence confirms that Jan Bata after giving a statement to the Baltimore Sun in 1941. The Nazis made threats against Bata's people in Czechoslovakia. The Nazis warned Jan Bata against his openly anti-Nazi attitude. The report concluded that Bata "has always given substantial contributions to the Czech Patriot Society called 'Sokol' and to the Free French Movement."

United States
Naval Intelligence
District Intelligence
Officer
Tenth Naval District
FL-120-44, 1944

Bata Employees Secret Loyalty

“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.”

Report Filed by R.W.
Ketcham Council
to the Bata Companies
Filed with the U.S.
Treasury Department
8/18/41

The World Famous Film KRIZE (CRISIS) - Made With Bata's Help

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) revealed that the film Crisis was edited in secret at the Bata Shoe Film Department.

Crisis was filmed with a Zlin film crew by American filmmaker Herbert Kline. The main cameraman Alexander Hackenschmied (Bata filmmaker) brought the film to the United States in 1939 where it played nationally and advanced the cause of occupied Czechoslovakia and becoming one of the most celebrated documentaries of its time.

TCM Website
<http://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/495281/Crisis/notes.html>

The 1939 Crisis film was designed to wake up western countries to the Nazi threat and serve as a plea to countries like the United States to come to the aid of Czechoslovakia which was the only democracy in Europe at the time.

Bata Gives Profits to Czech Gov't-in-exile

“In the new set-up of our American companies, I have given instructions that all their profits are to be handed over to the Czechoslovak government. These are the same steps as those which I ordered already in October 1939 in respect to the enterprise in England and France as well as in their empires.”

Jan Antonin Bata

Letter from Jan A.
Bata (Brazil) to
President Eduard
Benes (London),
June 20, 1942

Building Outside of German Influence

Jan A. Bata: I have, since assuming control of the Bata interests, had a profound distrust for the Nazis so that every industrial enterprise I established since 1932 was as far as possible from German orbit. The list of these enterprises is as follows:

French orbit (cont):

Dakar, Senegal 1940 employing 200 workers
Oran, Alger 1941 employing 100 workers

Neutral:

Switzerland 1933 employing 400 workers
Belgium 1937 employing 600 workers
Holland 1934 employing 1,500 workers
Java, Buitenzorg 1937 employing 500 workers

American orbit:

Belcamp, MD, USA 1939 employing 1,500 workers
Batatuba, Brazil 1939 employing 1,500 workers
Bataflour, Chile 1939 employing 300 workers
Lima, Peru 1939 employing 250 workers
Quillacollo, Bolivia 1940 employing 150 workers
Port au Prince, Haiti 1940 employing 100 workers
Guatemala 1940 employing 200 workers
Philippines 1940 employing 100 workers

British orbit:

Tilbury England 1933 employing 2,000 workers
Batanagar, India 1934 employing 7,000 workers
Klang, Malaya 1935 employing 600 workers
Egypt 1936 employing 600 workers
Gwelo, Rhodesia 1937 employing 600 workers
Nairobi, Kenya 1938 employing 400 workers
Lahore, India 1939 employing 600 workers
Baghdad, Iraq 1934 employing 300 workers

French orbit:

Hellocourt, France 1933 employing 2,600 workers
Vernon, France 1935 employing 1,200 workers
Syria 1934 employing 300 workers
Dordogne, France 1939 employing 600 workers
Casablanca, Morocco 1939 employing 200 workers
Indochina, Haiphong 1940 employing 100 workers
Congo, Belgian 1940 employing 300 workers

DECLASSIFIED

Letter from Jan A. Bata to
U.S. Ambassador William
Douglas Pawley, Rio de
Janeiro, June 14, 1946.

Why Bata Could Not Openly Support the Czech Resistance During the War

“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

Jiri Urdzal
Sao Paulo, Brazil
February 6, 1968

“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.”

Jan A. Bata, Tezke Casy

Transferring Jewish Employees Abroad

From the time of the Austrian Anschluss in 1938, Jan Bata at his own expense began transferring Jewish employees to destinations throughout the world. In a book entitled Tezke Casy, Jan Bata outlined how one of his businesses named Kotva removed more than 1,000 Jewish employees and their families abroad.

Raw Materials Prepared for the Czech General Staff

"I collaborated with the Czechoslovakian General Staff until 1939 and built up industries for production of tires, gas masks, acticarbon, synthetic rubber, fiber, tanin at their specific request. I cite [the] chief of the General Staff, Gen. Syrovy, Gen. Cizek, Minister of Defense Machnik, etc."

"This collaboration entailed our acquisition of tremendous stocks of essential raw materials. I retained these raw materials in France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and England prohibiting wherever possible shipments to Zlin after Munich."
Jan A. Bata

DECLASSIFIED

Letter from Jan A. Bata to U.S. Ambassador William Douglas Pawley, Rio de Janeiro, June 14, 1946.

Building Czechoslovakia's Strategic Raw Materials Base in Preparation for War

J.A. Bata's personal notes: I made sure that we had this fantastic supply of materials the generals had requested. In May of 1938, we had already half of the supply of material at home in supply houses. I heard through word of mouth from the highest General in the army that the decision had been made that the republic would not defend itself. It became clear to me that all of these raw materials could fall into the hands of the Germans. I needed to put a stop to it.

This was the reason that I sent one of my directors, Mr. Malota to Switzerland to make calls to all the stations and buyers about 70 of them around the world to stop the shipments of materials with the highest urgency from reaching Zlin. The new orders were that nothing can be shipped until further oral notice. Any materials that were on the way from any part of the world were quietly stopped in European ports and stored in shipping houses in Rotterdam, Norway, Trieste, Marseille, Antwerp, etc. After this we only worried about the materials becoming rotten or being sent to Zlin.

This is what brought me to the blacklist in England when the war started. Englishmen who in peaceful times didn't care about anything, realized that Bata has stored raw materials in all important European ports. This was suspicious. Why would I have them there? Just so I could give them to the Germans. This was a little confusing to the English, but they began to understand when I was arrested by the Gestapo in November of 1938, and that by May 1940 France was taken over, and by June, 1940 the whole coast of Western Europe taken over. The result was that Great Britain was now surrounded by the Nazis.

Jan Bata personal notes undated, likely written in 1947-1950. Written in Czech language.

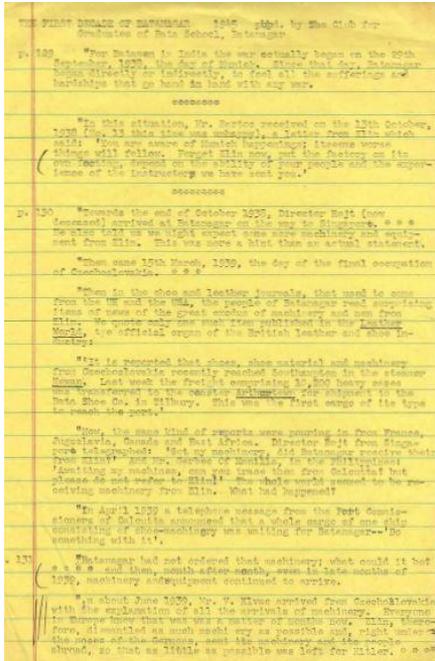
Bata Removed Everything from Zlin

"It is reported that shoes, shoe material and machinery from Czechoslovakia recently reached Southampton in the steamer Newan. Last week the freight comprising 10,200 heavy cases was transferred to coaster Arthurtown for shipment to the Bata Shoe Co. in Tilbury."

"Now the same kind of reports were pouring in from France, Jugoslavia, Canada and East Africa...[with the reference] please do not refer to Zlin"

"In April 1939 a telephone message from the Port Commissioners of Calcutta announced that a whole cargo of one ship consisting of shoe-machinery was waiting for Batanagar -- Do something with it."

June 1939 "Zlin, therefore, dismantled as much machinery as possible and, right under the noses of the Germans, sent the machinery and its people abroad, so that as little as possible was left for Hitler."



The First Decade of
Batanagar, 1945 by the
Bata Club for Graduates of
the Bata School,
Batanagar.



Bata Trained 250 Czech pilots

"During a national campaign for pilots our quota at Zlin was 7 pilots, we trained 250, many of whom fought in the R.A.F."

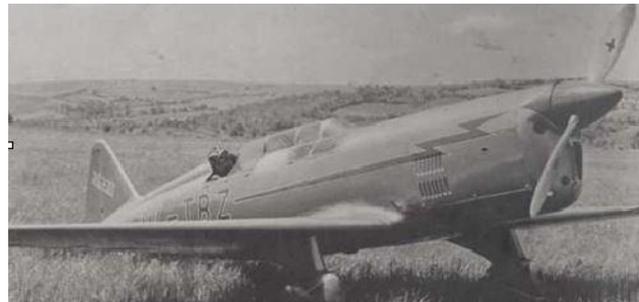
Jan A. Bata

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



Bata's Prototype Zlin XIII Aircraft

Approximately 100 Bata pilots and airmen served in the following RAF Squadrons: 51st, 68th, 111th, 240th, 310th, 311th, 312th, and 313th

<https://fcafa.com/2013/03/01/the-bata-raf-airmen/>

The Czechoslovakian Pilot Drive for 1,000 New Pilots "In 1935 an appeal was made by some leading Czechoslovak citizens to the Czechoslovak public to subscribe to a 'Fund for a Thousand Pilots' to enable 1,000 young Czechoslovaks to receive flying instruction in their spare time." News flashes from Czechoslovakia under Nazi domination, Issues 114-217 (1942), p.155

Bata Protects Students and Professors During WWII

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

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 to concentration camps.

“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.”
Jan A. Bata

Bata Helped the Czech Army's Evacuation from France in 1940

“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, as you say, this is a big evacuation enterprise - and very costly with regard to finances. 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. I think that here it will be necessary to inform the Czechoslovakian-American public about the real state of things - to calculate what amount is needed - it will be several hundred thousand dollars - and to appeal for contributions all the time. It should not be a problem to collect this money quickly here in the U.S.”

Frank Muska

Frank Muska letter to Julius
Heger of the Czechoslovak
Relief, Chicago, IL, November
24, 1941

Bata's Secret Financing of the Slovak Uprising



“Vavro Srobar [Minister of Finance] 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.”

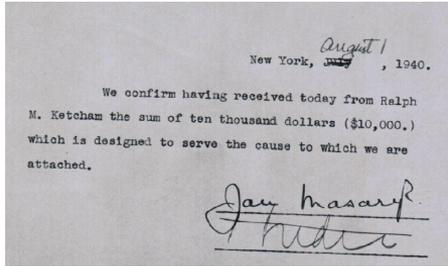
The National Court considers as proved by the above mentioned statements of Jan Lepik and Ladislav Hynek that...a total sum of about Kcs. 7,970,000 was given for illegal activity for the support of partisan and political groups' resistance. This statement was attested to by the organizers of the underground movement in the area of Tatry: by Dr. Lud. Lincenyi, a member of the National Assembly; J. Kotocek, the Chairman of the District National Committee in Poprad.” The first 5 million Crowns were used to organize the Slovak Uprising through an organization called HELA from which 843 National Committees were created to organize the national rebellion.



Decision of the
National Court
Indictment No.
174/46-5,
May 2, 1947

After the war, the city of Batovany was renamed to Partizanske to commemorate the partisans who fought in the Slovak Uprising. The Bata a.s. Company was also renamed to ZDA which stands for Zavody 29. Augusta which represented that date the Slovak Uprising began.

Bata's Contributions to Czech Gov't in Exile



A check from Jan Bata's attorney Ketcham endorsed by Jan Masaryk for \$10,000 on August 1, 1940.



Bata World's Fair Pavilion Glass Display

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1940 Contribution to the appeal of Madame Benes in London for the refugees in France - Lstg. 750. | \$3,000 |
| 1941 (July) Contribution for rebuilding the bombed house of the Czechoslovak Air Force..... | \$7,000 |
| 1939/1941 Maintaining of the Czech Consulate in Bombay..... | \$15,000 |
| Czech authorities in U.S. 1940 (received by Jan Masaryk)..... | \$10,000 |
| Czechoslovak authorities in U.S. up to 6/30/41..... | \$5,000 |
| Unoccupied France and Morocco before occupation..... | \$5,500 |
| Unoccupied France and Morocco to support refugees 1940..... | \$5,500 |
| Liquidation of World's Fair pavilion..... | \$32,000 |
| Funds given to the Czechoslovak Government in London | \$44,000 |
| Bata Tilbury and Atlas Exporters and Importers purchased two Spitfire fighters for the Czechoslovak Air Force in London..... | \$50,000 |

Karl Stefan,
Congress of the United States
November 22, 1943

Jan Bata's Organization Spent 80 Million Pre-war Crowns to Defend Czechoslovakia

“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.”

Justice for Jan Bata,
Czech Struggle for
Freedom and
Democracy, October
9, 1948, No. 6

Batamen Activities Are J.A.Bata

Letter from J.A.Bata to Frank Muska, Jan. 24, 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."

Jan A. Bata

"I confirm your wire of April 29, 1941. I do not know what will follow from this point of view of yours. I want to visit Chicago next week and negotiate in this affair with V.B. [Vojta Benes] and P. [Jan Papanek] On Saturday 3/5, Mr. Chlud saw Dr. Cervenka in Washington. Dr. C. mentioned to Chlud the importance of that thing and asked him that he should also write you."

"On 11/4/41 I submitted to the Czechoslovak National Council in Chicago a report about the activities of the Batamen in the present war and I wrote in the conclusion:

I beg you to consider the activity of the Batamen also as the activity of Mr. J.A.Bata. Without his knowledge and support, our so extensive and effective activity in favor of the Czechoslovak and Allied matter would certainly be impossible." Frank Muska [Personal Secretary of J.A.Bata]

On the historic day,

the 27th anniversary of the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic and the 11th anniversary of the foundation of Batanagar, **We salute the Czechoslovak Republic!**

During the seven years separation from our country we have gone on working in the spirit of public service, and of the principles of democracy, humanity and active co-operation—the principles which have always been the foundations upon which our business and our public service are built.

The Bata works in India, whose foundation stone was laid exactly 11 years ago, is the first Czechoslovak colony in the Far East.

Until the occupation Batanagar was a centre of contact for business and cultural relations between India and Czechoslovakia, and stimulated the export of our manufactured articles to India and the import of cheap Indian raw materials for the use of Czechoslovak industry.

On August 29, 1939, the first Czechoslovak association in India and the Far East was founded at Batanagar, thereby stimulating organized help to Czechoslovak resistance in this part of the globe.

The first and only Sokol gymnastic unit existing so far in Asia is at Batanagar.

War effort of the Bata firm in India in figures:

32,000,000 pairs of military boots of all types for the Allied armies of three continents.

1,000,000 canvas tent covers.

2,570,000 pairs of soles for repairing military boots.

23,788,000 articles of important military equipment.

500,000 sets of parachute equipment for dropping paratroops, etc., etc.

The firm of Bata with its Indian and Czechoslovak collaborators and other Czechoslovaks in India formed a Czechoslovak society in Calcutta, and made the following contributions to the funds for Czech resistance and aid to the Allied war funds:

The first volunteers entering the Czechoslovak army from India were employees of Bata at Batanagar.

All Czechoslovak employees of the firm in India who were instructed by the "Essential Works Order" to remain in the workshops and organize the manufacture of war requirements served throughout the war as officers in the Bengal police, home guards, anti-gas squads, fire-fighters, and other auxiliary bodies. Their services, especially during the period of enemy attacks on Hongkai, received recognition from those highly placed in the Bengal Government.

All the Czechoslovak employees of Bata's firm in India during the war were voluntary blood donors for the wounded. There were a larger number of Czechoslovak blood donors than of any other Allied colony in India.

To Czechoslovak Government in exile . . . 183,649.99
To Czechoslovak Red Cross . . . 201,181.88
Parcels to Czechoslovak Army in U.S.S.R. . . . 96,672.06
Gifts to Czechoslovaks on the western front . . . 10,695.80
Maintenance of impoverished Czechoslovaks in India during the war . . . 4,333.74

Total contribution to Czechoslovak funds . . . 496,533.47
British and Allied War Funds . . . 62,387.80
Allied War and benevolent purposes . . . 56,562.79
Indian Red Cross . . . 146,062.67
Aid against epidemics and famine in Bengal . . . 35,317.50

Total for Allied and charitable purposes . . . 260,330.76
Total contributed to Czechoslovak and Allied war funds and purposes . . . 756,864.23

We are happy to-day to be able to inform the Czechoslovak public at home and abroad that during the seven years of separation we were able to preserve and strengthen the friendship between India and Czechoslovakia to laboriously won during the twenty years of our independence.

The Indian people to-day are well informed about Czechoslovakia, they value our friendship and join us in looking forward to the possibility of business and cultural co-operation between the two peoples.

BATA BATANAGAR, INDIA

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Batanagar's Huge Contribution to the Allied War Effort

The "War effort of the Bata firm in India in figures:

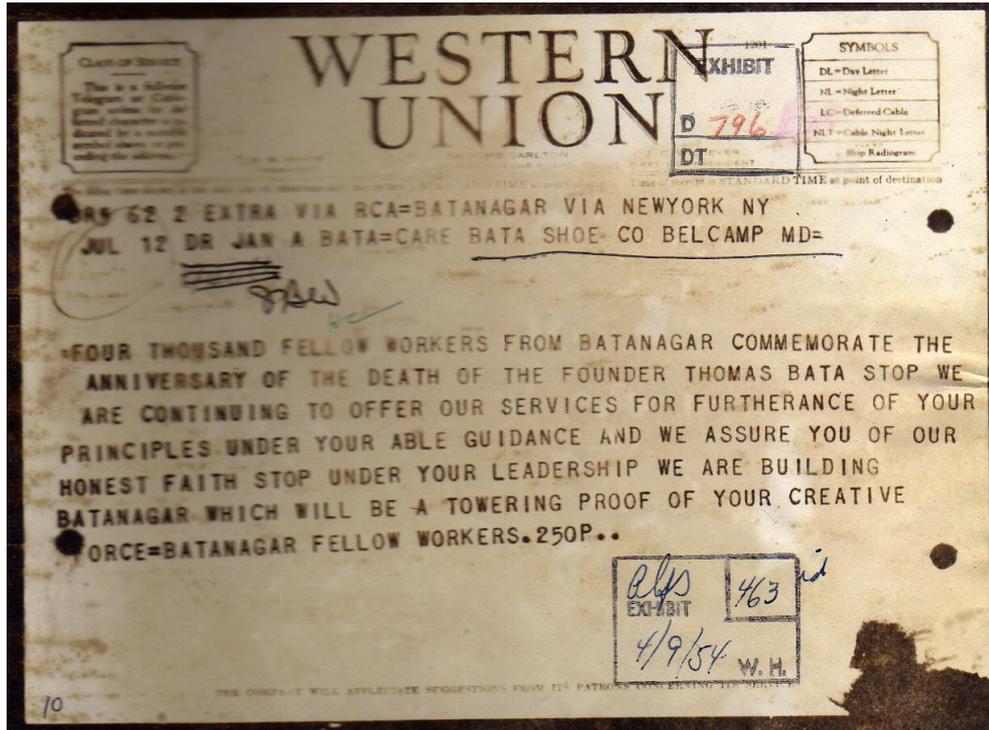
- 32,000,000 pairs of military boots of all types for the Allied armies of three continents.
- 1,000,000 canvas tent covers.
- 23,788,000 articles of important military equipment.
- 500,000 sets of parachute equipment for dropping parcels, etc., etc."

Note: The support listed above only represents a portion of the support given by Bata to the Czechoslovak war effort.

The Central European Observer
p.344, 1945

We are Building Batanagar

which will be a towering proof of your creative force



Czech Court Confirms J.A. Bata's Support for the Czech Resistance

"It is known that he [Jan Bata] gave the instruction that a certain percentage of the profit of the Bata companies abroad will be sent regularly to the Czechoslovak Government in Exile, and all of his employees would serve in the military service and put a big effort towards the support of the war against the Nazis. Mr. J.A.Bata decided to keep the people in who stayed in occupied Czechoslovakia safe by remaining anonymous during the war."

Sp. Zn. Nt
214/2007
Prague District
Court
2007

Jan Bata's Loyalty to the Czechoslovak People

"There is still the possibility that Zlin will be destroyed in the war and that the people there will be beaten up, not only estranged to the nation. I, however cannot sign the assignment to their destruction. Loyalty to my people is more to me than my properties and than my life."

Jan A. Bata

Jan Antonin Bata Czech Patriot

This presentation was prepared by John Nash to demonstrate that Jan Antonin Bata provided financial, organizational, and moral support for the Czechoslovak resistance and the defense of Czech people prior to the Munich Crisis and throughout the war. Bata's support for his country was unprecedented.

It is our hope that eventually, Jan Bata will be rightfully recognized as Czech patriot for the great service he rendered to his country



Contact: batanash@gmail.com

Thank You.