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SUMMARY

DECORATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE COLLECTION OF DECORATIONS OF THE CROATIAN HISTORY MUSEUM

The Croatian History Museum has thirty eight Czechoslovak decorations from between the two world wars and after World War Two.

The first two decorations of the Czechoslovak Republic, the War Cross from 1918 and the Medal of the Revolution, were both instituted at the end of World War I and designed by the well-known French sculptor Antoine Bourdelle (1861-1929) in Paris.

The Allied Victory Medal was instituted at the Peace Conference in Paris at the beginning of 1919 as a common medal of the allies in World War I. All the medals have the same basic design, but with typical symbols for each country.

Outstanding in beauty, importance and number in the Czechoslovak collection in the Collection of Decorations of the History Museum are the Orders of the White Lion from the inter-war period, when creative Czechoslovak artists created many peak designs which were executed in cooperation with the French Kernet&Kisely workshop.

The Czechoslovak Volunteers Commemorative Decoration 1918-1919 was instituted nineteen years after the successful Czechoslovak military intervention in Slovakia against Hungarian occupying forces.

The Czechoslovak Volunteers Commemorative Medal 1918-1919 was also instituted in 1939, and was awarded to all the volunteers who participated in military actions in Silesia and Slovakia in 1918-1919.

The War Cross 1939 was instituted in 1940 by the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic in exile in London, and was awarded to Czech and Slovak citizens and units and members of allied armies who participated in fighting during the occupation in 1939.

The Medal for Bravery Before the Enemy was instituted by the Government of the CSR on 20 December 1940, and was confirmed after the war. It was awarded “In memory of the struggle for the liberation of the Czechoslovak Republic from enemy occupation, as a visible sign for people who had excelled in acts of personal courage against enemies on the battlefield on the internal or external front.”

The Military Commemorative Medal was instituted by the Government of the CSR in 1943 in London. The medal was awarded to members of the Czechoslovak army abroad, and also to members of allied armies who participated in actions for the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

The Medal of Janosik was instituted by decree of the Czechoslovak government on 14 June 1946 as a military decoration for Czechoslovak partisans and citizens of allied states who had participated in the organisation of Czechoslovak partisan units or fought in those units in the Czechoslovak Republic or outside its borders.

The Commemorative Decoration of the Second National Rising was instituted on 14 May 1946 as a commemorative decoration for participation in World War Two, and was awarded to citizens of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic who had participated in the uprising against the occupying forces (1939-1945) outside organised military units and had contributed to the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

The Commemorative Medal for Faithfulness and Readiness for the Defence of Slovakia 1918-1938 was instituted in about 1947 by the Association of the Czechoslovak Legion of Slovakia – CSOL, which awarded the medal with the approval of the Ministry of National Defence and the Slovak National Council.

The Decoration for Merit in Development from 1951 is awarded to persons excelling in the development and application of scientific and technical progress, or excelling in the development of the national economy, science, technology and culture, or with outstanding merit in political, statehood and other activities.

The Medal for Service to the Homeland from 1955 is awarded for expanding military readiness, security of the republic, work on raising the level of readiness for defence, for significant inventions and technological advance important for the defence of the country, and for brave actions in military duty.

The Dukla Commemorative Medal was instituted on 26 June 1959, on the fifteenth anniversary of the battle on the Dukla Pass.

The Commemorative Medal – 20th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising was instituted in 1964 and awarded as an honorary commendation for participation in the struggle against fascism in the Slovak national uprising.

The Commemorative Medal – 20th Anniversary of CSSR Liberation (1954-1965) is the last decoration in the Collection of Decorations of the Croatian History Museum.