

COVER STORY: MAILMAN OF THE SEA



# The Golden Magazine

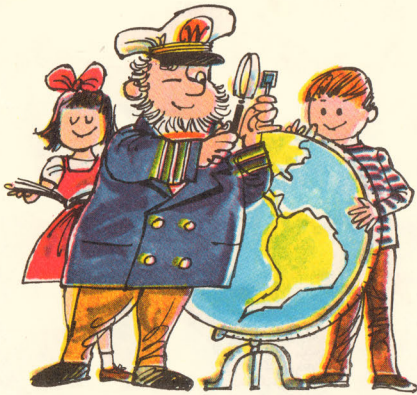
*Exciting stories:* for boys and girls

AZTEC ADVENTURE • ONE DESPERATE CHANCE

*Fun with jokes and puzzles*

Plus: LOS ANGELES  
CITY OF ANGELS





# Cap'n Whitman's WORLD of STAMPS

## The Sea Scouts' Mail Adventure

By HARRY D. THORSEN, Jr.

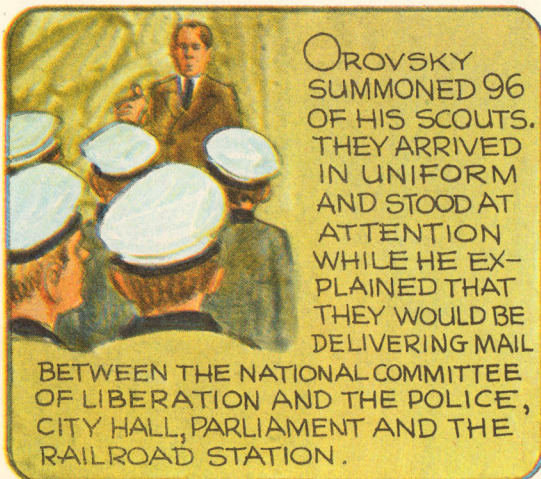
**A**T THE END OF WORLD WAR I, THE SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA DECLARED ITSELF AN INDEPENDENT NATION. IN THE GENERAL CONFUSION AND DISTRUST WHICH FOLLOWED, ALL THE COUNTRY'S RELIABLE ORGANIZATIONS WERE PRESSED INTO SERVICE FOR SPECIAL JOBS. THE SEA SCOUTS (A BRANCH OF THE BOY SCOUTS) WERE ASKED TO DELIVER OFFICIAL MAIL IN PRAGUE FROM NOVEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 25, 1918, WHILE THE NEW REPUBLIC WAS BEING FORMED.

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BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MAIL, A COMMITTEE QUESTIONED CHIEF SCOUT ROESSLER OROVSKY ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE BOYS TO DO THE JOB.

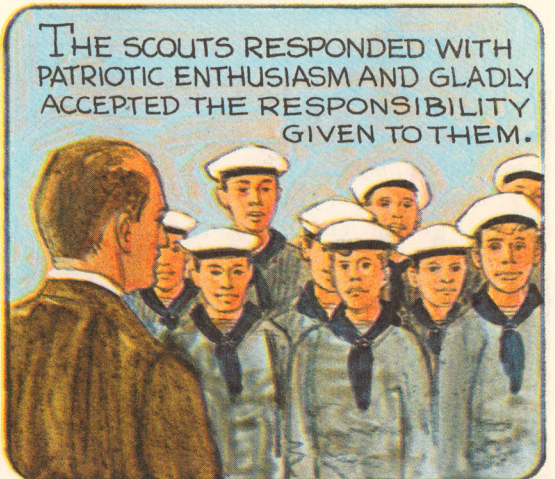


OROVSKY, WHO KNEW THEIR CAPABILITIES AND INTEGRITY, ASSURED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE SCOUTS COULD BE TRUSTED WITH THE MAIL.



OROVSKY SUMMONED 96 OF HIS SCOUTS. THEY ARRIVED IN UNIFORM AND STOOD AT ATTENTION WHILE HE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD BE DELIVERING MAIL

BETWEEN THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION AND THE POLICE, CITY HALL, PARLIAMENT AND THE RAILROAD STATION.



THE SCOUTS RESPONDED WITH PATRIOTIC ENTHUSIASM AND GLADLY ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY GIVEN TO THEM.



"IF YOU'LL COMPARE THIS WITH YOUR LIST OF SIGNATURES, SIR...."



"THANK YOU; HERE IS THE SIGNED ENVELOPE AS A RECEIPT."

GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN TO PROTECT THE TRUE IDENTITY OF HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL SUCH OFFICIALS HAD A LIST OF THE SIGNATURES OF MESSENGERS. THE SCOUT SIGNED ON THE FRONT OF THE ENVELOPE, AND THE OFFICIAL COMPARED THE SIGNATURE WITH HIS LIST. AFTER REMOVING THE CONTENTS, HE SIGNED HIS NAME ON THE ENVELOPE AND RETURNED IT TO THE SCOUT AS A RECEIPT TO BE FILED AT SCOUT HEADQUARTERS.



SHOWN AT THE LEFT IS THE SPECIAL STAMP WHICH WAS CREATED FOR THE SCOUTS' MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE — ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL STAMPS EVER PRINTED. TO SAVE TIME IN PERFORMING, A CUTTING EDGE WAS FORMED AROUND THE STAMP, HIGHER THAN THE PRINTING AREA SO THAT IT CUT THE PAPER AS IT WAS PRINTED. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER STAMPS EVER PRODUCED THIS WAY. THE 20 HALERU STAMP IN RED INK WAS FOR LETTERS; THE 10 HALERU STAMP IN BLUE WAS FOR POSTAL CARDS. POSTA CESKÝCH SKAUTŮ MEANS "CZECH SCOUT POST." THE BOTTOM TWO LINES READ, "IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT."

THIS IS A TRUE STORY OF SCOUTS IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY. SINCE THAT FIRST SCOUT STAMP IN 1918, EIGHTY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE HONORED THEIR BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS WITH SPECIAL STAMPS. IN MOST CASES, THE SCOUTS HAVE EARNED THIS RECOGNITION BY PERFORMING OUTSTANDINGLY DURING TIMES OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. SINCE WORLD WAR II, THE CZECHS HAVE AGAIN LOST THEIR FREEDOM, THIS TIME TO THE COMMUNISTS. SCOUTING IS NOT PERMITTED IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED COUNTRIES.