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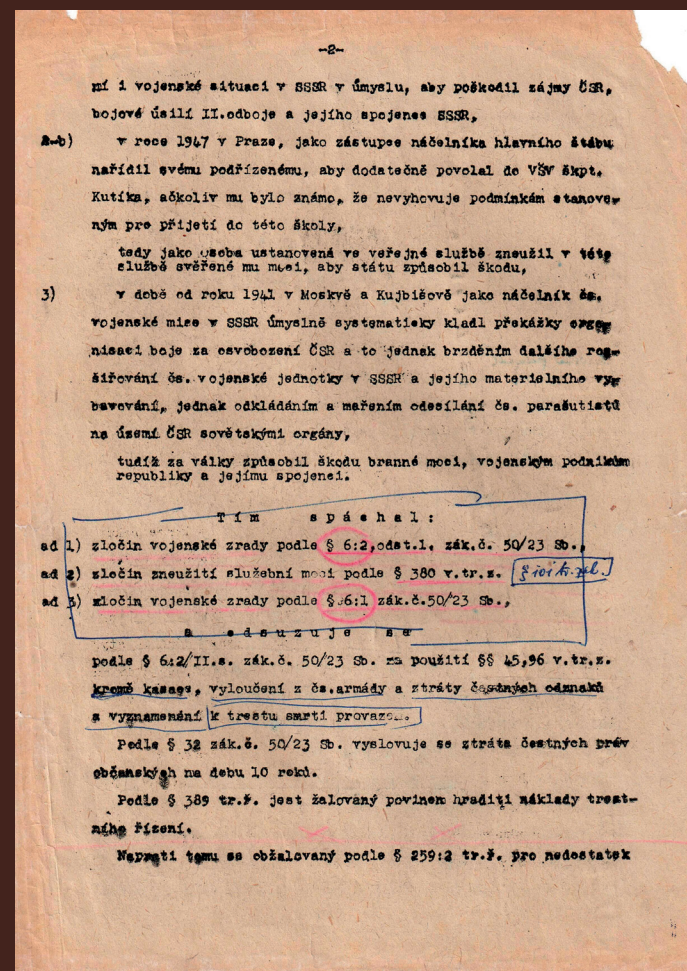
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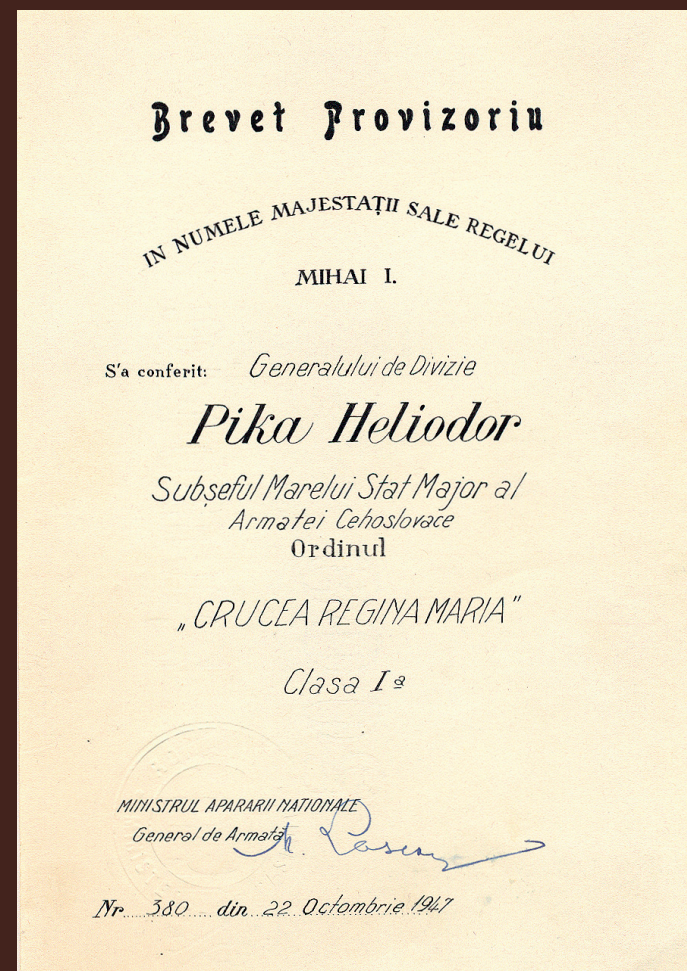
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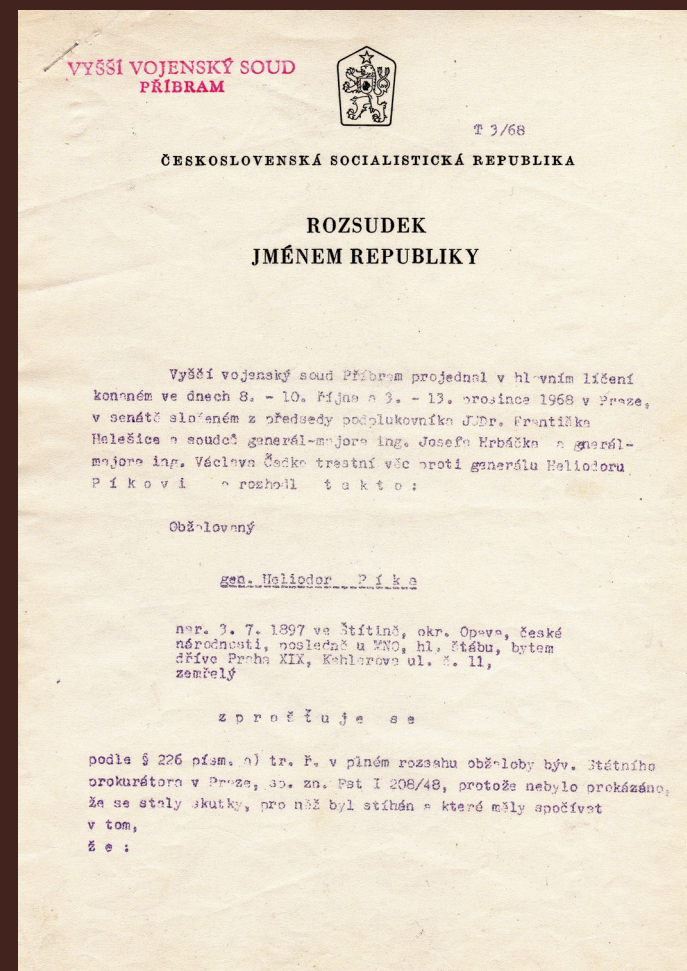
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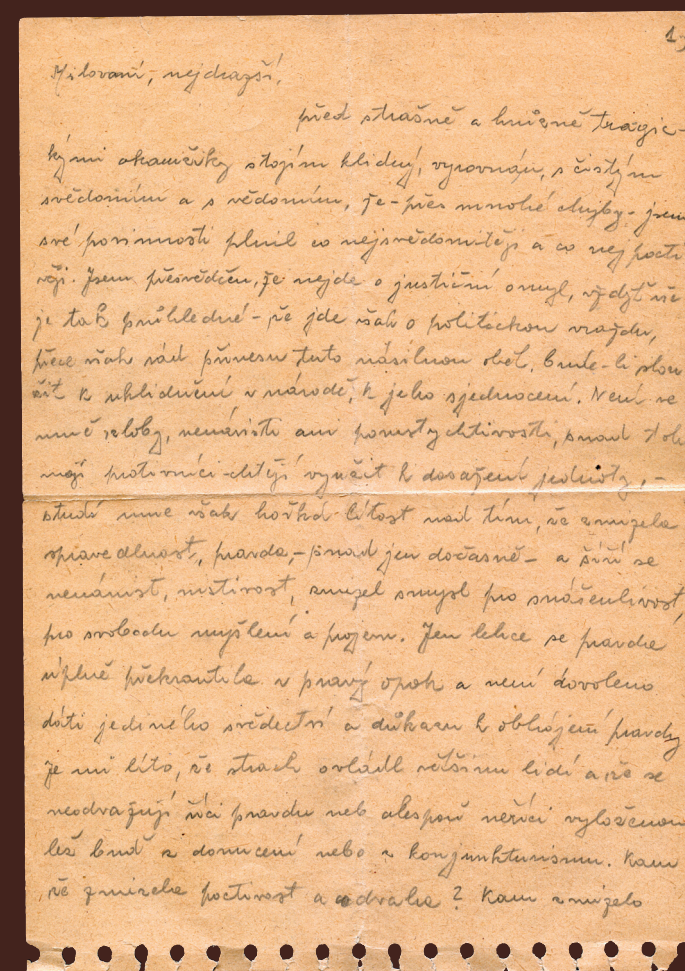
2nd page of the sentence of Civil Court in Prague from 28th January 1949



A decree to a Romanian honour Queen Mary's Cross



1st page of the sentence of Higher Court-martial in Příbram from 13th December 1968 that annulled the original sentence and allowed trial renewal



1st page of the last letter that H. Píka wrote the night before his execution from 20th to 21st June 1949 in the cell of prison Plzeň-Bory

the USSR. In September 1941 he signed "Military pact between top leadership of the USSR and top Czechoslovak leadership" that dealt with actual conditions of formation and organization of Czechoslovak military unit in the USSR.

In December 1943 Píka was established brigadier. During World War II he was the top military representative of Czechoslovakia in the Soviet Union. He devoted great effort to forming Czechoslovak military troop, cared for its material equipment, and helped organizing partisan groups. He also took part in the preparations of Slovak National Uprising and during his activities he saved hundreds of Czechoslovaks from Soviet work camps.

After war Gen. Píka acted as the vice chief of the headquarters, he was promoted to division general and his task was to communicate with military representatives of foreign countries. In 1946 he therefore took part in peace conference in Paris with the Czechoslovak delegation. Then he became the deputy chief of the headquarters and a member of Army advisory board. In this time he was already spied on instruction of 5th division chief of the headquarters B. Reicin.

After February 1948 he was dismissed from the army as politically untrustworthy. In this time Gen. Píka was already ill; in March 1948 he submitted to gall bladder operation but during convalescence he was taken to questioning and imprisoned afterwards.

On 27th December 1948 he was accused of military treason, crime of abuse of official power, and crime of not announcing criminal companies. In a secret trial in January 1949 Gen. Píka was sentenced to expulsion from the army, to loss of honours and badges of honour, and to capital sentence by hanging. At the same time he was not recommended to amnesty of the president by the court. The void

complaint of solicitors was refused, and the pleading for amnesty of son Milan to President Gottwald in April 1949 was not received either. Another request of the solicitor Dr R. Váhala was denied as well.

Gen. Píka was transported to prison Bory on 7th March and was executed at 6 a.m. on 21st June. His solicitor JUDr Váhala in the name of his family requested handing remains of his body to be buried but this request remained unheard.

Only in 1966 could the wife of Gen. Píka and their son Milan make a request for rehabilitation. In May 1968 Higher Court-martial in Příbram allowed trial renewal and annulled the sentence of Civil Court in Prague from 28th January 1949 completely. With the verdict of the same court Gen. Heliodor Píka was acquitted on 13th December 1968.

Since this time the family of Gen. Píka has continued fighting for civil and moral rehabilitation. The village of Štítina did not turn away from its native either. Since 1969 football tournament called "Gen. Heliodor Píka Cup" has been organized here. Memorial plaque on his parental home was unveiled on 1st July 1989 and the local basic school was named after Gen. Píka on 23rd October 1991.

On 8th May 1991 Gen. Píka was posthumously bestowed Milan Rastislav Štefánik Order, 3rd class for extraordinary merits in the fights for the country liberation during WWII.

Memorial plaque on the Headquarters of the Czech Republic building was unveiled on 28th October 1991 over which the Army of the Czech Republic took patronage. H. Píka was posthumously promoted to the rank of general on 8th January 1992. On 7th March 2002 he was posthumously conferred an ambassador degree of honour for the contribution to the foreign service of the Czechoslovak Republic and for loyalty to Masaryk's ideals.



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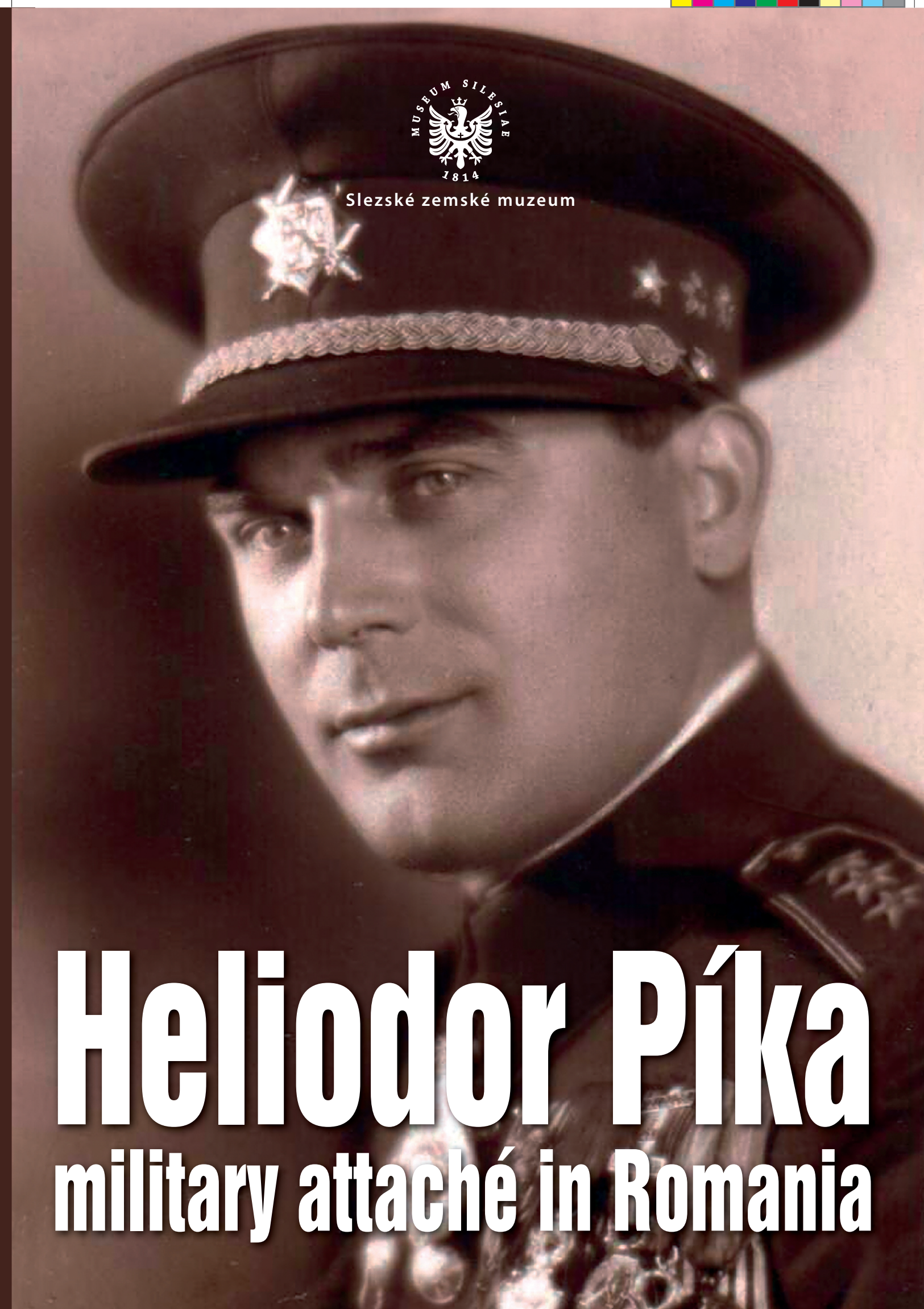
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The exhibition takes place under the auspices of the Czech ambassador in Romania Jiří Šitler

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Slezské zemské muzeum

Heliodor Píka

military attaché in Romania



Heliodor Pika during his studies



Heliodor Pika after his return to the French legion in Moravian Ostrava in 1919



Attendants of the wounded of the 21st Czechoslovak regiment in the French legion, among that H. Pika (sitting on the left) belonged, in Sentheim in 1918



With his wife and son during his studies at École Supérieure de Guerre in Paris in 1926



With his son Milan during a holiday stay at the Black Sea in 1935



In Bucharest in 1935



With his wife and son in Romania in 1936



With President E. Beneš on the boat Regele Carol I during the meeting of delegations of the Little Entente in June 1936



With the Czechoslovak ambassador Z. Fierlinger during his visit in Buzuluk in 1942



With his co-workers in the garden of the Czechoslovak military mission in 1941



Gen. H. Pika (4th on the left) as a leader of the Czechoslovak military delegation in Romania, where also his son Capt. Milan Pika (on the right) accompanied him

Heliodor Pika – military attaché in Romania

Heliodor Pika was born on 3rd July 1897 in a village of Štítina, near Opava to a country wheelwright Ignác Pika and his wife Johana, née Valášková. As it was usual at that time the family was large and Heliodor had eight more siblings, three of whom, however, died early (Felix, Jan, and Bedřich).

He finished primary school in Štítina and for his excellent results he was accepted to Czech grammar school in Opava. His father was dismissed in 1910, had a nervous breakdown, and died on 6th December 1914 in spite of long-term treatment.

World War I already raged after the outbreak of which Czech schools were closed. That is why Heliodor left for Nový Bydžov to become a pharmaceutical trainee. He planned to study pharmacy and on 19th July 1915 he passed his final exam additionally. As early as in October he was recruited during mobilization as the so called one-year volunteer. Instead of studying he enlisted military service in the 15th landwehr regiment in Opava where he completed a three-month cadet course and later he worked there as an instructor.

In June 1916 he left as warrant officer for the Russian front line; as early as in July he deserted into Russian captivity. In prison camp Paratský závod he enlisted in the Czechoslovak foreign legion

and after moving to the French front he joined health service in the 21st Czechoslovak shooting regiment. With this troop he went through hard fights and was awarded many honours for his bravery. On 9th January 1919 he returned home but his regiment was immediately sent to defend the Těšín region and later, in May, to Slovakia where H. Pika acted as liaison officer at the headquarters of commander Colonel A. Gillain and became his adjutant in August.

Still studying at École spéciale militaire in Saint-Cyr he became a Regular Officer in 1920; from October 1920 he was employed at Military academy in Hranice as a troop instructor of Officer Candidate Course, later as a teacher of gas science. As a captain he became an adjutant of the Academy Commander in 1922. He married in Hranice, too, and had son Milan in July 1922.

From August 1923 he was employed in the main headquarters of the Czechoslovak armed forces; in 1926 he was sent to study at École Supérieure de Guerre in Paris for two years where he ranked among the best graduates. After his return to Prague he enlisted in Provincial Military Headquarters; in 1929 he joined the headquarters again in the 1st organizational division.

By a decree of the Minister of National Defence he was appointed military attaché in Romania with the authority for Turkey from 1st September 1932. In the times of critical economic and politi-

cal situation in the 1930s in Europe this role was really important as good relations within the Little Entente (Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia) were of cardinal importance. With the coming of fascism in Germany and Italy the territory of Romania gained strategic significance. H. Pika was to meet important people from military, political, and economic circles, discuss important military and political issues with army representatives – especially with respect to other countries' growing sympathies to Nazi Germany. In this connection Czechoslovakia had to speed up preparations for defence and the geographic position of Romania was important e.g. for potential regroupment of Soviet army.

In 1937 H. Pika returned to the headquarters in Prague and was appointed chief of group C in the 1st division of General Secretariat. His task was to try to find a solution in the war industry issue in the countries of the Little Entente in the times when the defence conception of the country was changing. H. Pika still supported maintaining good relations with Romania.

On Mobilization Day, on 23rd September, H. Pika was sent to Romania and Yugoslavia to negotiate material help for Czechoslovakia in case of aggression. However safe the journey was, the signing of Munich Agreement on 30th September 1938 frustrated its effect. H. Pika did not reconcile with the Munich Dictate and with authoriza-

tion from the headquarters chief he left for Great Britain and France at the beginning of March 1939 to negotiate the sale of military material. He returned from the successful journey closely before the Czechoslovak occupation.

He declined the proclamation of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and organized creating an illegal military organization. On 29th March 1939 he left through Poland to Romania with the help of generals A. Eliáš and B. Homola. In Bucharest he became the administrative director of a subsidiary of the firearm manufacturer Zbrojovka Brno and travelled to France and Great Britain. In Paris and London he discussed the organization of Czechoslovak resistance movement and the redeployment of armament specialists from the Protectorate. By force of Jan Masaryk Dr E. Beneš deputed him to lead the Czechoslovak resistance movement in the Balkans. H. Pika returned to Bucharest, while at home he was searched for by Gestapo. With the help of Gen. A. Eliáš he managed to organize the escape of his wife and son to Romania.

In Bucharest H. Pika organized mainly help for Czech refugees, provided clothes, food, papers, and with the help of French representative offices he arranged their resettlement further to France and to the Middle East. In this way he also helped the members of the Czechoslovak legion interned in Romania after evacuation from

Poland. He saved over one hundred Jewish refugees from a prison camp by the Black Sea and many Czechoslovak citizens imprisoned in Hungary. He himself searched for suitable border crossings on the Hungarian-Romanian border. He evacuated more than a hundred Czechoslovak armament specialists from Romanian factories to allied countries. He succeeded in all this thanks to his contacts and connections in the first place.

After Poland had been invaded by Germany on 1st September 1939, he travelled to Paris and London again. He wanted to join the Czechoslovak foreign legion but President E. Beneš asked him to return to Romania and continue his work.

H. Pika formed a military branch of the Czechoslovak resistance movement with the code-name DORA that organizationally fell into the structure of Czechoslovak intelligence with its centre in London. At that time H. Pika already cooperated with Soviet intelligence and DORA was a valuable information source.

During 1940 the situation grew worse in Romania. H. Pika was spied by German agents and German authorities asked Romania for

his extradition repeatedly. In September 1940 a fascist coup d'état took place in Romania and the Iron Guard came to power with Gen. Antonescu in the lead. H. Pika knew him personally, and even when Antonescu allowed Pika and his group further stay in Romania, conditions for their work deteriorated significantly and H. Pika decided the whole group would leave Romania as soon as possible.

On 12th October 1940, in the middle of preparations before leaving, colonel Pika and his co-workers were arrested by members of the Iron Guard. After three hours though, they were freed at the Home Secretary's command and two days later, thanks to Pika's connections in Romania, they were allowed to leave secretly from Constanta harbour to Istanbul. According to the instructions of the Minister of National Defence Sergej Ingr H. Pika had to continue his reporter work as a leader of the intelligence service. In Istanbul H. Pika made contact with Soviet intelligence authorities and after agreement with the Czechoslovak exile government on 22nd April 1941 he left for the USSR as a political and military representative of the Czechoslovak government. After German invasion in the Soviet Union he became the chief of the Czechoslovak Military Mission in



Romanian driving licence of Heliodor Pika