



Kampa Quarter, Prague



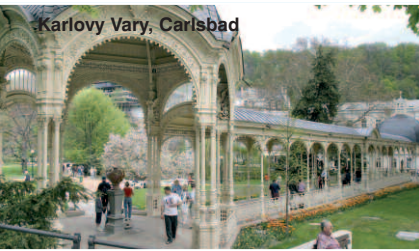
Karlstejn Castle



Old Town Square, Prague



Charles Bridge, Prague in winter



Karlovy Vary, Carlsbad



Old Town Square, Prague



Prague



Archbishop's Palace, Prague



Kampa Quarter, Prague

CZECHS AND BRITS THROUGHOUT THE AGES

The *Good King Wenceslas* of one of the best loved English Christmas Carols was a Czech and is the patron of the Czech nation.

The word *Bohemian* came from a Latin word *Boia*, the name of the Celtic tribe that once lived in what is today the Czech Republic.

The King of Bohemia *Charles IV* (1316 - 1378) was also the Holy Roman Emperor. Considered the greatest of all Czech kings, he concluded the first pact of alliance between Bohemia and England in 1348.

Anne of Bohemia, the daughter of Charles IV, married in 1382 Richard II (1367 - 1399). She became known as the *Good Queen Anne*.

Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) was the fashionable resort in Bohemia where *King Edward VII* enjoyed his annual August visits to take the "cure" from 1897 to 1909.

Czech music prides itself with the names of such world famous composers as *Bedřich Smetana*, *Antonín Dvořák*, *Leoš Janáček* or *Bohuslav Martinů*.

On 27th September 1938 when the British Prime Minister *Neville Chamberlain's* negotiations with the German Chancellor Adolf Hitler were strained he addressed the British people. In a BBC broadcast he said about Czechoslovakia: "How horrible, fantastic, incredible, it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing!"

A few days later, returning from the Munich Conference which resulted in the cession of the Sudetenland (the border part of Czechoslovakia) to Germany, Chamberlain brought home a joined statement with Hitler and said: "...for the second time in history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is peace in our time..." On 1st September 1939 World War II started.

Czechoslovak President *Edvard Beneš*, who resigned after the Munich Agreement, fled to exile in London where in 1940 he formed the Czechoslovak government in exile and took over the role of the president.

During World War II 3,563 Czechs and

Slovaks served with 5 squadrons, which were an integral part of the RAF. Further 5,623 soldiers served in the Czechoslovak Brigade. In 1940 the Czechoslovak airmen represented, after the Commonwealth nations, the second largest national contribution (after the Poles) to the Allied Forces during the *Battle of Britain*. There were 88 Czechoslovak pilots who took part and eight of them lost their lives. Their names are proudly remembered at The Battle of Britain Monument in London.

HM *The Queen Elizabeth II* came to Prague on a state visit in 1996 accompanied by her husband The Duke of Edinburgh. At a ceremony at the Prague Castle the Queen awarded President Václav Havel with The Order of Bath.

The first soft *contact lenses* were invented by the Czech scientist Otto Wichterle. By the mid-1990s, around 100 million people around the world were wearing this type of lens.

The British playwright *Tom Stoppard* was born in Zlín in Moravia, which is the Eastern part of the Czech Republic. His much acclaimed latest play *Rock 'n' Roll* is set in Prague and Cambridge.

Many of the world famous tennis players were born and raised in the Czech Republic or former Czechoslovakia. Including Ivan Lendl, Helena Suková, Jana Novotná and Martina Navrátilová. Martina Hingis was named after Martina Navrátilová and is also a Czech native.

The pelicans have been one of the most popular features in *St James Park*, the oldest royal park in London, since the 17th century. The present day pelican family came at the end of the 20th century from the Prague Zoological Garden.

Czechs play for English *Premier League* football teams like Chelsea (Petr Čech), Arsenal (Tomáš Rosický) and Aston Villa (Milan Baroš).

The world famous designer Manolo Blahnik, the King of Shoes, has a Czech father.

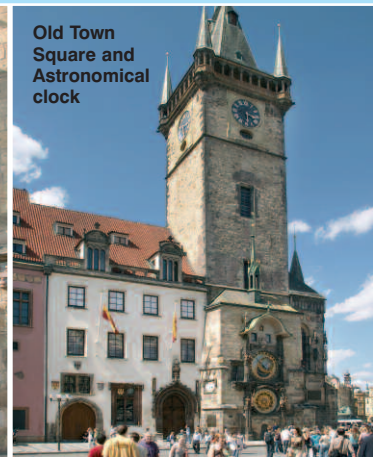
The heart of the *British Airways London Eye* - the hub and spindle - were cast in the Czech Republic.



Czech Paradise



Astronomical Clock, Prague



Old Town Square and Astronomical clock