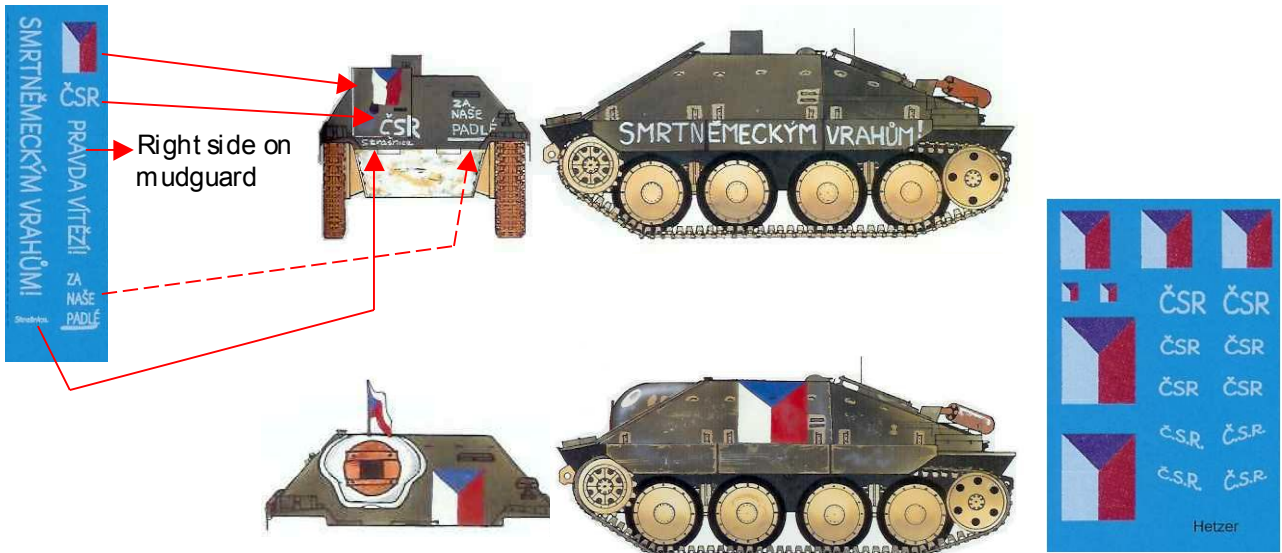


Black Lion Decals



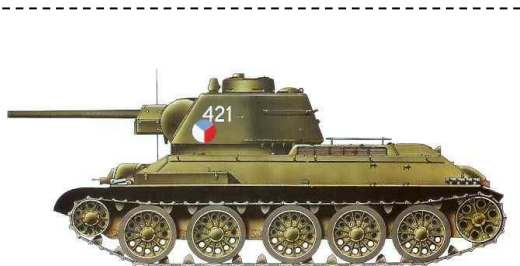
7201 4 Liberation of Prague, 1945



When in May 1945, the Prague insurrection started, the Czech resistance fighters found a number of unfinished Hetzers at the factory. Some of these had already the gun mount installed, others didn't and they were provided with a rough armour plate to cover the hole. These Hetzers were practically all marked with a large Czech flag and often the word CSR (Czechoslovak Republic) or slogans like 'Death to the German enemy'. As these vehicles rolled straight out of the factory, they were painted in either a primer color, or (partly) without any paint at all.



The Czech resistance captured also a number of German vehicles, like this Sdkfz 250/1 from a SS unit. The German balkenkreuz was crossed out with black paint and the SS runes with either yellowish paint or mud. Other captured vehicles included some Renault AMR 1935 tanks which were irregularly marked with 'CSR'.



T-34/76 model 1943 of the 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade, fighting alongside the Soviet army.



Studebaker U-6 truck of the 1st Czechoslovak Corps, fighting with the Soviet army.



The Czech insurgents met with an unexpected ally; the ROA or 'Vlassov Army'. This unit was formed with Russians who had switched sides to fight the Soviets alongside the Germans. Hoping to be taken in by the Americans, they aided the Czechs in their fight with the Germans. They were nevertheless imprisoned by the Red Army and were shot or sent to Siberia.

They used a mixture of captured Soviet vehicles like the T-34 and the BA-10, as well as German vehicles like the Hetzer and the Sdkfz 251/16. The ex-Soviet vehicles were kept in their original green, whereas the German vehicles were either sand colored or with the regular German three-tone camo scheme.



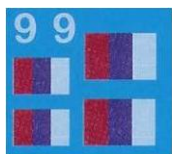
T 34/76 1942

The red-white-blue shields were placed on the turret sides. The number was placed on the front of the gun mount, just below the gun itself.



BA – 10

Vehicle numbers placed on the doors. No further markings.



This Hetzer of the ROA had the old Russian white-blue-red colors on the mudguards and the side of the hull. The vehicle number was placed on the side of the hull, to the front

Recommended further reading:

'Czechy 1945', Tomas Jakl, Militaria series nr 51, Warsaw 1997.

Czech HPM magazines, numbers 3 and 6 from 1995.