The report is based on the author's wartime diary and his personal experiences, as well as on information provided by friends and acquaintances who were first-hand participants. The heart of the presentation is a discussion, within the context of the international situation, of President Beneš's fundamental ideas and activity which pointed the way. Despite Beneš's initial successes on behalf of the restoration of the pre-Munich republic, the final result was defeat.

The tragic road followed by Beneš is sketched in the most important part of his diplomatic career which began after the first capitulation of 1938 and ended with the second capitulation at the negotiating table in Moscow in 1945. But, as the author shows, the cause of this defeat can be found above all in the irresoluteness and politically naive activity of certain members of the Czechoslovak exile government in London.

**LANGUAGE AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NEUHAUS SPRACHZUNGE IN SOUTHERN BOHEMIA**

*Horst Kühnel*

Up to 1945—46, one of the most ancient dialects of the whole Bavarian dialect area was spoken in the Neuhaus Sprachzunge [linguistic neck] (NhSZ). The conservative character of the NhSZ is documented not only in phonetic respects but also in vocabulary. Linguistic-geographical connections can be established beyond the immediately neighboring areas as far as southern Moravia, southern Bohemia, and Lower Austria. They clearly show the influence of the Witigonen and the bishopric of Passau on southern Bohemia and the NhSZ. Of particular interest are the linguistic-geographical ties with western Bohemia and the Upper Palatinate, which complement the residual north Bavarian phonetic features and prove that during the medieval colonization period, settlers also came from the Upper Palatinate into the NhSZ.

**ALL AROUND THE BASKET IN THE SUDETENLAND**

*Hertha Wolf-Beranek*

The development of such seemingly peripheral material objects of the peasant economy as the basket, whose use goes back to the Germanic era, is by no means an arbitrary one. A cartographic presentation of the material produces some very interesting insights. The use of certain basic types in the Sudetenlands was determined by the facts of settlement history and by tribal membership. Map 3 illustrates the use of winnowing baskets in the Upper German area as opposed to large, tall baskets in Central Germany in the early flailing process. Maps 4 and 5 show how such cultural innovations as the introduction of the potato had a decisive influence on basket-weaving.
An equally important revolution was brought about by the changeover from pasture to stall husbandry, above all with respect to the peasant's work indoors. The tall, large baskets proved no more suitable than the oversized winnowing baskets for the purpose of carrying and pouring in mixed feed, which was making rapid headway because it was easily digestible and nourishing.

The use in agriculture of dossers strapped over the shoulders is shown by Map 7 for Bohemia (except eastern Bohemia). In the remaining Sudeten German areas carrying straps or cloths were used, but these are not dealt with here.

It is interesting that the boundaries shown here are identical with the dialect boundaries. Worth special attention is the fact that eastern south Moravia, whose linguistic topography reveals a strong central German influence, followed the central German area also in this regard.

THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF ST. WENZEL AND THE VICARIATE OF BRAUNAU/SUDE TEN (1938—1948)

Erhard Meissner

This contribution deals with the ecclesiastical structure of the Braunau region and northeastern Bohemia and shows the possibilities of religious life during those years in which pastoral work was most restricted. The author deliberately goes beyond the narrow framework of the geographical area in question to cover the vicariate's relations with neighboring districts, with the general vicariate of Trautenau and with the diocese of Königgrätz — thus permitting the situation of this district to serve as a model of that existing in other regions. On the other hand, however, the relations of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Wenzel with the other abbeys of Bohemia point to the special status enjoyed by Braunau. They also explain, moreover, why town and monastery, despite the limitations imposed by the facts of geography, could become a cultural and religious center of northeastern Bohemia — and remain one in such trying times. Light is thrown on the behavior of the population vis-à-vis the Church and their changing attitude toward Hitler's „Greater Germany“. It was considered desirable to include in this account the personal lists of the monasteries, since the few available sources make a reconstruction extremely difficult.