

USSR, 1939-1941. POSTAL SERVICE ON INCORPORATED WESTERN TERRITORIES

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Dedicated to my father, J.G.Malov

PLAN

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On August 23, 1939 the Soviet Union and Germany signed in Moscow a non-aggression pact, later called by historians The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. According to this document, the USSR and the Third Reich determined the allotment of Poland and other Eastern Europe countries. A week later, on the 1st of September 1939, the troops of fascist Germany invaded Poland from the South, West and North. On September 17 the Red Army crossed the eastern border of Poland. Warsaw fell to the Germans on the 28th of September. That very day in Moscow there was signed a friendship and border treaty between the USSR and Germany, which formally completed the allotment of Poland.

The USSR added a considerable territory, which was divided administratively into three parts: Western Ukraine, Western Byelorussia and Southern Lithuania. On November 1 and 2, 1939, the first two parts accordingly formed the part of Ukrainian and Byelorussia Soviet Socialist Republics. In October, 1939 Southern Lithuania including the Vilnius region was given to Lithuania Republic.

On 26.6.1940 USSR sent government of Romania ultimatum with demand of incorporation in the USSR big part of this country. Romania was forced to accept ultimatum, and on 28.6.1940 Red Army marched into Romania. Northern Bukovina was incorporated in the USSR as the Chernovtsy region of Ukrainian SSR, bigger part of Bessarabia was incorporated in the USSR as Moldavian SSR, the Akkerman region of Ukrainian SSR was formed from a smaller southern part of Bessarabia.

The USSR postal service on incorporated territories had many peculiarities. Main goal of this collection is study of these peculiarities.

Abbreviations: TC – transit cancellation, CS – censorship stamp