


# POLAND: WARSAW-PRAGA POST OFFICES October 1944-1945

## BACKGROUND

In the summer of 1944 the Russian Army advanced rapidly on the Eastern Front. The Vistula River divides Warsaw. The east side of the river is known as the Praga District, the west side is the City Center. Praga was liberated by Polish units fighting with the Russian Army on September 14, 1944. Postal communications were resumed in Praga in early October. A majority of the letters were sent to the Swiss Red Cross.

The Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*) rose up against the Germans on August 1st (Warsaw Uprising) with the promise the Russian Army would cross the Vistula. Stalin ordered the Russians not to cross the Vistula. He saw the Home Army as anti-communist. Stalin allowed the Germans to totally decimate Warsaw and its citizens. The Russians crossed the Vistula January 17, 1945, and postal services resumed in all of Warsaw.

## PURPOSE

This one-frame exhibit will document the the existence of the eight Praga Post Offices and the one suboffice beginning with their creation in September 1944. More important covers have a red mat. This icon indicates  original research.



Warsaw-Praga #23 to Red Cross in Stockholm, Sweden, October 25, 1944

Postal devices not yet available. Manuscript **Warsawa 23** and **25/X-44**, manuscript registration box, stamps cancelled with **X**

*Earliest recorded used from Warsaw-Praga #23*