



TEN21 PRESS | 4142 CASS AVENUE, SUITE 201 | DETROIT, MI 48201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BOOK — BORDER CROSSINGS: COMING OF AGE IN THE CZECH RESISTANCE
by Charles Novacek

MEDIA CONTACT: Sandra Novacek, 313.832.1148, 313.701.6708; novaceks@att.net,
www.charlesnovacekbooks.com, Review copies available upon request.

“Border Crossings is the well-told and dramatic story of a young man whose comfortable life is abruptly transformed by the savagery of World War II. Forced to rely on primal instincts and his familiarity with the rugged highlands of Moravia, Charles Novacek casts his lot first with the anti-Hitler Underground and then with the resistance to the Nazis’ Communist successors. “My recollections pain me,” he writes, “still, they have made me who I am.” Novacek’s experience as a Hungarian-speaking Czecho-Slovak patriot demonstrates the folly of petty nationalism and the resilience of human decency and love.”

Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State

DETROIT, Michigan, September 10, 2012 — To those he met in his adopted hometown of Detroit, Michigan, Charles Novacek was a fascinating Renaissance man. He spoke seven languages, traveled the globe and continually pursued knowledge. After retiring from a successful career as an engineer, Novacek returned to school, following his lifelong dream of becoming an artist. He earned a master’s degree in painting eventually showing his paintings in well-respected Detroit area galleries.

What most people never discovered, however, was that the charming, erudite engineer turned artist spent his youth in the Czech resistance, defending his homeland of Czechoslovakia from the Nazis and the Communists.

Novacek recounts his life in the Czech resistance from age eleven to twenty during World War II and the Cold War in his memoir in his memoir ***Border Crossings: Coming of Age in the Czech Resistance***. He completed the book shortly before his death in 2007.

Novacek's father, a World War I prisoner of war ensured his son developed wilderness survival skills by the age of ten. Young Charles explored the wilds of the Tatra Mountains and highlands of Moravia. He learned how to find food and water, fire a rifle and shoot an arrow, and how to create shelter. And later as war raged and the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia, Novacek, at an age when most children were learning their multiplication tables, was learning how to resist torture, handle phobias, and control pain, hunger and thirst. He was warned to trust no one.

Under cover of night Novacek met Czech and British RAF parachutists behind enemy lines and showed them caves he had equipped for their shelter. In an incredible act of bravery, he once snuck into a Nazi truck and stole a rifle and ammunition in order to shoot a Nazi who was about to blow up a railroad bridge.

After World War II ended, Novacek continued to fight the Communists, enduring torture, imprisonment and a displaced person's camp before marrying and immigrating first to Venezuela and then to the United States.

Novacek and his family settled in Detroit where he worked as chief engineer for Cobo Hall, Detroit's convention center, and other projects including the Chrysler Styling Complex designed by Minoru Yamasaki. His first wife Valentina, a native of Latvia, died in 1994. Novacek married again in 1996 to Sandra, a librarian, who promised to see that this memoir was published.

Border Crossings will be available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com and other major electronic book outlets. Distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor, et al. Visit the website at www.charlesnovacekbooks.com for more information and a blog.

BORDER CROSSINGS: COMING OF AGE IN THE CZECH RESISTANCE (Ten21 Press, Detroit), Publication Date: October, 2012; hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9854151-0-5, \$28.00; paperback, ISBN 978-0-9854151-1-2, \$18.00; eBook also available. Review copies available upon request.

###