

Summaries

STUDIES

Propagation raid of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army to the West and Czechoslovakia

► Vlastimil Ondrák

The study describes the activities of so-called sotnias (companies) of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) on the territory of Czechoslovakia between June and November 1947. It explains the reasons for the so-called raid to the UPA of the West, the situation and response of the Czechoslovak state to the arrival of the “uninvited partisans” and the course of anti-partisan operations in Slovakia, Moravia and Bohemia against compact UPA units. Individual chapters provide an analysis of the activities of the three large units of the UPA that tried to fight their way through the ČSR to the West. It analyzes statistics, results and losses on both sides, together with extensive quotations of reports by the Czechoslovak command on the performance and activities of own and rival forces. The study presents so far unknown information on certain incidents, based on a comparison of sources and memoirs. It sets straight certain aspects of a long deformed cultural and intelligence production of the ruling regime in the years 1948–1989. This concerns primarily the results of the operation and their interpretation, collaboration between individual security forces, the nature of UPA activities and the public’s relationship to them. Based on the studied sources, the author expresses an opinion to the effect that Czechoslovakia was obliged to take action against the intruders for several reasons. However, the operation did not correspond to the real state of affairs, the state authorities often acted in an amateurish way, the UPA sotnias were not willing to clash with Czechoslovak forces and they did not commit acts of mass violence on the territory of the ČSR.

Codename LEO. The story of MUDr. Josef Zenáhlík, a resident of the Czechoslovak section of the French intelligence agency SDECE, a political prisoner and a secret collaborator of the StB

► Jiří Řezníček

The study looks into the case of MUDr. Josef Zenáhlík (1915–1970) in the 1950s. Zenáhlík was a general practitioner in Vyšší Brod, a town close to the border, and a democrat who did not agree with the totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia and who got involved in the anti-communist resistance movement as a collaborator of the Czechoslovak section of the French intelligence agency SDECE. With the help of his collaborators (namely his brother Jiří Zenáhlík, Hubert Lorenc, Josef Schwarz, Václav Tesař and his wife Marie), he acquired a lot of information of military, economic and political nature. He sent it to the West through a courier, Bernhard Riepl, and a radio. He got the radio in the spring of 1952 and was supposed to find a suitable person to operate it. He found Václav Tesař; however, when Tesař was trained by radioinstructor Lubor Fanta in September 1952, it turned out he was not the right person. Consequently, Josef Zenáhlík took over the task. He was arrested on 26 April 1953 in operation DOKTOR and on 30 November 1953 sentenced for life by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court. He served his time mostly as a camp doctor in Jáchymov (camp Nikolaj), Leopoldov, Ilava, Pankrác and Ruzyně. He was released from Valdice on parole on 11 June 1965. Already during his term in prison, he radically changed his opinions and became an StB collaborator. His collaboration with the StB peaked in August 1968, when he was sent to Austria to carry out intelligence tasks. He died in Austria in March 1970.

Before the saints moved, or a look behind the curtains of the relocation of the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Most (Part 2)

► Josef Vávra

The first part of the text followed the decision-making process concerning the preservation of the deanery Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary from the early 1960s until the summer of 1969, when the first director of Transfera, Prof. Josef Wünsch, was removed from office and was on his way out of the company. Transfera's new leadership (director Ing. Otakar Novák) was working on a new implementation study of the relocation of the church. The second part of the text gives a description of what happened during the preparation of the relocation of the church from mid-1969 until 1971, when a decision was taken on how and where the church would be relocated.

In the autumn of 1969, Transfera launched a new project that defined the necessary changes in the target location of the church's transfer from the original position to ca 800 meters east towards the Church of the Holy Spirit. A committee of experts was appointed to choose one of the projects (the Wünsch's project or the Transfera project) and its meetings and the preparation of documents were accompanied by unusual events (e.g. problems with ordering the right number of copies of the Wünsch's study, exclusion of Prof. Wünsch from voting). Prof. Wünsch and academic Bechyně complained about it to the Minister of Culture and his vice-ministers. Despite this and despite the media coverage of the case, the government decided to relocate the church in accordance with the proposal by Transfera. Following a suggestion by director Vojtěch Trapl and Prof. Wünsche, the office of the general inspector got involved in June 1970 and demanded a review of the evaluation of the two projects. This resulted in the cancellation of the existing decision and a new round of evaluation of projects. Based on expert opinions, the solution by Transfera was selected as the more suitable of the two projects. In the end, on 4 March 1971 the government decided definitively on the relocation of the church to the location and using the technology suggested by Transfera.

The study's last chapter asks about whether the church could have been relocated using the Wünsch's project. We can argue that had there been no delay caused by the "Transfera coup" and the need to prepare a new project, the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary could now be located directly under the Hněvín hill.

In the course of the preparations for the relocation, the personalities of the two actors as well as their working methods and perspectives clashed. Prof. Wünsch was an excellent expert, a building engineer and an innovator who solved the problems with the relocation mostly on his own or with the help of a few assistants. His solution was innovative, not tested previously and most probably it would have worked. Ing. Novák was a manager and an organizer who relied on collaboration with a number of experts in many fields, whose work he coordinated. His project was based on conservative and tried and tested procedures. Each project had the distinct traits of its author's working methods and worldview.

Czechoslovak–Vatican relationships in the context of the changes in the church politics in the period after the 1985 Velehrad pilgrimage through the eyes of the State Security

► Jaroslav Šebek

The study is focused on the analysis of questions related to the negotiations between the Holy See and the Czechoslovak government on major church political questions in the last years of existence of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia (1985–

1989). In addition to party and state authorities that were responsible for church related issues, the State Security played a significant, though more or less mediated, role. It monitored and evaluated the talks, while also interfering in them by, for example, trying to eliminate nominations of candidates for bishop that the State Security believed would lead to the strengthening of the church's influence in society. The study was prepared also taking into account the changes in political situation and the position of the church in Czechoslovakia that took place in the mid-1980s at home and abroad. One of the typical tendencies was the growing influence of the church milieu in the public space, which caused more conflicts from the perspective of the State Security.

The study uses mainly materials from the Security Services Archive in combination with relevant sources from other collections, among others also from the so far rarely used collection of František Cardinal Tomášek in the National Archives.

East and South Bohemia in the second half of the year 1989 – towards November

► Jiří Petráš

The aim of the study is to acquaint the reader with the situation in East Bohemia in the second half of the year 1989 and to make a comparison with the South Bohemian Region. We used mainly sources from the former regional committees of the KSČ in East and South Bohemia (State Regional Archives in Zámorsk, State Regional Archives in Třeboň) and KSČ committees on the level of districts. The collections of ABS Prague and chronicles (Pardubice, České Budějovice) were a major source of information. The principal source of information was nationwide media and local press and narrator testimonies. The Communist Party was clearly disintegrating, as evidenced by the data from East and South Bohemia. There was a generational divide, differences in opinion and view of the future as well as what paths should be taken to meet the often unattainable goals. Another divide existed in how the so-called perestroika and the Soviet Union of the late 1980s should be viewed. These were just some of the problems. Neither workers, nor farmers, nor young people were interested in becoming members of the KSČ. The only social group still willing to become members of the party were university-educated intelligentsia and factory foremen. They considered the membership in the KSČ beneficial for their professional and private lives. Young people and workers often took part in activities aimed against the regime, participated in demonstrations and did not generally reject the notions of capitalism and Western democracy. The communist elites and the KSČ were in no position to win this match.

MATERIALS

Did the Nazi attack against the USSR in the summer of 1941 have reverberations in the streets of Prague? From reports of selected departments of the uniformed Security guards

► **David Hubený**

The anniversary of the Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union and its involvement in the ongoing war in the summer of 1941 was repeatedly remembered before 1989 by the ruling state party and its ideology, and rightfully celebrated as one of the key moments on the path to the defeat of the Axis powers. The paper aims to depict the activity in the streets of the capital of the Protectorate through the eyes of small history and problems of the period, which was tortured by everyday worries as well as by František Hrubín's "*humming of anxiety*" of the occupation, the world war and its twists. The text is based on regularly published official reports on the activities of the uniformed security guards of the Police Presidium in Prague and its everyday cases, or the ones that made it into the official registries.

Czechoslovak citizens executed in Berlin-Plötzensee. Results of the research so far

► **Jan B. Uhlíř**

The central execution site of the Third Reich in Berlin-Plötzensee was where the lives of 611 members of the anti-Nazi resistance in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Reichsgau Sudetenland came to an end. Thus, Czechs were the second most numerous nationality in the occupied Europe after Germans that were executed in the Third Reich. This fact that has so far been notably overlooked is proof of the importance and strength of the Czech resistance.

The present study summarizes the state of research that has been carried out since the spring of 2020. The research was inspired by the administrator of the Plötzensee Memorial – the German Resistance Memorial Centre (Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand, GDW), whose aim is the presentation of people executed in Plötzensee. Due to the fact that the vast majority of archival documents were handed over by the former GDR to Czechoslovakia in the late 1950s, the research was conducted mainly in the Czech Republic.

The GDW and the author of the study as its partner on the Czech side first compared the names of the executed individuals and together made the most accurate list so far that has 611 names on it. The archival documents linked to these individuals are now studied. The materials are disproportionately distributed among the Security Services Archive and the Military Central Archives – Archive of Military History, where 90% of the documents are stored in the Security Services Archive. The GDW prepares curricula vitae of the executed individuals based on searches that are electronically presented in the Plötzensee Memorial.

For the first time since World War II an initiative has been launched that assigns a face to the executed resistance fighters from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Reichsgau Sudetenland and describes their lives and the reasons why they put their lives at risk in the fight against the Nazi tyranny. In this way, after 80 years since the fall of the Third Reich, the members of the domestic resistance will cease to be anonymous individuals not only in the Federal Republic of Germany, but thanks to the GDW's prestige also around the world.

Nearly forgotten men. An overview of territorial commanders of the SNB, 1945–1948

► Jiří Mikulka

The paper aims to provide an overview of officers that were at the helm of the territorial commands of the National Security Corps (SNB). It is usually impossible to learn the names of the individuals who headed these territorial commands shortly after the end of World War II from documents published so far. Therefore, the author decided to use archival documents in the Security Services Archive and to close the gap. He used primarily the documents of the SNB territorial commands in Prague and Brno (collections A-14 and A-15) and the collection of orders and commands of these commanders. The Journal of the National Security Corps from the years 1945–1948 as well as some data from the memorials of commands of SNB stations and individual documents of territorial commands were also a helpful tool; the author also used the period journals of the gendarmerie to find information about many future territorial commanders in security forces in the First Republic and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Biographic data was mainly taken from personal registration cards of the members of the Ministry of the Interior and their personal files. With a few exceptions, we managed to relatively accurately describe the people taking on the role of territorial commanders in the years 1945–1948 and attach a short professional characteristic to almost every individual. To some extent, more detailed information on service assignments of the future territorial commanders in the years 1918–1945 can be found in materials of the regional gendarmerie com-

mands and the commands of gendarmerie departments stored in state regional archives in Bohemia; however, extracting information from these sources exceeds the scope of this paper.

Based on the study of materials stored in the ABS, we can conclude that the majority of the 59 men that once headed the OblV SNB were former members of the gendarmerie or the police in the First Republic (a total of 43), some served as professional soldiers and the more senior ones also served in the Czechoslovak Legion during World War I (a total of 14 former legionaries). A total of 15 territorial commanders probably became members of the KSČ before February 1948. The majority of the 59 men served in the gendarmerie or the police in the years 1939–1945, while 8 future territorial commanders became members of the security forces in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and another eight joined the SNB after the end of World War II. One territorial commander was a member of the resistance movement abroad in the years 1939–1945 and seven were imprisoned during the German occupation for shorter or longer periods of time. The overview also shows that nine territorial commanders were probably dismissed shortly after the February coup and later forced to leave the SNB, and were replaced by “new cadres” or conformist colleagues; three former territorial commanders were sentenced in staged political trials in the years 1948, 1950 and 1952, two of them were imprisoned and one sentenced to death.

The territorial commands were officially dissolved on 31 December 1948 with the abolition of the land code in Czechoslovakia, and from 1 January 1949 a new organizational structure of the SNB became effective, where the agenda of these commands was basically taken over by the newly created regional commands of the National Security.

Cases of defection abroad of Boarder Guard Service members in the 1980s

► Pavel Navrátil, Martin Pulec

The article deals with cases of defectors from Boarder Guard Service units in the last decade of the existence of socialist Czechoslovakia. The text is divided in two parts. In the first part the authors mapped all mentioned cases and processed the basic data regarding the cases including a brief description in a table. The second part consists of six selected cases that were chosen to illustrate specific circumstances that existed in these situations, such as the use of violence or an undetected course of action, a soldier registered in compulsory military service or a professional soldier, launching of an operation of the Military Counterintelligence aimed at luring a defector to the country, smuggling of other migrants or the very motive for the action. The reasons for emigration were often impossible to clearly identify; therefore, they

are sometimes described with a certain level of doubt. Nevertheless, various different motivations were detected: the usual dislike of the social conditions in socialist Czechoslovakia, an unbearable situation in the unit, bullying, personal problems, the vision of easy money, in several cases it was a momentary decision under the influence of alcohol. At the end the article provides sums total of different manners of defection and an outline of the effect of military bullying.

“Information acquired by source no. 1, assessed as reliable.” From the information flow of the 11th section of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the SNB, 20–23 November 1989

► **Pavel Žáček**

One of the State Security’s main tasks, apart from repression of the opposition, counterintelligence development of enemy subjects and the protection of legal institutions, during the whole so-called normalization period was the fulfilment of the information flow of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (FMV). The agency-confidant network of units of the secret political police, intelligence-technical tasks and the very members of the National Security Corps (SNB) were until the fall of the totalitarian communist regime the most important source of information about the activities of the internal and external enemy and of economic intelligence.

Also during the time of a deep internal political crisis and the greatest threat to the communist regime in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR) after 17 November 1989, the operative forces of the State Security worked surprisingly well and fulfilled the information flow with relatively good quality and timely information.

A convolute of 31 selected parts of agency reports, various summaries and records of intelligence-technical tasks was compiled from the first days after the crushed student demonstration on Národní Street in Prague, more precisely from 20 until 23 November 1989, that was mainly processed by the members of one section dedicated to the fight against the internal enemy – the 11th section (counterintelligence protection of the youth, science, education and culture) of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the SNB (2nd Directorate of the SNB), which has apparently survived in a safe at the analytical section the so-called Lorenc’s shredding, or more precisely a mass destruction of file agenda.

The operative sections sent some part of the agency records for extraction to the analytical section of the Main Intelligence Directorate that could be used “in the information flow and for analytical activity, i.e. mainly signals and information characterizing the security situation, detected phenomena that are related to it, the forms and methods of work of the enemy, etc.”

The analytical section centralized, analyzed and processed the “information from counter-intelligence activity of the directorate”, prepared materials for control activity of the directorate’s chief, plk. PhDr. Karel Vykypěl, and information intended for responsible functionaries. For some time it even served as the monopoly source of information for the top level of the FMV, preparing final information, as it carried out analytical-information activity “based on information acquired by counter-intelligence work of organizational units of the directorate” for the needs of the leadership of the 2nd Directorate of the SNB, the Ministry of the Interior and its vice-ministers.

REPORTS

Conference of police historians (Prague, 16–18 September 2021)

Pavel Vaněk

Conference *Monasteria abolita. The fate of monastery estates from the second half of the 18th century until the second half of the 20th century* (Želiv, 5–7 October 2021)

Eva Richtrová