

### THE PACT THE NAZI-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

*Václav Veber*

The list of important anniversaries seems to be endless. It most certainly includes 23 August 1939 when Ribbentrop and Molotov signed the infamous Nazi-Soviet Treaty on Non-aggression in Moscow. The European Parliament declared this day to be an important date, commemorating the cooperation between two totalitarian regimes aimed at defeating European and worldwide democracy. But it is a little known fact that the pact involved other agreements and negotiations as well.

### THE FORMING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN RESISTANCE IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE OCCUPATION

*Ladislav Kudrna*

Soon after the Munich events, many Czechoslovak public employees and army officers started to prepare for resistance. The exodus of those who wanted to raise the weapon in the upcoming period began immediately after the occupation. The army started to form behind the border again. The core and active part of the foreign resistance was formed primarily by Czechoslovak air force members. The soldiers who decided to emigrate voluntarily left the country legally soon after the occupation, mainly in the spring and summer of 1939. Many of Czechoslovak senior officers perceived the end of the second republic with relief. Finally it was clear what was going on. This is where we stand, and a clearly defined enemy is on the opposite side.

### WE WILL NOT LET ANYONE TURN OUR COUNTRY INTO THE WILD WEST... THE COURSE OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN BRNO ON 21 AND 22 AUGUST 1969

*Jan Břečka*

The protests in August 1969, associated with the first anniversary of the

invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies, became the largest uprising of the Czechoslovak society against the communist regime prior to November 1989. It was primarily the young generation, which did not want to come to terms with an oncoming normalisation, who expressed the last symbolic gesture of resistance. The brutal suppression of the protests by the police, the People's Militia and the army put an end to the Prague Spring. The demonstrations took part in many Czech, Moravian and Slovak cities. Somewhere, they took the form of a peaceful gathering, but most of them were wild riots, later characterized by the communist regime as the largest threat to public order since 1945. Aside from Prague and Liberec, the most dramatic situation was in Brno.

### „THE MURDER“ OF MARTIN ŠMÍD THE STORY OF STUDENT'S DECLARATION FROM 18. NOVEMBER 1989

*Pavel Žáček*

The author's recollection of the fall of communism in 1989: Looking into my personal archive - as part of preparation for the upcoming anniversary of the fall of communism - I found the original script of one of the first declarations of undergraduates, which we formulated during the night from 18 to 19 November together with Michal Sedláček, Honza Fulín and Martin Mejstřík. The declaration captured not only the current state of our minds, but also the mood of our fellow students twenty four hours after the brutally suppressed demonstration on Národní třída.

### GERMAN SECURITY MEASURES IN THE PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA RELATED TO THE OUTBURST OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

*Jan Vajskebr, Radka Šustrová*

The Nazi occupation of the Czech lands and the establishing of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

in March 1939 shocked the Czech society, but soon the shock gave way to the determination to voice its disagreement. The individual manifestations of resistance promptly grew into an organised resistance movement. The building of an underground army, intended to gain control of the Czech lands, disarm occupation troops, seize important buildings, and introduce public order in case of the defeat or collapse of Germany became one of its chief aims. Named Obrana národa (Nation's Defence), this illegal military organisation was at the helm of the efforts, forming a hierarchically organised structure with command levels and general divisions. On the other side, the German occupation powers took steps to stop this scenario as well as to prevent it if possible. The Protectorate played an important role in Germany's preparation for the war. It provided a launching pad for its invading forces and served as a transit country for the communication lines leading from Bavaria and Austria to Germany's new ally - the Slovak Republic. The Czech lands were also of importance due to the local arms industry. The Protectorate arms companies produced many high-quality weapon systems, some of which, such as armoured vehicles, were a highly desirable article for the Wehrmacht.

### THE CASE OF ZDENĚK BOČEK ET AL. LAW STUDENTS FROM THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM

*Jaroslav Rokoský*

The students of the Faculty of Law of the Charles University, who could not come to terms with the coup d'état of February 1948, decided it was time to do something. Of all the options available, they chose intelligence activities. They wanted to forward confidential military reports to Americans. This changed their lives. The totalitarian regime decided to test their stamina, conviction, and health.