

## ABSTRACTS

### WORKING ON THE “MEMORY OF THE NATION”. A REPORT DEVOTED TO THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REINHARD HEYDRICH’S ASSASSINATION IN PRAGUE

*Karel Hruza*

The author reports on several exhibitions and other events which took place in the spring of 2012 and were devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on the life of Reinhard Heydrich, carried out in Prague by Czechoslovak commandos on May 27, 1942, with Heydrich dying on the fourth of June. Also included are documentaries and movies of Czech provenance, produced for both television and movie theatre, and Czech-language books belonging to the scientific, popular scientific and entertaining genres. The author explores forms, aims and concrete content of the evocation of memories of the assassins, Josef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš, and their helpers who had likewise been flown in from England, of their secret supporters and the victims of the wake of prosecutions unleashed by the German occupiers, the so-called “Heydrichiad”. An important result is that truly scientific publications are greatly outnumbered, with military history taking first place within the scientific group. In general, the public was confronted with factual and military historical detail, the aim of the assassination was stressed, its function characterised as retaliation, and the assassins and the victims of the “Heydrichiad” were presented as heroes essential to national identity. The Czech nation and Czech patriotism were focal points for most events, movies and publications.