

## LOYALTY IS OUR HONOUR

### THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN EUROPE OR THE ANABASIS OF THREE ARISTOCRATS IN MAY 1945

*Jaroslav Čvančara, Zdeněk Hazdra, Jan Vajskebr*

The last shots of the Second World War were fired on the territory of Czechoslovakia or the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, as it was then. At a time when German forces were capitulating throughout Europe, tens of thousands of Germans tried to flee to the West ahead of the advancing Red Army. They had one goal in mind: to be captured by the Americans. The demarcation line ran through the village of Čimelice and this was the place where the commander of SS units in the Protectorate, Carl Friedrich Graf von Pückler-Burghaus, had retreated to. This study describes the fate of German commanders and their units, the Czech negotiators headed by the aristocrats Count Václav Norbert Kinský and Prince Karl VI of Schwarzenberg, as well as that of the resistance fighters and Allied soldiers who eventually surrounded and occupied Čimelice. Light is also shed on the subject of von Pückler-Burghaus's bitter end and the general's resting place, which has not been known until now.

## OPERATION "VIETNAM"

### THE FIRST REPATRIATION TRANSPORT OF CZECHOSLOVAKS FROM VIETNAM TO THEIR HOMELAND

*Ladislav Kudrna*

The activity of Czechoslovak soldiers in the wars in Indochina and Vietnam is uncovered in a study by Ladislav Kudrna. The author closely surveys the fate of some Czechoslovak foreign legionnaires who fought under a different country's flag, suffered, died and, in many cases, ended up in captivity. The repatriation of these captives back to their homeland and their exploitation for propaganda purposes comprises an important part of the entire study. Nonetheless, its main benefit is the light it throws on the unknown destinies and contributions of Czechoslovaks in conflicts on the other side of the world.

## "FÍZLREVUE"

### HOW THE ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR PLAYED, DANCED AND SANG

*Václav Šmidrkal*

None of the totalitarian regimes could overlook entertainment. The Czechoslovak communists concluded that the best way to humanise their repressive forces, as represented by the Ministry of the Interior, would be for them to have their own artistic ensemble. Consequently, the Artistic Ensemble of the Ministry of the Interior was established in the first half of 1950's. It was generally known by its nickname Fízlrevue. Naturally, the performances of this ensemble had propaganda events at any opportunity afforded by an anniversary or comradely visit. The ensemble toured diligently. It had its own singing, acting, revue and dance sections. A number of premieres also contributed to the development of socialist culture (or at least tried to).

## SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, THE ARENA CALLS!


### SURSUM CORDA! JOSEF KALVODA AND CZECH ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE ABROAD

*Jan Cholínský*

Josef Kalvoda was an active young Christian politician in Czechoslovakia. Even before the communist putsch, he had been arrested and interrogated by the State Security agency, so he was left with no option but to go into exile in November 1948. When he was abroad, he got involved in the émigré political movement, which naturally had to endure considerable disunity, personal antipathies and a lack of conceptual thought. Without giving up his patriotism, Kalvoda left for the USA, where he successfully completed his studies and became a professor of history, the author of a number of books and studies as well as an advisor to President Ronald Reagan and his government. He continued to be involved with Czech émigrés as a member of their conservative wing, with substantial anti-communist leanings. He returned to Czechoslovakia soon after the collapse of communism. Josef Kalvoda died in 1999 in the American town of Hartford.

## VOJTA BENEŠ IN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE

*Václav Veber*

Vojta Beneš stood in the shadow of his more celebrated brother, President Edvard Beneš, and he was condemned to live to see Edvard's failure in 1948. He was politically active throughout his life. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he was an important figure in Czechoslovak social democracy. He did not cease to struggle even after the communist putsch. Vojta Beneš was an important person at the birth of anti-communist resistance. His role in this defiance is presented in a study by Václav Veber. 



## **DVD 20 Years After/20 let poté**

Sborník z mezinárodní konference přináší 27 příspěvků jejích účastníků. Konference Dvacet let poté: Komunistické režimy ve střední a východní Evropě jako společné dědictví se konala v říjnu 2009 a spolu s Ústavem pro studium totalitních režimů ji pořádaly další čtyři partnerské instituce ze střední a východní Evropy.

Konference se zaměřila na dědictví nedemokratické minulosti. Od počátku 90. let se reflexe komunismu i tzv. proces vyrovnávání se s komunismem soustředily především na „velké“ politické dějiny, obsah vyrovnání se s komunistickým dědictvím spočívá ale i ve zkoumání každodenních vzorců chování.

Jednotlivé příspěvky se vztahují k následujícím tématům: „Transitional Justice“, „staré“ sítě v postkomunistických podmínkách, transformace bezpečnostních sborů, konceptualizace historie v primárním a sekundárním školství v (post)totalitní době, životní styl a kultura každodennosti v pozdním komunismu a kořeny pádu komunismu.

DVD dále obsahuje fotografie a videozáznamy z konference a osm anglických publikací vydaných Ústavem.

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