

## **Abstract**

The central resistance groups, with the help of their collaborators, gradually linked up with important state agencies, thus aiming to obtain the widest possible range of important information. This was also the case of the Presidential Office at the Prague Castle.

The main objective of this thesis is to present lives of the employees of the Presidential Office who were involved in the Second Resistance Movement and who often sacrificed their lives when pursuing this activity. The emphasis is placed on analysis of their social and economic status. This thesis considers also other aspects that may have significantly influenced individuals' decisions to join the resistance (such as their military background, family).

The names of the resistance participants are rarely remembered these days, and many of them have been forgotten, hence part of this thesis is also devoted to the question of the so-called second life of these individuals – commemoration of the deceased or the subsequent post-war fate of the survivors. Based on archived documents (such as dispatches to the government-in-exile) and other materials (e.g. memoirs of resistance movement participants) available today, the thesis further analyses involvement of the office staff in activities of the national resistance organizations and their possible connections to the exile authorities. Due to often unclear division of the archival materials, documents of the resistance fighters and those insurgents from May 1945 who participated by some means in the defence of the Prague Castle are mixed, and therefore some space is given to them with the aim to complement the context.

In case of some resistance participants, we also have reports of their surveillance by the occupation authorities and their spies, or by deployed Czech informers. In selected cases, some of these persons can be identified in more detail and thus also included in the content of this thesis.

**keywords:** resistance, The Office of the State President, The Second World War, Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren