

This bachelor thesis "The American bombing of Prague in February 1945 as covered by period newspapers" deals with media image of the Allies of World War II (Americans and Brits) and coverage of the bombing in the legally published Czech dailies. United States Army Air Forces carried out the air raids over Prague on 14th February and according to American pilots it was the result of a navigation mistake: at the same time, a massive bombing of Dresden was under way, 120 km north from Prague.

The thesis describes and analyses newspaper articles published from February 1, 1945, to March 14, 1945, in following state periodicals: Lidové noviny, Národní práce, Večerní České slovo, and Venkov. The then press was subjected to severe censorship, which shaped whole media agenda. In order to control what comes out, Nazi officials appointed censors to editorial staffs. The thesis depicts the process, in which the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was established, censorship practices, historical context, and profiles of studied periodicals. Its main part consists of descriptions of selected articles about the Allies from before the air raids, all texts about the bombings from the following two weeks, and relevant mentions from the last researched phase, i.e. March 1 – 14, 1945. The study's goal is to provide a detailed depiction of the way press of that time reflected the American air raids on Prague and how it aimed to influence inhabitants of the Protectorate. The bombs killed hundreds of civilians and, among others, damaged valuable cultural sights; press used this for propaganda purposes. The appendix contains selected photos of damaged buildings and ceremony held for victims of the attack.