Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with media coverage of two allied air strikes against the Pilsen Region in the spring of 1943. The bombing was carried out by the British RAF on the night from 16 to 17 April 1943 and from 13 to 14 May with the objective to hit the Škoda Works in Pilsen, the most important arms factory in the Protectorate. The strikes were not successful from the Allies’ perspective. In the April strike, Dobřany, which is 11 km away, was hit instead of the Pilsen factory complex when the pilots mistook the local mental asylum for the Pilsen Škoda Works. The May strike was more successful. The Škoda factory was hit but not in a way that would paralyse its production. In addition, it also hit civilian targets.

The essay opens with an overview of the situation in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the printed periodic media of that time and the system of censorship, followed by a brief introduction to Pilsen’s history at the time of the Protectorate as well as a description of the actual air strikes by a current historian. In terms of the actual analysis, the essay focuses on a two-week period immediately following the bombing, i.e. from 17 April to 1 May and from 14 May to 1 June 1943. The material used in the work contains four groups of periodicals – nationwide legal (Večerní České slovo, Polední list, Lidové noviny and Národní politika), regional legal (Nová doba, Český deník), exile (Nové Československo, Čechoslovák) and illegal (Rudé právo). The essay briefly explains the characteristic features of the individual periodicals, describing and analysing articles printed in these periodicals on the given issue. It also refers to the propagandistic elements in the texts and compares the individual groups of periodicals with each other and their approach to the researched theme.