

*Prague Spring in Collective Memory of the Members
28th Fighter-Bomber Air Regiment in Čáslav*

Jiří Hlaváček

The aim of essay is to analyse the course and the consequences of the Prague Spring at the 28th Fighter Bomber Wing in Čáslav based on oral recollections of the direct participants of the events and their comparison with accessible contemporary sources. The research is utilizes the method of oral history, focussing on the testimonies of six members of the 28th Fighter Bomber Wing, who were dismissed from the Army during the normalization purges between 1968 and 1974.

The essay is concerned with the important events of Prague Spring, covering them chronologically from January 1968 until April 1969 and with reflection of these events by the formal members of the Wing. The main part of the essay focusses on a detailed description of the events taking place at Čáslav airport during the entry of the Warsaw Pact troops on the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The other part is devoted to the methods of the normalization purges in the Army and their impact on the witnesses lives inclusive of theme of collective memory of this group.

Key words: Czechoslovak People's Army – Prague Spring – Air Force – the normalization – rehabilitation – oral history – collective memory – biography.