

ABSTRACT

The main topic of this thesis is the fate of people being held in the Pankrác prison in the period of approximately one year after the end of World War II. The base of the thesis are collected testimonies, information about the circumstances of the events at that time from both the present and available contemporary literature and periodicals, their analysis and comparisons as well as adding other relating data from archives and other sources. The introduction and the methodological part is followed by a historical discourse observing the events of the end of World War II in the European context, history of the Pankrác prison since the time of its establishment in 1889, and the Czech-German conflict in the period before the Munich Agreement had been signed and the period of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, until the transfer of the control over the prison by the Czech administration in May 1945. The individual topics introducing the conditions that prevailed in the Pankrác prison at that time are elaborated in the part devoted to the postwar period. The chapters devoted to the characteristics of prisoners and introduction of the collected testimonies introduce another part describing the circumstances of the detention of persons, their arrival to the Pankrác prison, conditions and relationships in the prison cells, prison diet and hygiene, behavior of warders including examinations, conditions prevailing in the prison hospital, death of the Pankrác prisoners, executions taking place in the Pankrác prison and the way the prisoners left the Pankrác prison. Separate chapters are also devoted to the circumstances of Emil Hácha's death and the way the daily press informed about the Pankrác prison.