



NATIONAL
MUSEUM

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*WE
WILL
NEVER
SURRENDER!*

SITES OF
MEMORY

1942

Location

Prague 1 / Prague 2

Annotation

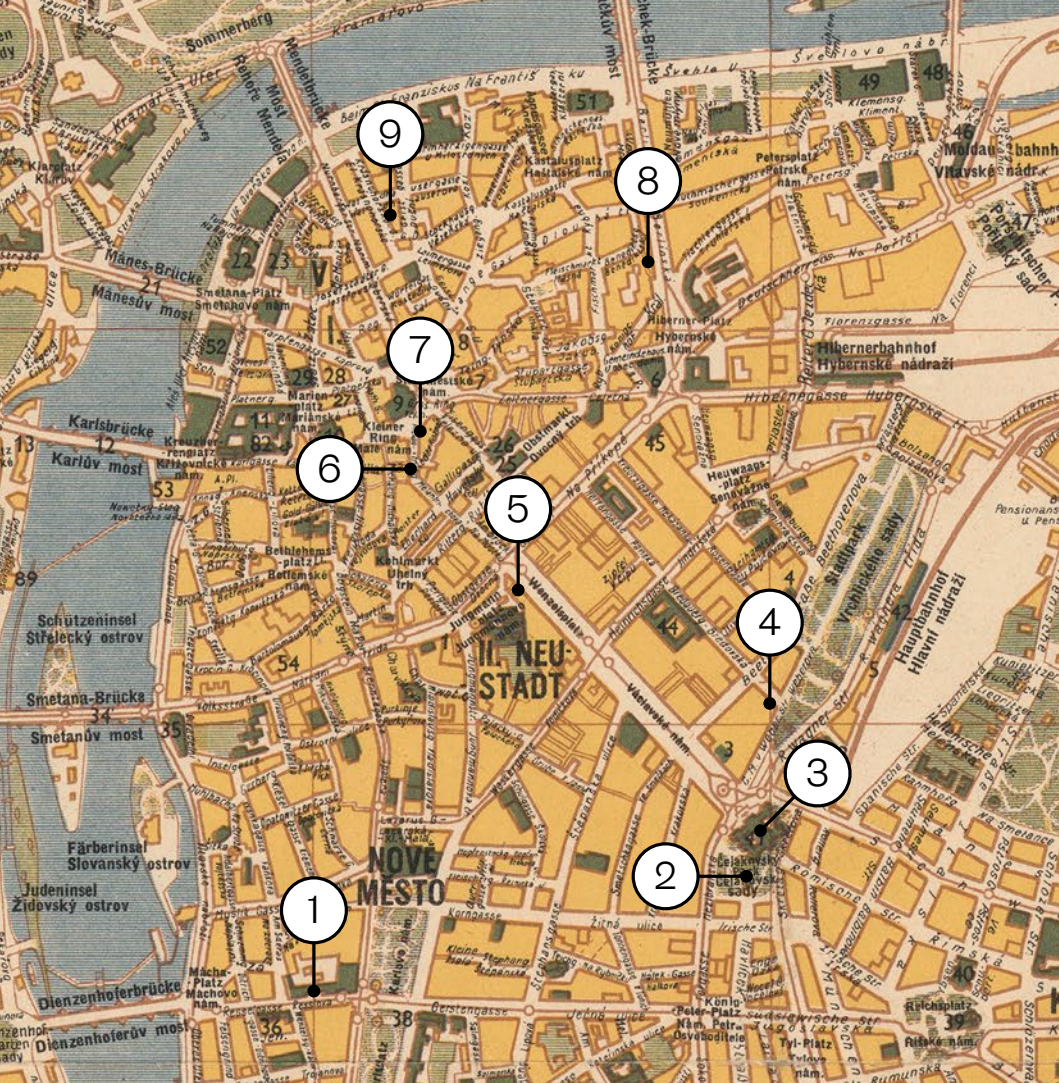
A walk through the centre of Prague. A total of nine stops at the buildings with the conspiracy flats of the protectorate supporters of the paratroopers deployed from Great Britain. One of the stops is the WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER! exhibition located in the Historical Building of the National Museum.

Important figures

Bondy Alexander / Bondy Hilda / Bondy Jiří / Bondyová Lydie /
Bublík Josef / Čaloun Vladislav / Čurda Karel / Gabčík Josef / Hrubý Jan /
Janíková Zdeňka / Kubiš Jan / Kubiš Jaroslav / Letenská Anna /
Morávek Václav / Opálka Adolf / Peršín Oldřich / Peršínová Ludmila /
Petřek Vladimír / Svatoš Josef / Svatošová Marie / Šafařík František /
Švarc Jaroslav / Valčík Josef / Zelenka-Hajský Jan

Bibliography

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Map of Prague, 1941, National Museum, H8-2645 / © National Museum / All rights reserved

National Monument to the Heroes of the Heydrich Terror

→ In the spring of 1942, representatives of the Orthodox Church began preparing shelter for paratroopers in the crypt of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius. After the attack on the Acting Reich Protector, seven of them gradually arrived. Jaroslav Švarc was the first to hide there, followed by Jan Kubiš, Josef Valčík, Jan Hrubý, Josef Bublík, Adolf Opálka and finally Josef Gabčík. All men were personally welcomed by Chaplain Vladimír Petřek.

→ Early in the morning on Thursday 18 June 1942, Waffen-SS and Gestapo troops surrounded the church. Czechoslovak paratroopers Adolf Opálka, Jan Kubiš and Josef Bublík first fought against the odds in the cathedral gallery. Finding himself in a hopeless situation, Opálka shot himself, Kubiš and Bublík died of their injuries.

→ The attackers then focused on the crypt. Josef Gabčík, Josef Valčík, Jan Hrubý and Jaroslav Švarc refused to give up and after a brave fight they ended their lives with their last bullets. Do you want to see the clothes the paratroopers wore when they hid in the crypt? The We Will Never Surrender! exhibition located in the Historical Building of the National Museum, in addition to the things that the hidden paratroopers used in the crypt daily, also shows a fragment of a silk parachute and a parachute suit that one of the members of the Anthropoid airdrop wore when they jumped into the Protectorate.

→ Currently, in the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the Military History Institute runs the National Monument to the Heroes of the Heydrich Terror.

2

Čelakovského sady

→ In Čelakovského sady near the National Museum, paratroopers Jan Kubiš and Josef Gabčík met František Šafařík, who worked at the Prague Castle and from whom they obtained the necessary information about Reinhard Heydrich's whereabouts when planning the attack.

3

The Historical Building of the National Museum

→ Several weeks of Second Martial Law in 1942 represent some of the darkest times in the country's history. The days between 27 May and 3 July saw, in addition to several thousand sacrifices and fears, stories of great determination and courage. The WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER! exhibition located in the Historical Building of the National Museum offers a unique insight not only into the war history, which we know of from textbooks, but also depicts seemingly ordinary destinies that should not be forgotten. Visit the heart of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in 1942.

4

Politických vězňů street 931/20 (Bredovská)

Bredauergasse

Petschek Palace

→ The neoclassical building was originally designed for the business needs of the Jewish Petschek family as a grand modern bank building. After the occupation in March 1939, the Prague Gestapo moved in the former bank building, where it established its main office. It was here where all that all tip-offs were received, and it was here where a number of resistance fighters who were somehow related to the paratroopers were interrogated. During the Second Martial Law, martial court was in session here, sentencing a total of 1,072 people between 27 May and 3 July 1942.

5

Wenceslas Square 774/6

Wenzelsplatz

→ In the shop window of the Baťa department store, the day after the attack on Reinhard Heydrich, the Prague Gestapo investigators displayed all the things that had been secured on the spot. Among the items on display was a women's bicycle, which Josef Gabčík rode to the scene of the attack. The Gestapo relied on someone to recognize the displayed items and come to testify for a reward, so the investigators could follow the lead on the attackers. The decree, which offered a reward of 10,000,000 Protectorate Crowns for information leading to the Reinhard Heydrich's assassins, can be seen at the WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER! exhibition located in the Historical Building of the National Museum.

6

Melantrichova street 463/15**Melantridgasse**

→ In the spring of 1942, the paratroopers, including Josef Gabčík, hid in the Svatošs' apartment in the centre of Prague. On the day of the attack on Reinhard Heydrich, he placed the weapon, with which he tried to shoot Acting Reich Protector, in Josef Svatoš's briefcase. Come and see the British Sten Mk II. 9mm Parabellum submachine gun displayed at the WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER! exhibition located in the Historical Building of the National Museum.

→ On 16 June 1942, upon his return to Prague, paratrooper Karel Čurda arrived at the Svatošs. From their apartment, he went to the nearby Petschek Palace, where he reported on all supporters of the paratroopers from Great Britain he knew about. The Svatošs were murdered on 24 October 1942 in the Mauthausen concentration camp.

7

Old Town Square 478/26**Altstädter Ring**

→ On 21 March 1942, the paratroopers of the Anthropoid group, Jan Kubiš and Josef Gabčík, met with Staff Captain Václav Morávek, a member of the Three Kings resistance group, in the apartment of Ludmila and Oldřich Peršín located in this house. Later that day, Václav Morávek died after a shootout with members of the Prague Gestapo on the Prašný Bridge.

8

Revoluční street 655/1 (Berlínská)**Berliner Straße**

→ In this house there was an office of paratroopers supporter Vladislav Čaloun, husband of theatre and film actress Anna Letenská, who were hiding other resistance fighters. As a result, Vladislav Čaloun and his wife Anna were arrested and deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp, where they were both executed. Anna died in October 1942 and Vladislav in January 1943.

→ This house is where Dr. Alexander Bondy with his family lived. It was the Bondy's bike that paratrooper Josef Gabčík rode during the spring of 1942 when travelling around the Protectorate. He also went to the Prague's quarter of Libeň on 27 May where he left it after the attack on Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich. The bike was later displayed in the shop window of the Baťa store on Wenceslas Square.