

**3rd Year of the Czech History Competition
Not Just the Cowards, Not Just the Heroes
(Everyday Life under the Protectorate 1939-1945)**

The competition has been declared by the Institute of Contemporary History in cooperation with the Association of History Teachers and with the subsidy from Körber Foundation and other sponsors. The competition addresses secondary school students under 20 years of age. The task is set as a paper to a given theme, elaborated either individually or collectively, based on own research (interviews with witnesses, research in contemporary press, chronicles, museums etc.) The students were advised not to consider their papers as a classical seminary work based primarily on literature studies; in this case they were supposed to submit a paper based on their own findings. The paper should not exceed 50 pages while its form should correspond with general requirements on a historical study (namely construction, footnotes, quotations, a survey of sources and literature, pictures and graphic, etc.) The competition was directed by a five-member committee, which convened regularly. The competition coordinator was at disposal of the participants to consult their personal, phone or e-mailed inquiries. Prof. Dr. R. Zahradník, Honorary President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, took over the patronage.

The jury consisted of ten members among who were equally five research fellows and five history teachers. Each of the papers was read by a research fellow and a teacher who awarded their evaluation points independently. The very best papers were again reread by a historian, ICH Director, and the most experienced lady pedagogic. After evaluation of former years, only ten best papers were selected, no order of papers according to awarded points being published, while all other participants were listed alphabetically. The jury dealt in accordance with methodology set up for the first competition year, proved to be successful and has been published in EUSTORY Edition Miscellany 1, 2.

The competition was proclaimed on May 10, 2004 in several ways to guarantee the broadest information impact:

1. By means of a circular signed by the ICH Director and addressed directly to the Secondary School Headmasters of the Czech Republic;
2. By a publication resulting from the previous competition year (EUSTORY 2 Edition), which was mailed to schools that had participated, as well as to the Chairs of History at the Czech universities;
3. The competition was immediately presented on ICH web pages;
4. Several journals oriented on history tuition at secondary schools also informed on proclamation of the competition;

5. The bulletin of the Association of History Teachers informed its members accordingly;
6. The competition was also mentioned during the session of the Summer School of History, as there convened history teachers from the entire Republic.

Deadline for applications was set as of Oct. 31, 2004, while the papers got their deadline as of Feb. 28, 2005.

Regarding the 60th anniversary of the termination of WW II, the topic "Not Just the Cowards, Not Just the Heroes (Everyday life under the Protectorate 1939-1945)" was chosen.

The contributions were supposed to investigate the life stories of people who lived through the WW II in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Not just the fates, but also changes in everyday conditions of life were to be depicted, the impressions of official contemporary organizations members, the reflections of important historical events in the personal history of an individual, opinions or feelings of personal observers, feelings of infancy under the Protectorate, popular toys of that time, broadcast or movie programmes, etc. The fates of victims or heroes of the resistance, families affected by terror, resistance actions and their motivation, or consequences or other testimonies of this time could be also elaborated.

316 students sent their applications to participate in the competition, while by the paper deadline only 103 papers by 146 students were actually submitted. The discrepancy results from two reasons in particular: 1. The competition is organized on a voluntary basis, while the organizers cannot influence the numbers of papers during the application period and numbers of papers actually submitted; 2. There are several other historical competitions held in the Czech Republic annually, namely, for instance, Secondary School Professional Activity, "Lost Neighbours" Project (holocaust issue), Olympic Games in History, etc.

The jury awarded the ten best papers submitted by 14 students (4 papers were a teamwork). All 146 students received Certificate on Participation in 3rd EUSTORY Competition Year. The superior paper shall be published entirely in EUSTORY 3 Edition, while the remaining nine papers will be quoted in extracts. The paper awarded by a prestigious journal History and Present has been already published there in condensed extracts. Another paper was published in methodology journal for secondary school teachers Social Science Subjects. Both of these journals repeatedly informed on the competition.

Protocol ceremony was held on May 18, 2005 at the representation premises of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The ceremony was notified by the Czech Press Agency release. Representatives of scientific life, universities and secondary schools, sponsors, the Körber Foundation representatives and other civic organizations' representatives participated. Also present were the winners of previous years of EUSTORY competition. The awarded students received financial and book gifts.

The Czech EUSTORY committee is preparing the edition of EUSTORY 3; its official presentation shall be connected with declaration of Czech EUSTORY Year 4 in 2006 May; this should be also the final dot on EUSTORY 3.