

THREE WALKS THROUGH THE PRAGUE OF 1945 WITH JOSEF SUDEK'S PHOTOGRAPHS
Places marked by the Second World War on a map of Prague

- **FIRST WALK (1-4)**
From Prague Castle to Lesser Town
We start the walk at the tram stop *Pražský hrad* (Prague Castle).
- **SECOND WALK (5-20)**
The centre of the Old Town
We cross Charles Bridge and continue through *Karlova Street* to *Malé Square*.
- **THIRD WALK (21-34)**
Through the second district of Prague
We walk from *Wenceslas Square* through *Krakovská* and *Zitná Streets* towards *Charles Square*.
- **FURTHER LOCATIONS (35-36)**
Josef Sudek rarely photographed places outside of Prague 1 and Prague 2.

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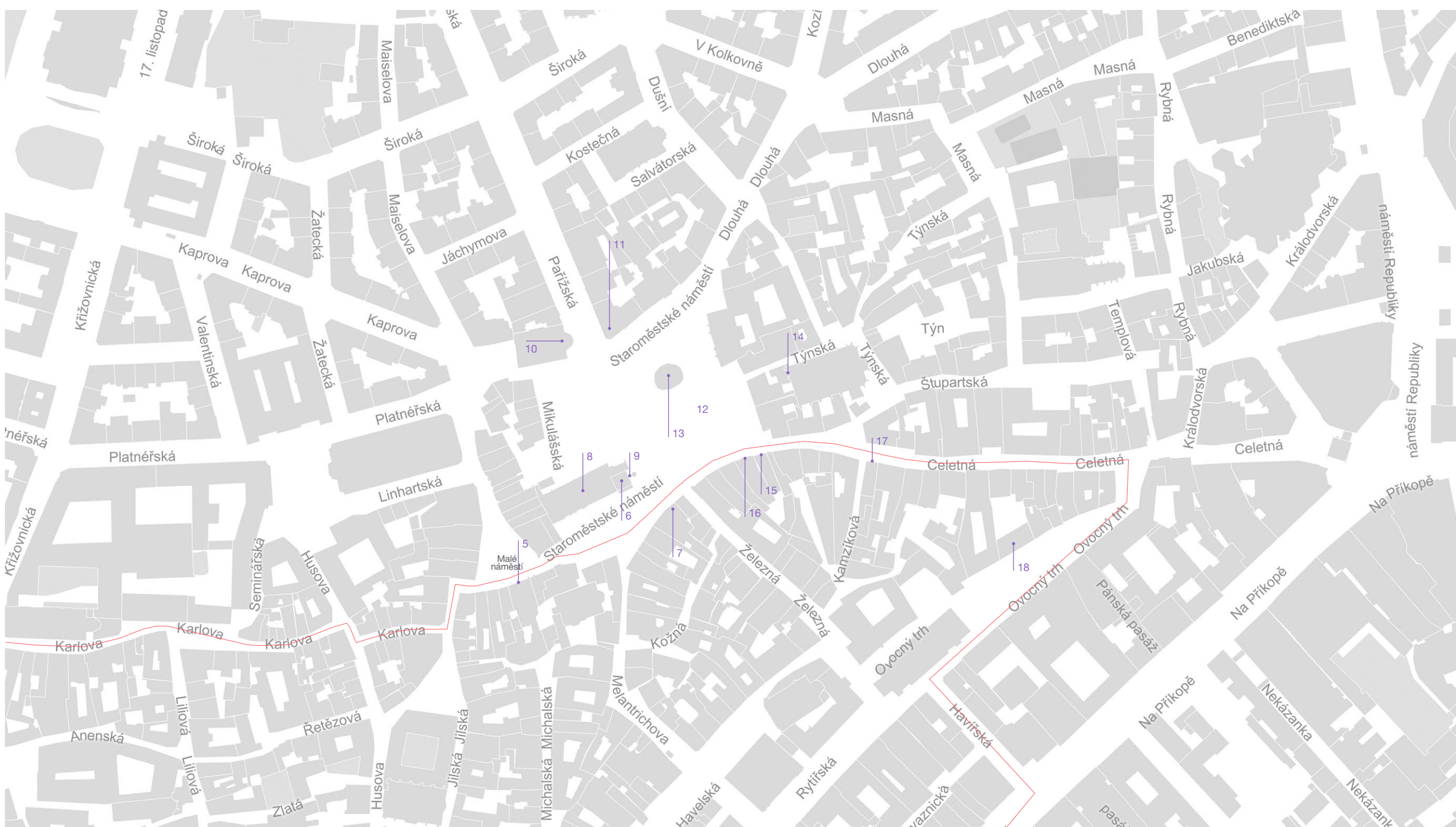
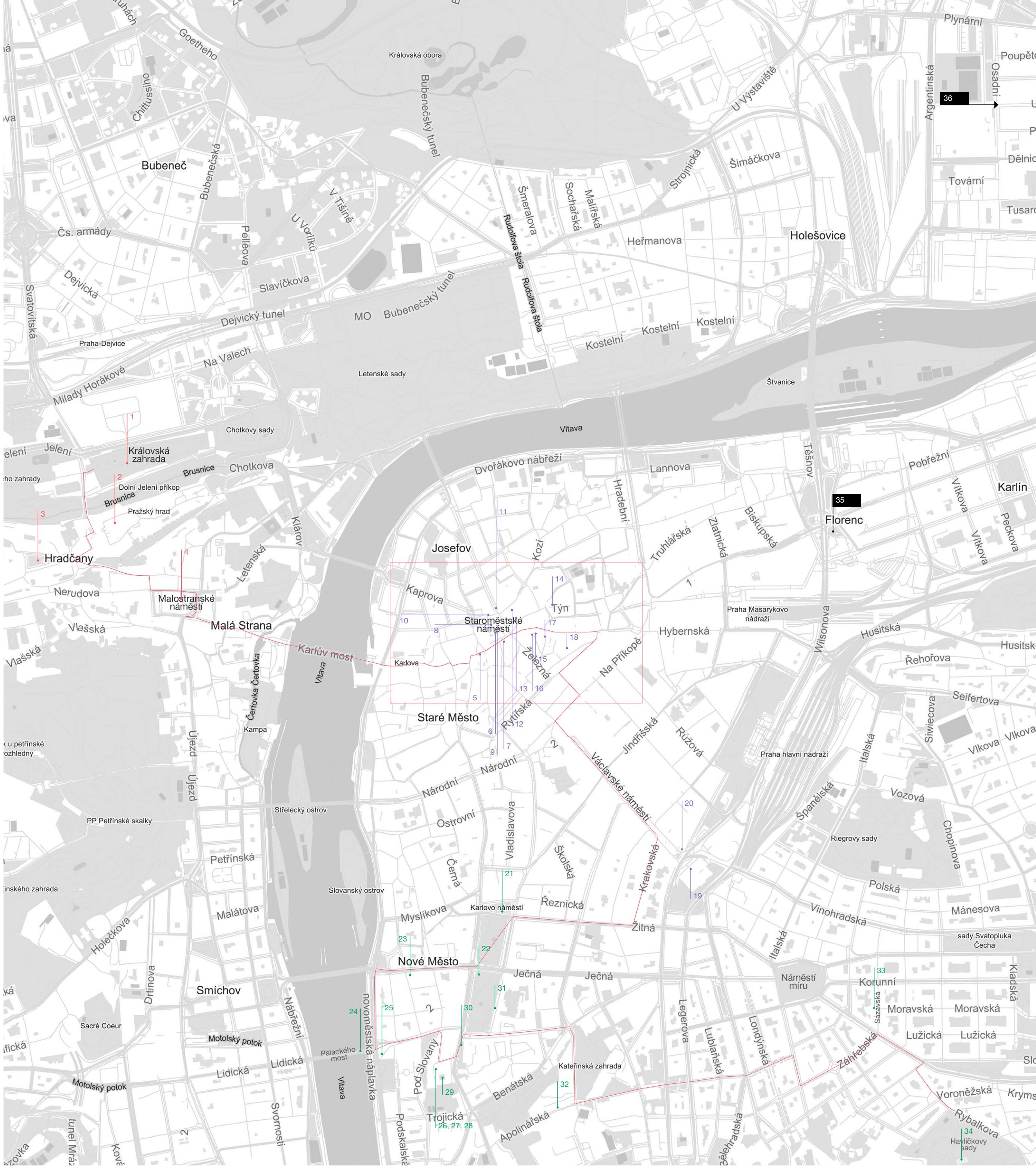
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SUDEK PROJECT



These three walks through Prague accompanied by Josef Sudek's photographs will help you to recall the battles of the Second World War which mainly left their mark on Prague in 1945. The unexpected allied raid with which the town by mistake on 14 February 1945 mostly damaged the area of Prague 2, including the Emmaus monastery, in the last days of the war. On 5-9 May 1945, the so-called May Uprising broke out in Prague, to which the German occupants responded by attacks mainly in the Old Town and the area surrounding Wenceslas Square. The photographic map of places in Prague marked by the Second World War, especially the two previously mentioned areas, is the result of new scholarly research on a still almost unknown and under-valued cycle of Josef Sudek's photographs. It consists of a series of 367 large-scale negative reproductions deposited in the Photo Library of the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, accompanied by several prints located in other institutions. Josef Sudek probably created the cycle on a commission from the publisher Václav Poláček who produced *Cultural Losses of Prague 1945* with the subtitle *Cultural Losses of Prague 1945* - 1945. A forward valuing the damaged monuments was written by the art historian Zdeněk Wirth. The weekly calendar was accompanied by 53 of Sudek's photographs. The printed map is taken from an online application where more detailed scholarly descriptions of the present monuments can be found along with almost twice as many photographs in a larger format. The website can be loaded through the use of the QR code or at the address www.sudekproject.cz/en/map.



SUDEK PROJECT
Three Walks Through the Prague of 1945
With Josef Sudek's Photographs



1. Ball Games Hall in the Royal Garden
Address: *Královská zahrada, Praha – Hrad*
GPS: 50.0924567N, 14.4012214E

An important Renaissance site from the late 16th century was burned down due to the gunfire from retreating SS units at the end of the May Uprising on 9 May 1945.



7. Houses on the Southwest Side of Old Town Square
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 483/21, 482/22, 481/23, 480/24, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0868750N, 14.4212039E

Four houses standing across from the astronomical clock between Melantrichova and Železná Streets were heavily damaged during the raids on Old Town Square in May 1945.



13. Water Reservoir at Jan Hus Monument on Old Town Square
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0876522N, 14.4211769E

One of the many air raid water reservoirs was located in the centre of the battle during the May Uprising, on Old Town Square. It remained there long after the war, until the 1970s.



19. National Museum on Wenceslas Square
Address: *Václavské náměstí 1700/68, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0798369N, 14.4296086E

The Neo-Renaissance building of the National Museum was hit by aerial bombing during the May Uprising. Luckily, the collections were already safely secured outside the building.



25. Palacký Square with the Pedestal for the Statue of František Palacký
Address: *náměstí Palackého, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0730611N, 14.4148094E

Like many other monuments during the war, the statue of František Palacký was dismantled and placed in the scrap metal depository at Maniny in the Holešovice part. After the war the rescued memorial was restored. The house in the background on the left was damaged in the air raid on 14 February 1945 and pulled down after the war.



31. Jesuit College on Charles Square
Address: *Karlovo náměstí 504/36, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0743244N, 14.4204422E

The former Baroque college of the New Town Jesuits was damaged in the air raid in February 1945. The site has served as a hospital since the Jesuit order was abolished in the 18th century.



2. St Vitus Cathedral at the Prague Castle with Protective Measures
Address: *III. nádvoří Pražského hradu, Praha – Hrad*
GPS: 50.0908400N, 14.4005561E

Due to the fear of air raids, the non-transferrable monuments in the cathedral—such as the King's oratory from the late 15th century or the Premyslid tombstones—were enclosed in large protective brick walls.



8. Old Town Hall
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 1/3, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0871472N, 14.4206542E

The Old Town Hall became one of the main targets of the raids during the May Uprising in 1945. Due to a great conflagration, the northern Neo-Gothic wing was completely burnt and had to be torn down after the war.



14. Tower of the Cathedral of Our Lady before Týn with a View of Old Town Hall
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.087764N, 14.422466E

For Josef Sudek, the damaged balustrade on the northern tower of the Cathedral of Our Lady became one of the most significant motifs of the whole series. In a number of views through the ruined balustrade, he captured the site which was damaged the most during the May Uprising, the wing of the Old Town Hall, which was later pulled down.



20. House in the Upper Corner of Wenceslas Square
Address: *Václavské náměstí 812/59, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0792483N, 14.4304375E

During the German air raids on Czech Radio, one of the centres of the May Uprising, some of the neighbouring buildings also sustained damage, for example the house on the corner of Wenceslas Square and today's Wilsonova Street.



26. Na Slovanech Monastery (Emmaus)
Address: *Na Slovanech, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0723081N, 14.4170478E

Josef Sudek captured the ruined silhouette of Emmaus after the air raid on 14 February 1945. In the 1960s, the original towers of the monastery church were replaced with modern ones designed by František Maria Černý.



32. National Theatre Workshops at Větrov
Address: *Apolinářská 438/7, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0710167N, 14.4233925E

Due to the air raid in February 1945, the interiors of the National Theatre workshops were completely burnt. Among other things, all the painted theatre decorations stored there since 1880 were destroyed in the fire.



3. Water Reservoir on Hradčanské Square
Address: *Hradčanské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0896075N, 14.3968883E

The reservoirs were built at most of the squares in Prague to supply water in case of fire caused by bombings.



9. Old Town Hall Bay Chapel
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 1/3, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.087095N, 14.420833E

During the attacks at the town hall, the precious Gothic bay from the 14th century was severely damaged. A cross, made of burnt beams from the town hall, was erected below the bay after the war to commemorate the victims of the May Uprising. A guard of honour was stationed beside it.



15. House at the Stone Lamb
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 551/17, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0871519N, 14.4219000E

The southern side of Old Town Square suffered great damage during the May Uprising. The house at the Stone Lamb with its precious early Renaissance portal from the 1530s was one of the most damaged buildings.



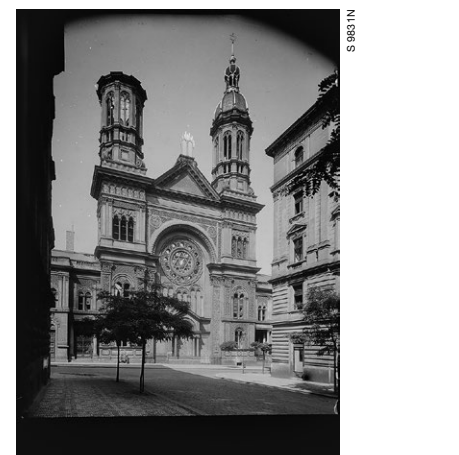
21. Water Reservoir on Charles Square
Address: *Karlovo náměstí, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0777328N, 14.4203925E

Charles Square also had a fire reservoir. It was placed in front of the New Town Hall and it was a precautionary measure against aerial bombing. There were 67 similar reservoirs built throughout Prague.



27. Na Slovanech Monastery (Emmaus) from the North
Address: *Na Slovanech, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0724958N, 14.4174878E

The photograph of Emmaus from the north provides a view of the destruction of the monastery church. It was mostly damaged in the central nave and on the western facade.



33. Synagogue at Vinohrady
Address: *Sázavská 830/7, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0744008N, 14.4403764E

Once the largest synagogue in Prague, the building from the late 19th century was also damaged by the air raid in February 1945. During the war, the building served as a storage place for confiscated Jewish property. It was torn down at the beginning of the 1950s.



4. Water Reservoir on Lesser Town Square
Address: *Malostranské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.088282N, 14.404237E

In his photographs, Josef Sudek captured the large reservoirs on Hradčanské, Lesser Town or Old Town squares, at Florenc and on Kinský Square.



10. Pařížská Street at the Entry to Old Town Square
Address: *Pařížská ulice & Staroměstské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0879347N, 14.4201606E

Pařížská Street became one of the main corridors of the German attacks due to the fact that it led straight from the Faculty of Law, the seat of the SS headquarters at the time. St Nicholas Church (on the right) was also damaged.



16. Houses on the Southeast Side of Old Town Square
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 552/16, 551/17, 550/18, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0871325N, 14.4217872E

A whole section of the square at the entry to Celetná Street was severely damaged. In addition to the House at the Stone Lamb, seen here in the centre, Storch's house with frescos by Mikoláš Aleš on the left suffered damage, as well as the House at the Stone Table on the right.



22. Pedestal of the Statue of the Writer Karolína Světlá on Charles Square
Address: *Karlovo náměstí, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0754872N, 14.4194900E

One theme in the photographs of war-time Prague by Josef Sudek were empty pedestals for monuments. Most metal statues were seized by the Protectorate Authorities to be smelted down in the Reich and reused for armaments.



28. The Church of Our Lady, Sts Jerome, Cyril and Methodius, Adalbert and Prokop in Na Slovanech Monastery (Emmaus)
Address: *Vyšehradská 320/49, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0723408N, 14.4177694E

The interior of the Emmaus monastery church was turned into a ruin after the air raid on 14 February 1945. The church was renovated in the 1960s.



34. Gröbe's Villa
Address: *Havličkovy sady 59/2, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0692275N, 14.4447053E

The villa, built in the 1870s by the Jewish entrepreneur Moritz Gröbe, was severely damaged by the air raid in February 1945. From the early 20th century on, the villa belonged to the municipality of Vinohrady and during the war it was used by the Reich's youth organisations.



5. Rychtr's House on Malé Square
Address: *Malé náměstí 459/11, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0864150N, 14.4198025E

Rychtr's house on Malé Square was one of the houses damaged during the May Uprising in 1945. The photograph shows its damaged Neo-Classical portal with fallen columns.



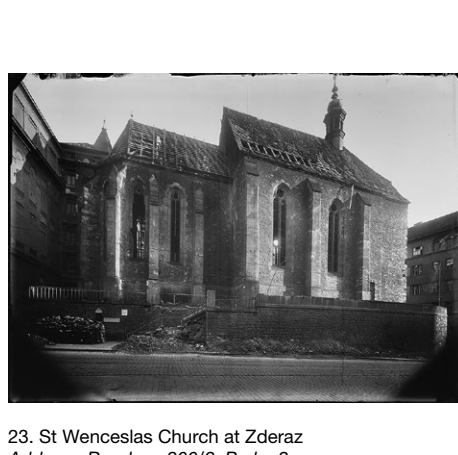
11. Schier's House
Address: *Pařížská 934/2 – Staroměstské náměstí 934/5, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0879931N, 14.4205708E

Originally the apartment house of the chamber councilman Franz Schier from the late 19th century, it was damaged during the May Uprising on the top floor, which had to be torn down afterwards. The image shows a view of the house between St Nicholas Church on the left and the Neo-Gothic wing of the Old Town Hall, later demolished, on the right.



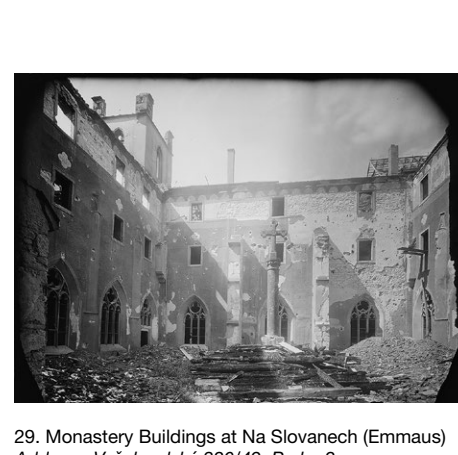
17. House at the White Peacock
Address: *Celetná 557/10, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0866397N, 14.4231364E

On Celetná Street, the House at the White Peacock was completely destroyed, only the late Baroque facade remained.



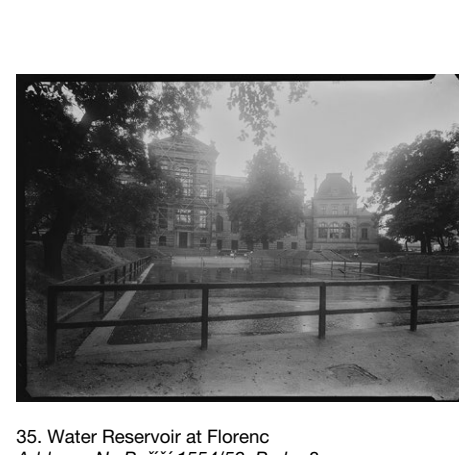
23. St Wenceslas Church at Zderaz
Address: *Resslova 300/6, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0755456N, 14.4160689E

St Wenceslas Church at Zderaz was damaged by the allied air raid on 14 February 1945. The parish priest of the church, Josef Jerábek, played a part in caring for the paratroopers hidden in the neighbouring Sts Cyril and Methodius Church after the assassination of the Acting Reich Protector, Reinhard Heydrich, in May 1942.



29. Monastery Buildings at Na Slovanech (Emmaus)
Address: *Karlovo náměstí 502/40, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0730558N, 14.4188531E

The whole area of the former Slavonic monastery, founded in the 14th century by Charles IV, was severely damaged by the air raid on 14 February 1945, including the cloister and the paradise court. Precious Gothic mural paintings from the 14th century in the cloister were saved from complete destruction, they were later restored and they are on display again.



35. Water Reservoir at Florenc
Address: *Holešovičky přístav, Praha 8*
GPS: 50.0905644N, 14.4382733E

Another air raid water reservoir was built at Florenc. The composition of the buildings which once used to form the Prague City Museum can be seen in the background of the image—the old building of the original cafe pavilion in the city park is on the right and the newer building from the 19th century which is still used by the museum today is on the left.



6. Old Town Astronomical Clock with Protective Wall
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí 1/3, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.086998N, 14.420721E

The astronomical clock, another valuable technical and artistic monument, was saved from complete destruction due to the presence of a protective brick wall built around the lower part of the structure.



12. Old Town Square on 13 May 1945
Address: *Staroměstské náměstí, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0874739N, 14.4212239E

The parade for those who perished in the Second World War took place at the Old Town Square on 13 May 1945. Three days later, crowds welcomed President-in-exile Edvard Beneš at the same place.



18. Astoria Café on Fruit Market Square
Address: *Ovocný trh 563/9, Praha 1*
GPS: 50.0871325N, 14.4231364E

A house on the site between Celetná Street and Fruit Market Square, where Café Astoria was located in 1945, was damaged so badly that nothing remained, even the facade captured in the photo.



24. Palacký Bridge with Statues of "Lumír and the Song" and "Přemysl and Libuše"
Address: *Palackého most, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0729767N, 14.4136386E

The air raid on 14 February 1945 damaged both the construction and sculptural decoration of the bridge—mostly two sculptural groups on the southern pylons by Josef Václav Myslbek. The bridge was later rebuilt and the sculptures moved to Vyšehrad.



30. Faust's House
Address: *Karlovo náměstí 502/40, Praha 2*
GPS: 50.0730558N, 14.4188531E

The air raid on 14 February 1945 caused damage to Faust's House of which many legends have been told. In the 18th century the alchemist Edward Kelley bought the house and subsequent owners were also devoted to the practice of alchemy. In 1902 the General Hospital purchased the property where they later placed a pharmacy, and there is still a pharmacy in operation in the same location today.



36. Metal Depository at Maniny
Address: *Holešovičky přístav, Praha 7*
GPS: 50.1043606N, 14.4585108E

The depository of non-ferrous metals in the Holešovice part near the railroad was designated as a site for seized metal bells and sculptures which were supposed to be taken to the Reich and melted down. Due to the dedicated care of some of the employees, some of the monuments were spared and restored back to their original locations after the war.