Gymnázium Brno Bystrc

The Story of the Homola Family

*It was unthinkable that the son of a convict could get educated.*

This story began already during the Second World War. In 1943 the father of Josef Homola, Ludvik Homola, joined the R3 band of the resistance movement. When the paratroopers consequently flew in from England and worked undercover in Vysocina, they were hiding with Ludvik Homola’s family and with Mr. Musil in the village of Studnice, from where they broadcasted to England. The paratroopers were called Rudolf Pernicky, Jaromir Nechansky, Mr. Hronek and Mr. Vyhnak. After the war, in February 1948, Hronek and Vyhnak left to England. Jaromír Nechansky however was arrested and soon after hanged. Rudolf Pernicky was met with a similar fate, he was arrested and sentenced to life in prison.

The father of Josef Homola was only arrested later, for the first time in 1952. Reasons for his arrest are unclrear, but it was commonly known that Ludvik Homola was hiding paratroopers during the war. He thus became dangerous for the Communist – he was capable of defying the regime regardless of possible consequences. He furthermore refused to enter the syndicate, thus prompting the rest of the village towards the same stance and thereby gave the Communists a pretext to arrest him. He was sentenced to nine months of imprisonment and a monetary fine of 5000 Crowns. He was released in 1953, but in 1955 was rearrested.

He was previously offered to participate in the anti-communist resistance. After previous incidents Ludvik Homola declined. The whole event was a provocation by the secret police who sought his liquidation. He was arrested for failing to report the existence of this fictional anti-communist resistance group, despite his awareness of it. Completely absurdly and without any evidence, he was sentenced for treason, sedicious activities and an effort to bring about in Czechoslovakia an English burgeoise order, to a period of eight years, for five of which he was placed in uranium mining work camps in Pribram and Banska Bystrica.

The arrest of Ludvik Homola was very dramatic, 300 members of the armed forces came to the village, eighty of which operated directly in Homola’s house. The family didn’t know what they were searching for, there was nothing in the house.

Josef Homola took the period without his father very badly. Half of their estate had been confiscated by the Communists. The other half was farmed on only by the son and mother. Young Josef Homola was not allowed to enter a gymnasium nor to learn a craft – it was unthinkable at the time that a convict’s son could get an education. Three years later their farm fell under the administration of the agricultural cooperative, so he started working there. He was only allowed to get a driving licence for a tractor and a truck. Despite all the the neighbours treated Josef Homola’s family well and helped them. Ludvik Homola subsequently fell under the amnesty issued for political prisoners in 1960 by President Novotny. The family’s property was only returned to them in 1990. Feelings of wrong-doing and injustice however remain until today.

*„Comrades in the war against Hitler and later against the Communists, who are no longer with us, would be turning in their graves witnessing the situation in the Czech Republic today“, says Josef Homola.*

**Traditional and Spanish Gymnasium, Brno-Bystrc, Vejrostova 2**

**Realization team:**

Tereza Černá, Michaela Obrovská, Tereza Smékalová, Natálie Tejkalová, Veronika Nevřivá,

Alžběta Rádsetoulalová, Iva Černá, Jan Procházka

**Pedagogical supervision:**

PhDr. Jana Henzlová