(Gymnázium Šternberk 3)

Ing. J. J. Tylšer

Ing. Jiří Jaroslav Tylšer (born September 9, 1944) was born in Grygov and later, as a four-year-old, moved with his parents and his sister Helena to Šternberk. Here, his father František started a cabinetmaking business, becoming the best woodworker in the town, until the new communist regime took over his business between 1948 and 1950.

“I have not been a communist even during those first days of the revolution. I prefer the word freedom to dictatorship, the word man to mass. The word proletariat can be shamefully abused, the banners of class hatred wildly waved...“

Ferdinand Peroutka

In 1950, Jiří Tylšer entered first grade. From the very beginning, he felt the hatred installed in some people. He recognised two types of them. Those who did not let it on and those who demonstrated their hatred clearly. His teacher in the 4th grade was among the latter. She explained the word EXPLOITER on the example of Mr. Tylšer's father in front of the whole class. In a frenzy, she kicked repeatedly into Mr. Tylšer's schoolbag and books, as if to show exactly how she thought such people should be treated.

At the time, fear was ubiquitous. People spoke differently in public and at home. The Voice of America and Radio Free Europe were daily on the program in the Tylšer family. Mr. Tylšer recalls one particular souvenir: „Everytime we listened to Radio Super Major with my father, we could hear quiet footsteps on the roof. And Dad would call out: 'Watch out, here he comes!' For many years, I did not understand what he meant. When I was fifteen, strong enough to cope with a grown man, it happened again and I understood that it was a snitchwho was checking whether we were listening to banned western broadcast. Because of that I was prepared to face him. I declared: 'I'm looking out for you! Dare you show up hereabouts again, I'll smash your face!' The man disappeared jumping over the fence and, what surprised us not a little, he disappeared into one of the houses just across the street. He never showed up again at our house.

In 1953 came the monetary reform. Citizens who owned land or had any savings, literally lost everything in one day. Those with immovable property were given a choice: either they would enter the Party or they would refuse and be liquidated. František Tylšer was accused of having torn down a poster with Stalin and his cousin, a furrier, of haivng sold a fur coat on the black market in Prague, which was nonsense. The cousin was sentenced to 22 year of prison, stayed imprisoned forsixteen years, while his family was banished from their home in the city of Prostějov. When he was released conditionally, a Party official lived in his house and it was made clear to him that his further presence in Prostějov was not welcome.

In the fifties and sixties, Šternberk was full of army barracks and aviation schools. Jiří Tylšer finished his studies at atechnological highschool in Uničov and wanted to enroll to the university in Brno. He passed the entry exams but was refused for the reason that there were too many applicants from the military and aviation schools. In the end it turned outthat the reason was quite another – his cousin emmigrated to England, which did not please the regime. Mr. Tylšer thereafter found a different job but did not give up his dream. Seventeen years later, he started studying at distance at a construction college in Brno and received his title in engineering in 1979.

Šternberk High school

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