



Lidice tragedy

Lidická tragédie

Lidice u Kladna were burned down on 10th June 1942. The pretext of this massacre became a letter addressed to Anna MARUŠČÁKOVÁ, an employee of Palaba company, which was retained by her director Jaroslav PÁLA. The letter could have looked like written by one of the parachutists who assassinated the Acting Reich Protector of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. This was later disregarded. In reality, the real reason for writing the letter was an attempt of Václav ŘÍHA to end his marital infidelity. Because of the nature of the letter, the owner of the factory Jaroslav PÁLA decided to report it to the Gestapo. Investigation ensued and since it came to light that the writer of the letter sent regards via Anna to the family of Josef HORÁK from Lidice, who was serving with the RAF, the village was burned down, men older than fifteen years were executed, women were taken to concentration camps (sixty of them did not survive by the end of the war), some children were sent to Germany to be germanized and eighty two others were probably murdered in the Nazi extermination camp in Chelmno nad Nerem in Poland.

Lidice u Kladna byly vypáleny 10. června 1942. Záminkou se stal dopis, který byl adresován zaměstnankyni firmy Palaba Anně Maruščákové a který byl zachycen jejím ředitelkou Jaroslavou Pálou. Mohlo být dojem, že ho napsal jeden z parašutistů, který provedl atentát na zastupujícího říšského protektora Reinharda Heydricha, což se ale později neprokázalo. Skutečným důvodem k napsání dopisu byla ve skutečnosti snaha jeho autora ukončit manželskou nevěru. S ohledem na vyučení dopisu se majitel továrny Jaroslav Pála rozhodl nahlásit ho na gestapo. Následovalo vyšetřování, a protože výšlo najevo, že písatelem dopisu byl nechal prostřednictvím Anny pozdravovat rodinu Josefa Horáka z Lidic, který sloužil u RAF, byla výsledek obec vypálena, muži nad patnáct let zastřeleni, ženy byly odvezeny do koncentračních táborů (šedesát z nich se nedožilo konce války), některé děti byly dány do Německa na poněmčení, ty dvaadvacet dalších byly pravděpodobně zavražděny v nacistickém vyhlašovacím táboře v Chelmnu nad Nerem v Polsku.



Burned remains of Lidice.

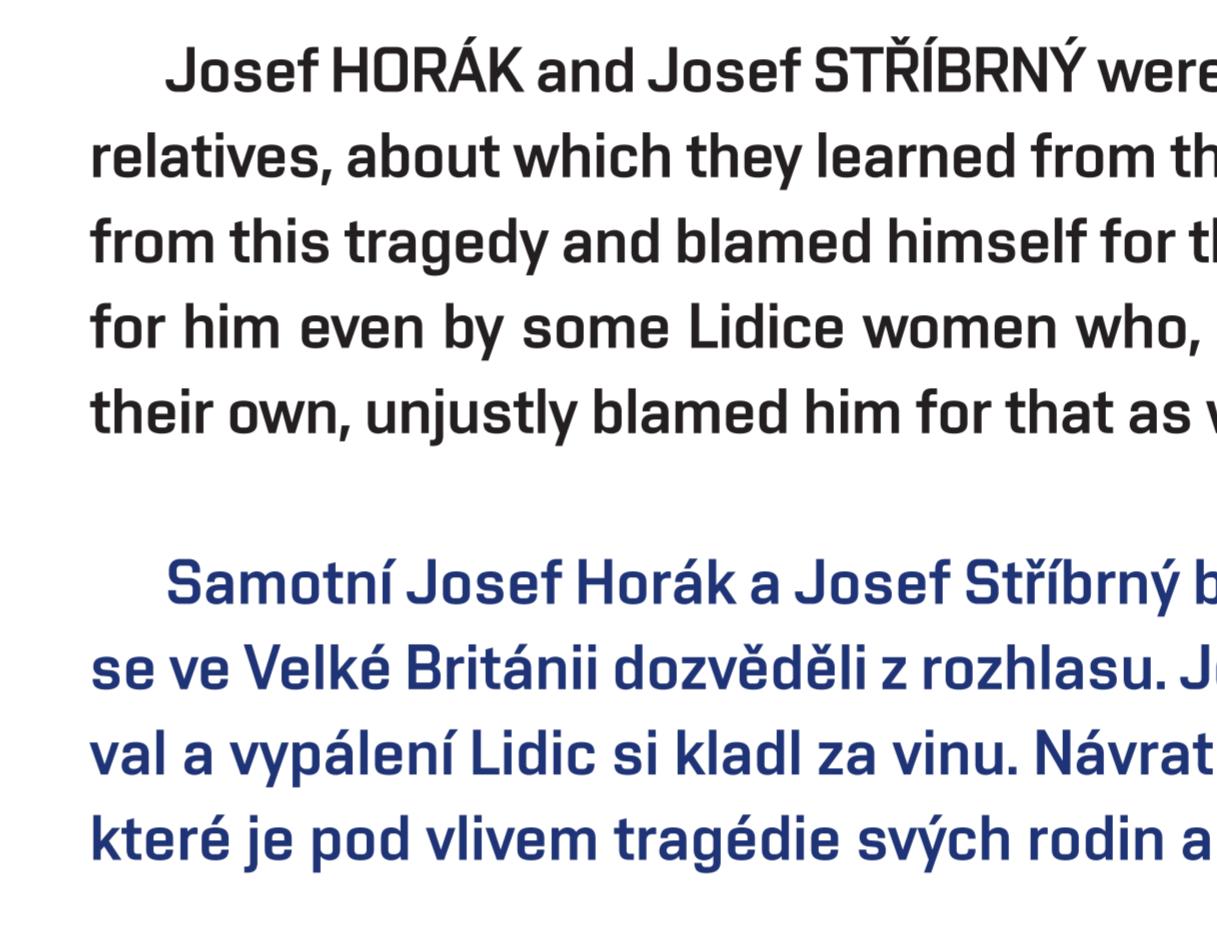
Vypálené pozůstatky Lidic.

In reaction to this tragedy, the Lidice Shall Live movement was established in Great Britain. The movement was started by a member of the municipal council in Stoke-on-Trent Barnett STROSS who, together with miners from the entire world, proposed that Lidice should be rebuilt. He contributed very significantly to this objective, and not only financially. Lidice resident Josef HORÁK was also active in this movement.

V reakci na to vzniklo ve Velké Británii hnutí Lidice Shall Live. To odstartoval člen městské rady ve Stoke-on-Trent Barnett Stross, který spolu s horníky celého světa navrhl znovuvybudování Lidic, ke kterému velmi výrazně, a to nejen finančně, přispěl. V tomto hnutí byl aktivní i lidický obyvatel Josef Horák.

Once Czechoslovakia was liberated, the Society for Rebuilding Lidice was founded. Its members were the Lidice women and children who survived the war. This society was founded by Act No. 187/1946 Coll. The second paragraph of Paragraph 1 explicitly states: "The main purpose of the Society is to build Lidice, to give a new home to Lidice women, who came back from concentration camps, and their children within the borders of this community..." Despite the fact that Lidice natives Josef HORÁK and Josef STŘÍBRNÝ, RAF pilots, were already back in the country, the act did not mention them. That is why Josef HORÁK and Josef STŘÍBRNÝ desired to become members of the society. Both of them asked to be granted the same rights that the act granted to all current residents of Lidice. While they were accepted as members of the society, the same rights were not granted to them because of the above mentioned act. A telling illustration of the situation after communist coup in 1948 can be demonstrated by the minutes from a meeting of the Society for Rebuilding Lidice committee from 16th June 1948. The minutes include a speech of a Lidice woman, survivor from Ravensbrück and the first Chairman of the Local People's Committee in Lidice Helena LEFLEROVÁ: "Since ... Josef HORÁK, who has recently escaped abroad, abuses his position in the Society for Rebuilding Lidice for subversive activities in England, the Society has published ... declaration..." This declaration is placed in a different section of the panel.

V osvobozeném Československu zahájila činnost Společnost pro obnovu Lidic, sdružující přeživší lidické ženy a děti. Dle zákona „Účelem Společnosti jest především vybudovat Lidice, dát nový domov lidickým ženám, vrátivšim se z koncentračních tábörů, a jejich dětem v rámci této obce...“ Byť již tehdy byli zpátky ve vlasti lidické obyvatel, letci RAF, Josef Horák a Josef Stříbrný, zákona na né nepamatovati. I proto se Josef Horák spolu s Josefem Stříbrným hlásili za členy a neúspěšně žádali, aby jim v rámci společnosti byla přiznána stejná práva, která přinával zákon všem současným obyvatelům Lidic. Pomery po roce 1948 dokresluje zápis správního výboru Společnosti pro obnovu Lidic z 16. června 1948, respektive příspěvek lidické ženy, přežívající z Ravensbrücku a první předsedkyně Místního národního výboru v Lidicích Heleny Leflerové: „Vzhledem k ... Josef Horák, který nedávno uprchl do ciziny, zneužívá svého bývalého postavení ve společnosti pro obnovu Lidic k protestním činnostem v Anglii, uveřejnila Společnost ...prohlášení...“



Postcard from the American village of Lidice in the state of Illinois. The postcard was addressed to Otto Hrubý, at that time a member of the 57th Operations Training Squadron, and formerly a pilot with 111 Squadron RAF. This village of Lidice used to be called Stern Park and was, similarly to many others, renamed as a part of the solidarity wave with burned Lidice in Czechoslovakia. Archive of Antonín Nešpor.

Pohled z americké obce Lidice, stát Illinois. Pohled byl adresován Ottovi Hrubému, v té době příslušníkovi 57. operativní výcvikové jednotky, dříve pilotovi 111. perutě. Tato obec Lidice se dříve jmenovala Stern Park a byla, podobně jako mnohé další, přejmenována v rámci vlny solidarit s vypálenými československými Lidicemi. Archiv Antonína Nešpora.

Josef HORÁK and Josef STŘÍBRNÝ were devastated by the Lidice tragedy and by the death of their relatives, about which they learned from the radio in Great Britain. Josef HORÁK has never recovered from this tragedy and blamed himself for the burning of Lidice. His return home was not made easier for him even by some Lidice women who, under the impression of the tragedy of their families and their own, unjustly blamed him for that as well.

Samotní Josef Horák a Josef Stříbrný byli zdrženi tragédií Lidic a smrtí svých příbuzných, o čemž se ve Velké Británii dozvěděli z rozhlasu. Josef Stříbrný se po celý život z této tragédie nevpamatovat a vypálení Lidic si kládá za vinu. Návrh domu oběma mužům neulehčily ani některé lidické ženy, které je pod vlivem tragédie svých rodin a své vlastní z toho nespravedlivě také vinily.

F/Lt Josef Horák

Born on 24th June 1915, Hřebeč, Kladno District, Central Bohemian Region

Died on 10th January 1949, Chipping Sudbury, Gloucestershire, Great Britain.

One of the Lidice men who could not and must not have returned back.

Josef HORÁK from the HORÁK family of Lidice was born in Hřebeč by an incident. His mother was late pregnant when she went to see a fair there. After the occupation of Czechoslovakia and demobilization, he was assigned to an office where he met another Lidice native Josef STŘÍBRNÝ and also Václav STUDENT from the nearby village of Hostivice. All of them together eventually left for abroad. At RAF he would serve with 111 (Czechoslovak) Squadron as an air gunner. He completed his first two hundred flying operation hours. For the second term, he was re-trained to be a pilot. After completing his operation activities, he studied and graduated from the Military Academy, after which he became a liaison officer. After the war, he remained with the Air Force, but, because of the political development, left to exile in April 1949. He died in a plane crash.

All members of his family were murdered during World War II after the village of Lidice had been burned down.

Since 1992, one of the Lidice streets bears his name.

F/Lt Josef Horák

Narozen 24. června 1915, Hřebeč, okres Kladno, Středočeský kraj

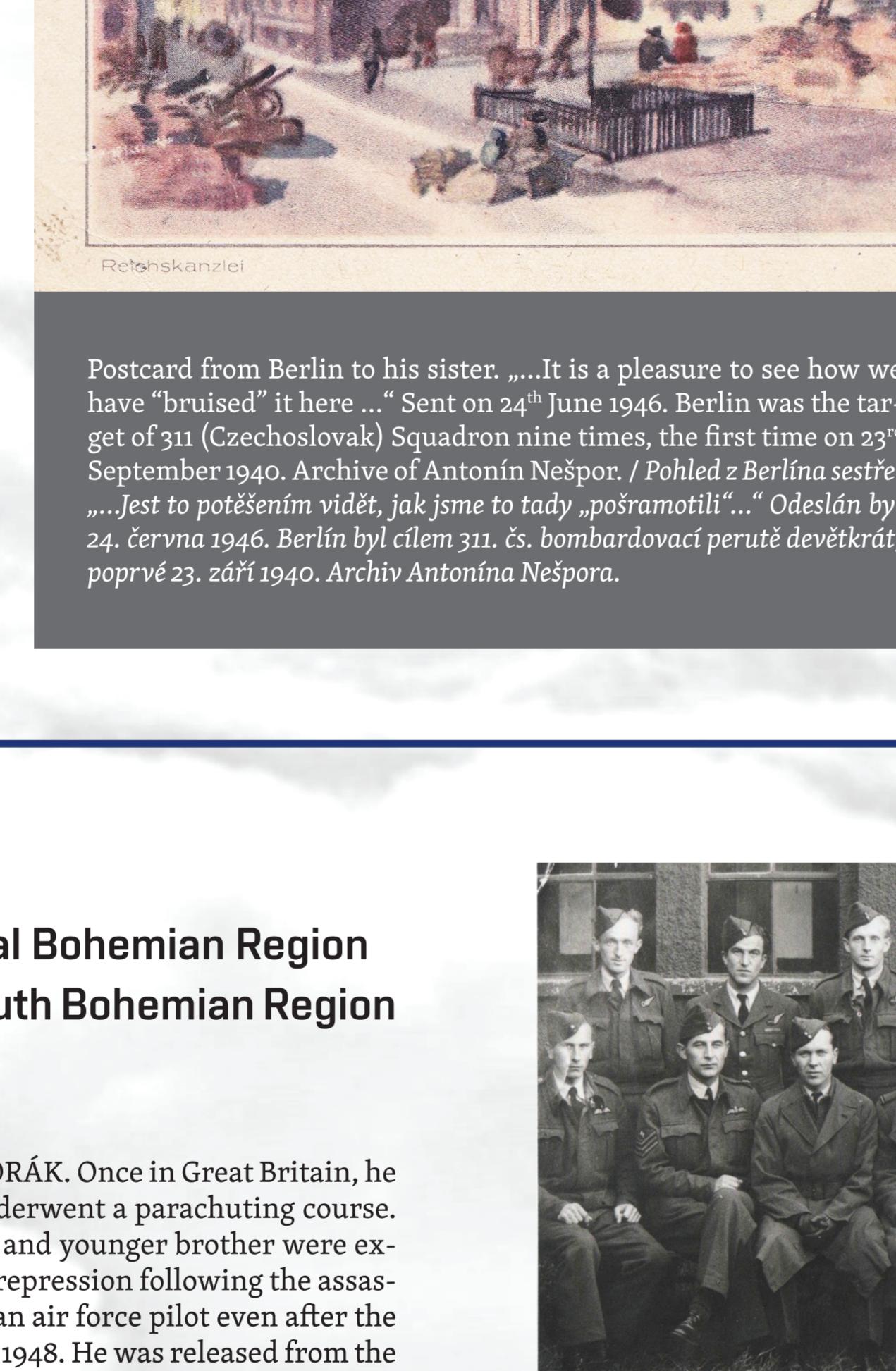
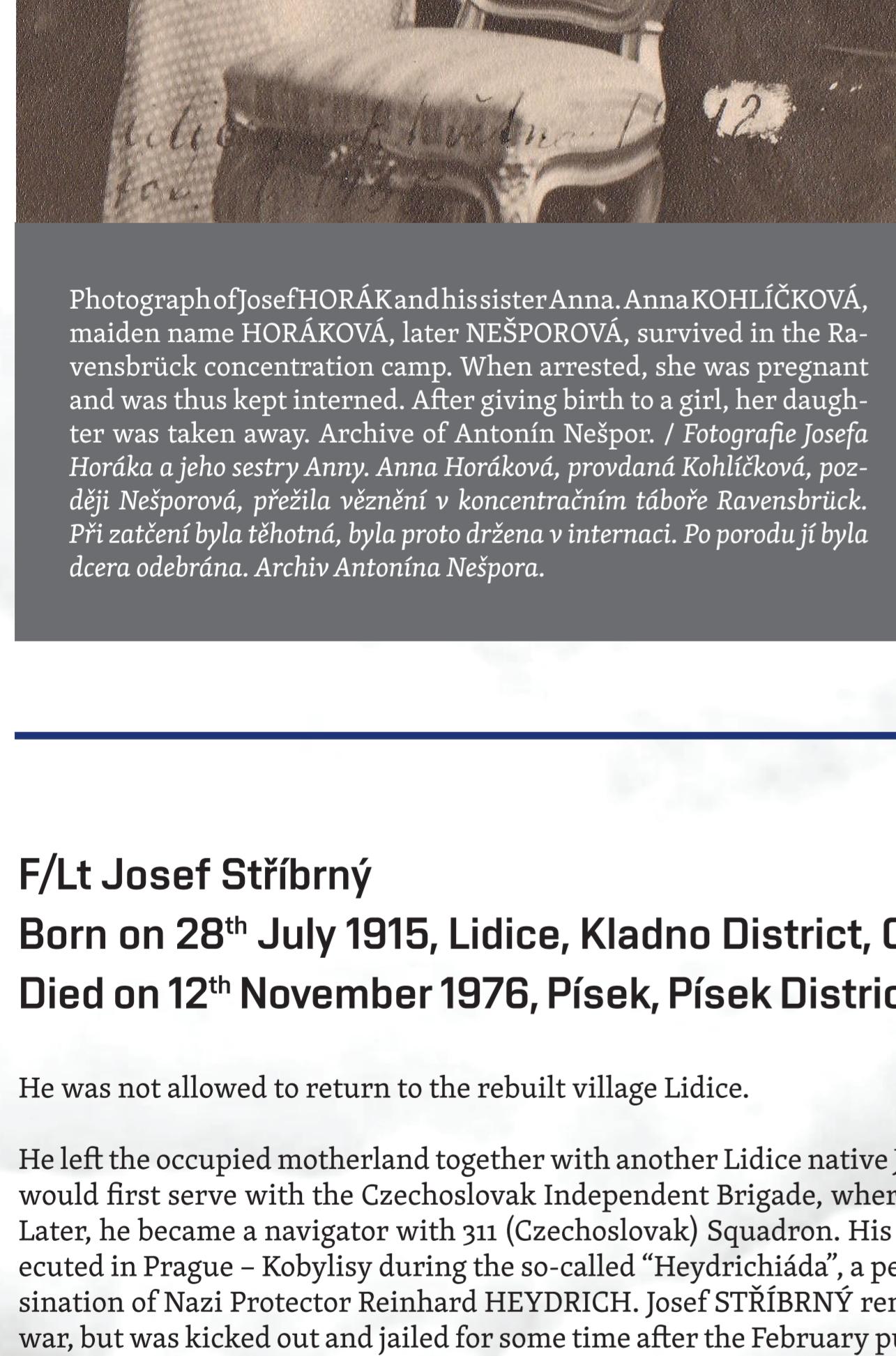
Zemřel 10. ledna 1949, Chipping Sudbury, Gloucestershire, Velká Británie.

Jeden z lidických mužů, který se nemohl a nesměl vrátit zpátky.

Josef Horák z rodiny lidických Horáků se v Hřebči narodil náhodou. Jeho maminka tam, ve vysokém stupni těhotenství, byla na pouti. Po okupaci Československa a demobilizaci byl umístěn v úřadě, kde se potkal s dalším rodákem z Lidic, Josefem Stříbrným a Václavem Studentem z nedaleké Hostivice. Všichni pak odešli do zahraničí. V RAF letál u 311. čs. bombardovací perutě jako palubní střelec. Odletěl prvních dvou střepůných hodin. Pro druhý turnus byl přeskočen na pilota. Po ukončení operačního dubnu 1949 opět došlo. Zahnul při letecké havárii.

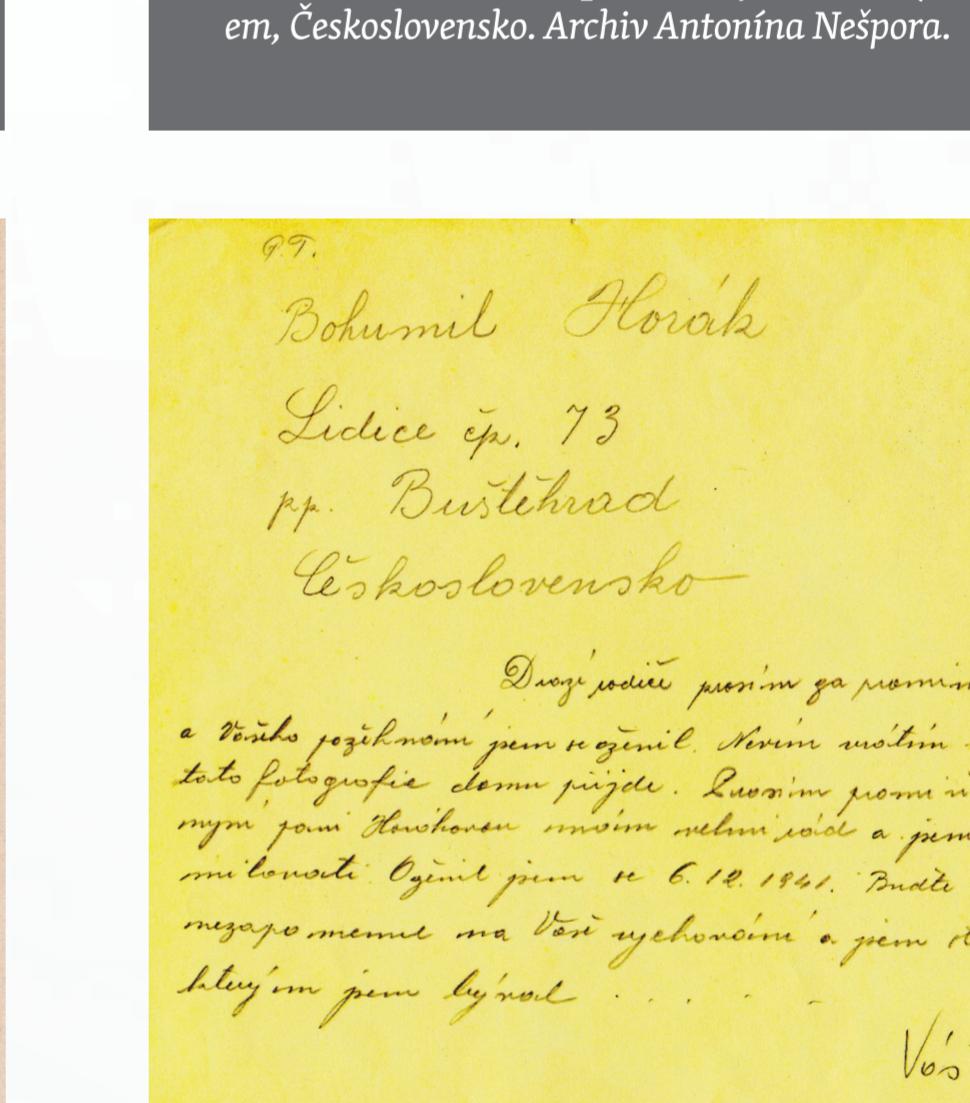
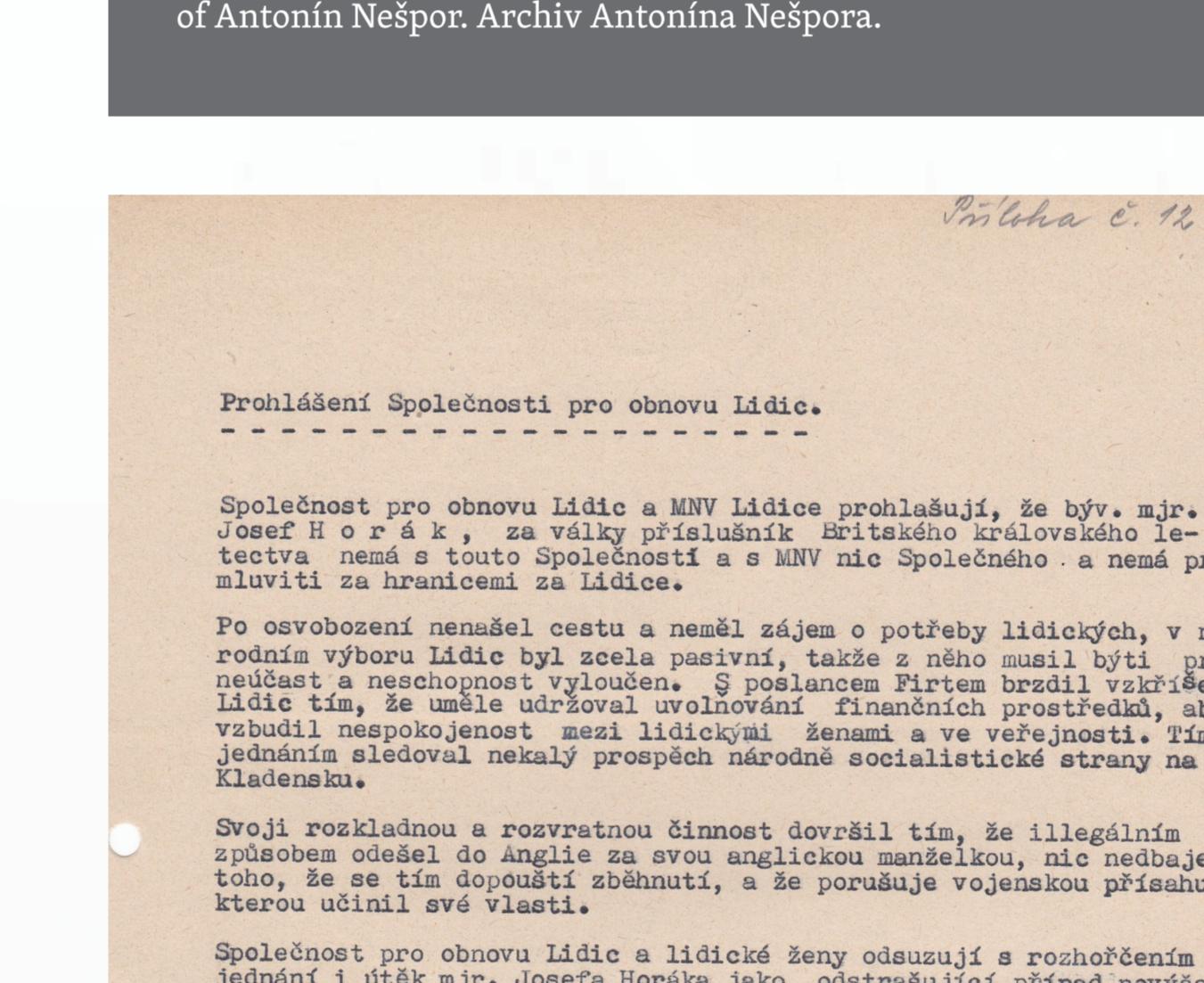
Jeho rodina byla vyvražděna za druhé světové války po vypálení Lidic.

Od roku 1992 nese jedna z lidických ulic jeho jméno.

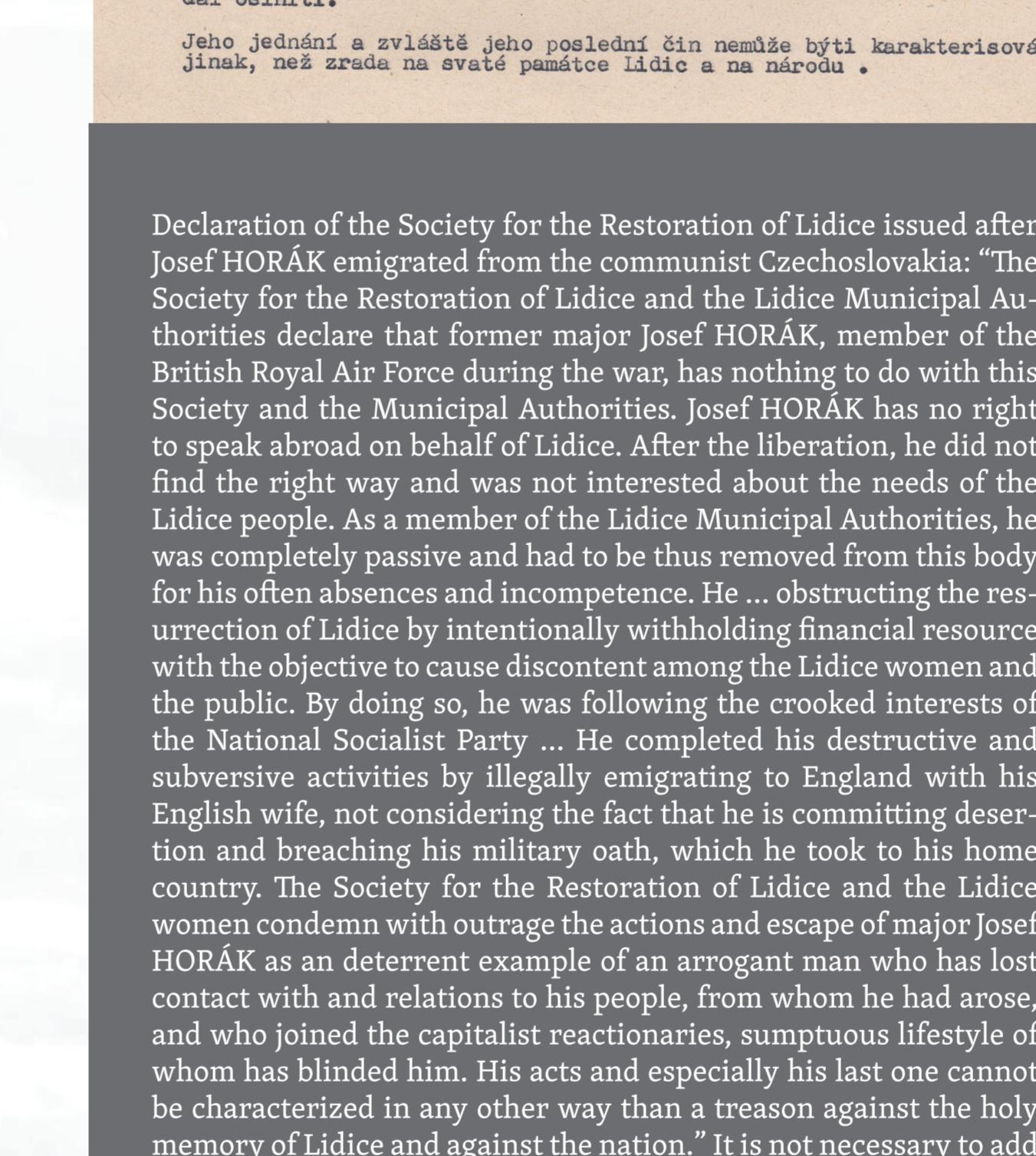


Postcard from Berlin to his sister, ...it is a pleasure to see how we have "brutalized" it here ... Sent on 24th June 1946. Berlin was the target of 311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron nine times, the first time on 23rd September 1940. Archive of Antonín Nešpor. Pohled z Berlína sestře, ...jest to potěšit vidět, jak jsme to vše pošramantili ... Odeslán byl 24. června 1946. Berlin byl cílem 311. čs. bombardovací perutě devětkrát, poprvé 23. května 1940. Archiv Antonína Nešpora.

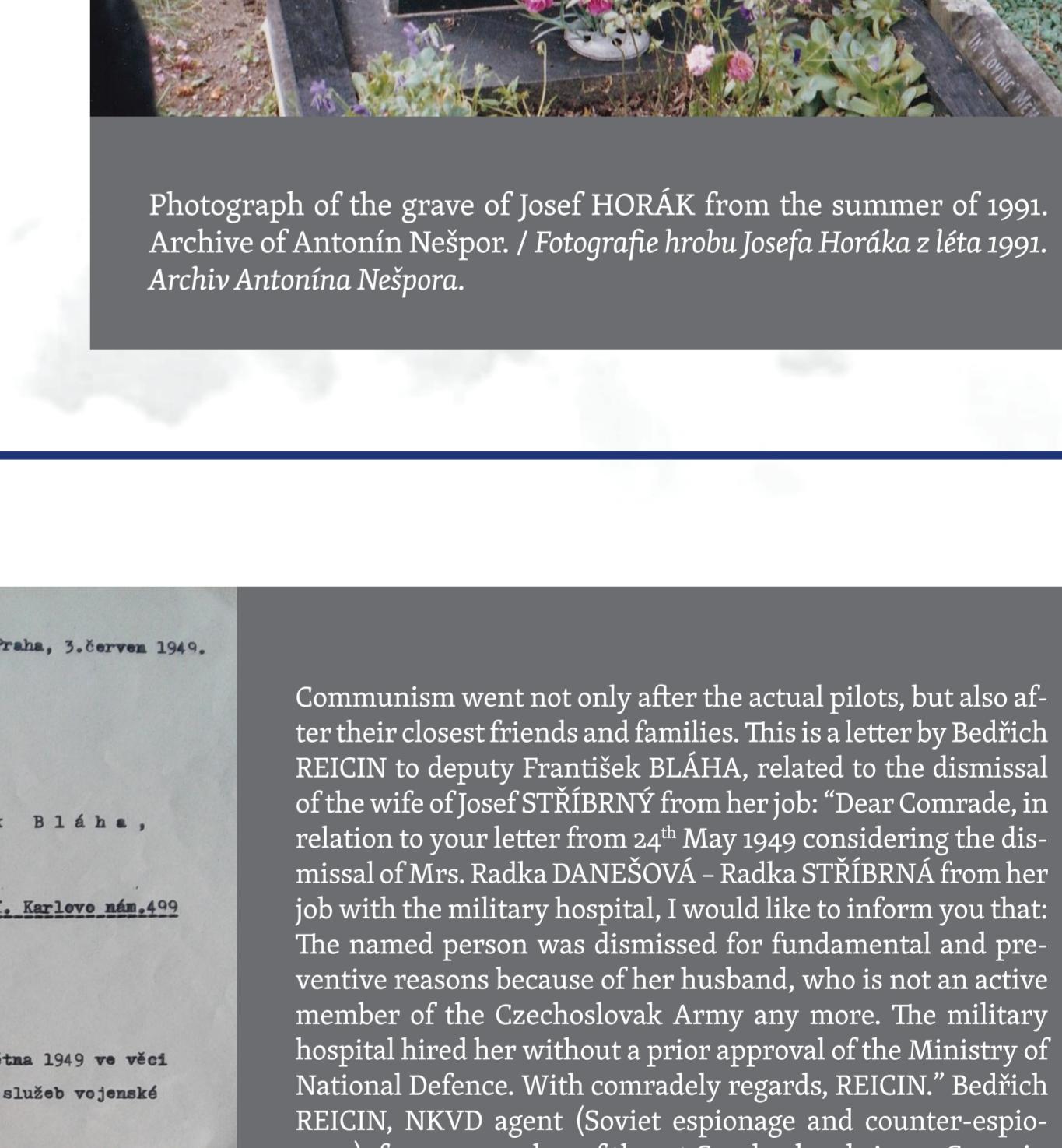
Photograph of Josef HORÁK and his sister Anna KOHL HORÁKOVÁ, née HORÁKOVÁ, later NEŠPOROVÁ, surviving in the Klobyliský concentration camp. When arrested, she was pregnant and was thus kept imprisoned. After giving birth to a girl, her daughter was taken away. Archive of Antonín Nešpor. / Fotografie Josefa Horáka a jeho sestry Amy Anna Horákové, provdané Kohlíkové, později Nešporové, přeživší v koncentračním táboře Klobylisy. Při zatčení byla těhotná, byla proto udržována v internaci. Po porodu jí byla dcerka odňata.



Josef Horák with his son, Czechoslovakia. Archive of Antonín Nešpor. / Josef Horák se synem Antonínem Nešporou.



Letter to his parents, informing them about his marriage, which could never be delivered. It includes the following text: "Dear parents, please accept my apologies that have gotten married without your approval and blessing. I do not know if I will ever return home, please give me your blessing. I do not know if my husband, Josef HORÁK, will ever return home, he has completely given up his life for the Lidice people. As a member of the Lidice Municipal Authorities, he was completely passive and had to be removed from this body for his often absences and incompetence. He... obstructing the resurrection of Lidice by his destructive and subversive activities, by illegally immigrating to England with his English wife, not considering the fact that he is committing treason and breaking his military oath to the motherland, to his country, to his people, to the Lidice people and the Lidice women condemn with courage the actions and escape of major Josef HORÁK as an deterrent example of an arrogant man who has lost contact with and relations to his people, from whom he had arose, and who joined the capitalist reactionaries, sumptuous lifestyle of which he chose, and who has now become a traitor to his country and the memory of Lidice and against the nation." It is not necessary to add that nothing is further from the truth than this allegation. State Regional Archive Kladno, fund Společnosti pro obnovu Lidic a Ležáků (NAD 810), in. 4, karton 5, Zápis ze správního výboru 23. 6. 1948. Pohled z Lidic a Ležáků k Lidicím, kde Josef HORÁK z komunistického Českoslováka, Státního obecního archivu Kladno Společnost pro obnovu Lidic a Ležáků (NAD 810), in. 4, karton 5, Zápis ze správního výboru 23. 6. 1948.



Photograph of the grave of Josef HORÁK from the summer of 1991. Archive of Antonín Nešpor. / Fotografie hrobu Josefa Horáka z leta 1991. Archiv Antonína Nešpora.

He was not allowed to return to the rebuilt village Lidice.

He left the occupied motherland together with another Lidice native Josef HORÁK. Once in Great Britain, he would first serve with the Czechoslovak Independent Brigade, where he underwent a parachuting course. He was then assigned to the Royal Air Force, where he became a pilot. He was captured by the Nazis and became a prisoner of war. He was released after the February putsch in 1948. He was released from the war, but was kicked out and jailed for some time after the February putsch in 1948. He was released from prison, but the help of several women from Lidice. He spent the rest of his life in Písek, sick and always haunted by the Lidice tragedy.

Since 1992, one of the Lidice streets bears his name.

F/Lt Josef Stříbrný
Narozen 24. června 1915, Lidice, okres Kladno, Středočeský kraj

Zemřel 27. listopadu 1976, Písek, okres Písek, Jihočeský kraj

Obnoveno obecí Lidice se nesměl vrátit.

He was born in Klobylisy, a small town in the Central Bohemian Region. He was a member of the Czechoslovak Independent Brigade, which fought in France and Italy. He was captured by the Nazis and became a prisoner of war. He was released after the February putsch in 1948. He was released from prison, but the help of several women from Lidice. He spent the rest of his life in Písek, sick and always haunted by the Lidice tragedy.

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