

English:

A love letter in wrong hands

Story:

Long time ago, within a time of darkness and frightening, there were people who felt love in their hearts. Even though they weren't full of hope, they still believed in their own feelings of love. They felt the butterflies in their tummies, this intensive feeling one has when falling in love.

Never the less many people in those times were doubtful, they did not trust each other and they verified often whether someone was tracing them or someone told the stories in a wrong way.

The lovers are from a village, populated by ordinary people who did coalmining in the stone quarries nearby day and night. Those people were worried about the people from the big city situated only a few kilometres from the village towards of the rising sun. But they could not really understand the matter.

During this spring time in 1942 two lovers wrote love letters to each other. Probably they wrote about their intensive feelings, the next date and their big desire. As it is typical for lovers to keep some secrets, the content of information in their letters was quite low. But, one of these letters has been read by someone else, not by the parents of the lovers but.....

Station no 1

"Dear Anni! I am sorry writing you that late but maybe you understand me, as you know that I have some sorrows and lots of work to do. I did what I wanted to do.

This day of fate, I slept somewhere near Cabarna. I am healthy. Good bye for this week and we won't see each other anymore. Milan"

Within those time of darkness and obscurity there were forces of evil who did not believe in the goodness of mankind. These forces read the love letter and they misunderstood the written words, because the powerful were full of fear and they believed that many people are evil and not worthwhile. This is why they thought that the lovers from the small village planed something mad and that they killed one of the powerful.

Station no 2

For information:

The girl works in a torch-factory in Schlan.

The lover, who is married, lives in Lidice.

The owner of the factory Pala reaches the letter of his employees. He gets frightened and he gives the letter to the police in Schlan.

Later the police and the secret service found another letter, in which the lover wrote that many parachutists from London hid in the small village.

Station no 3: wrong conclusions

While some inhabitants of the two lovers' villages were farming, working and relaxing from work in the evening or were enjoying the first sunbeams, far away in the capital they talked about a very important person who was killed.

The police and especially the dark forces gathered facts and interrogated people.

The worker Pala from the torch factory said that he received the already opened letter which was addressed to Anna Maruscakova, who did not come to work the 3rd of June in 1942.

After having read the letter he called the 'Gendarmerie' in Slany and told them that he holds a very important letter in his hands and that they shall come and take this letter.



Sergeant Vybiral had the opinion that this letter was „an ordinary love letter“, „which of course can't be really understood by 'outsiders'“. Pala apparently answered him: “You are wrong; I think that this is one of the offenders [...]. I wish you already would have caught him, so that we can have some peace and quiet.”

Station no 4: act of revenge

After having gathered some information but not enough, the local dark forces, the police and the powerful people in the capital far away, wanted to do something in order to demonstrate their power to the public. In the capital they therefore decided immediately to take action.

“The 9th of June in 1942 at 7:45 pm, K.H. Frank from Berlin [...] tells me by telephone that due to a [...] conference the village Liditz has to be treated immediatly as follows:

All male adults have to be shot

All women have to be sent to a concentration camp

All children have to be gathered and as far as capable for a 'germanization' [...] brought to 'good' families. The leftovers are subjected to another education.

The village has to be burned down and raised completely to the ground. The fire service has to be called.”

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Station no 5: Nearly the end:

The evening of 9th of Jun in 1942, the secret police service surrounds Lidice and blocks all access points. During the following night the inhabitants of the village were gathered together. All 172 men who were more than 15 years old were shot the next day.

Another nine men, who were working during the night in the coalmines close by and seven pregnant women were brought to Prague, where the men were shot, while the women could bear their children.

The other 195 women were deported to a very brutal prison, where 52 of them were killed. After the seven pregnant women gave birth to their children, the children were taken away from them and the women were deported to the concentration camp Ravensbrück.

The 98 children from the village were sent to the camp called “Umwandererzentrale Lietzmannstadt” and they were segregated by racial criteria. Thirteen children were brought to the “Lebensborn-Heim”. The other children were deported and were gassed.

Finale: The new beginning:

A few weeks after the liberation of Germany from Hitler and his regime of fascism the Czech government decided to build up a new Lidice. Many people, especially youngsters from the Czech-Slovakian republic and from other countries all over the world contributed to the setting up of the new village; A new settlement arose where the inhabitants have been living till this day. Lidice is alive!

Today you can find a memorial site in the valley of Lidice, which is surrounded by a huge rosery. Rose trees from 25 different countries are growing in this huge garden. This „rosery of friendship“ was planted in 1955. This is how the rose became a sign of Lidice, a sign of love and love is stronger than violence.

Lidice today is also on the agenda for programs of a kind of civic education, which is dedicated to exchange and solidarity, self-determination and justice.

The youth educational institute 'LidiceHaus' is a vivid place, where the development and the learning for democracy as well as the dialogue with and between the cultures and religions take place.

Also in Bremen, behind the LidiceHaus a rosery as a sign for solidarity with the Czech village Lidice was planted during an international youth camp.

The German "Institut für Zeitgeschichte" wrote down the complete history of Lidice:

http://www.ifz-muenchen.de/heftarchiv/1985_4.pdf

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In Lidice :

Lidicke utrpeni / Suffering of Lidice

http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GCNXHB

More Information about this Cache in the LidiceHaus Bremen und www.geocaching.com
