

THE CZECH LEFT WING RECOLLECTED

Miloš Hájek

In 2011, Miloš Hájek published his memoirs in the Czech language. Born in 1921, Hájek became a communist during the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. He joined the resistance. In 1944, he was arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to death by a German special court. He escaped execution because uprising had begun in Prague by May 1945. After the war, Hájek worked as a historian and journalist, and during the 1960s he sought to advance the cause of reformed socialism. In 1996, he was awarded the title “Righteous Among the Nations” by the state of Israel because in occupied Prague he had rescued Jewish people.

Bohemia offers a German translation of the Chapter “Imprisonment”. In it, Hájek recounts his arrest, the time in jail, fellow prisoners and guards, the court proceedings and the torturous weeks and months in his cell, torn between the expectation of the death sentence being executed and the hope that he might yet be liberated somehow.