

## THE ASSASSINATION OF REINHARD HEYDRICH

Heydrich was one of the top leaders of Nazi Germany. He served as the Acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia — basically the Nazi governor of the Czech lands — and was often called “the Butcher of Prague.” He was responsible for organizing Nazi control over occupied Czechoslovakia and for planning the Holocaust.

Two Czechoslovak soldiers, Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš, who had been trained in Great Britain, were sent on a secret mission called Operation Anthropoid. Their goal was to kill Heydrich in Prague. They attacked his car on May 27, 1942, and Heydrich died from his injuries a few days later.

The assassination was a major success for the resistance — it showed that even a small, occupied country could fight back against Nazi power. However, the Nazis responded with brutal revenge: they destroyed 2 entire villages, Lidice and Ležáky, and killed hundreds of innocent people.

This event remains one of the most dramatic and tragic moments of WWII in Central Europe — and an important example of courage, sacrifice, and the fight for freedom.

Author’s note: This drama performance is highly simplified; some people who were part of this event are not even included in the performance.

Klára Konečná

List of roles:

**Antonie Březinová:** Brigadier General **František Moravec**, chief of the Czechoslovak military intelligence (and author of the idea to kill Reinhard Heydrich) + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Filip Chytil:** Acting Reich Protector **Reinhard Heydrich** + the **plane navigator** - double role

**Johana Drexlerová:** **Johannes Klein**, Heydrich’s bodyguard and private driver + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Ignác Karczub:** Czechoslovak soldier **Jan Kubiš**

**Klára Konečná:** **Jan Zelenka-Hajský**, Anti-Nazi fighter, one of the founders of the Sokol resistance network and of the group Říjen, which was part of the Sokol resistance network + **The Narrator** - double role

**Anežka Marie Macková:** **Nazi soldier n. 1** + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Jana Milerová:** **Nazi soldier n. 3** + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Luisa Smejkalová:** Chief Police Inspector **Václav Král** + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Jindřich Strejček:** Czechoslovak soldier **Jozef Gabčík**

**Aneta Ticháčková:** **Nazi soldier n. 2** + **A member of the group Říjen** - double role

**Karolína Vašků:** Major General **Colin Gubbins** (head of the British Special Operations Executive, organized the training of specially trained military agents, including Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš) + **František Josef Šafařík** (he helped the resistance during WWII by providing the group Říjen with information about Heydrich's movements and plans, which made the assassination possible) - double role

Vysvětlení:

Explanation:

Sokolská odbojová síť (jinak také Jindra) – byla tajná odbojová organizace během druhé světové války v Protektorátu Čechy a Morava, kterou tvořili převážně členové Sokola. Pomáhali organizovat odboj proti nacistům, shromažďovali informace, šířili ilegální tiskoviny a připravovali sabotáže.

The Sokol resistance network (also known as “Jindra”) – was a secret resistance organization in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia during WWII, composed mainly of members of the Sokol gymnastics movement. It carried out resistance activities against the Nazis, gathered intelligence, distributed illegal publications, and prepared acts of sabotage.

Protektorát Čechy a Morava – byl okupační správní

útvár nacistického Německa na území českých zemí.

Vznikl 16. března 1939 po okupaci Československa.

Formálně měl omezenou autonomii s prezidentem

Emilem Háchou a českou vládou, ale skutečnou moc

vykonával říšský protektor jmenovaný Německem.

Hlavním cílem bylo využití českého průmyslu pro válečné účely a postupná germanizace obyvatelstva. Protektorát existoval až do osvobození v květnu 1945.

The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia – was an occupation administrative unit of Nazi Germany on the territory of the Czech lands. It was established on March 16, 1939, after the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Formally, it had limited autonomy with President Emil Hácha and a Czech government, but real power was exercised by the Reich Protector appointed by Germany.

The main goal was to exploit Czech industry for war purposes and gradually Germanize the population. The Protectorate existed until liberation in May 1945.

Skupina Říjen – byla jedna z odbojových skupin, která vznikla v rámci sokolského odboje a měla za úkol především pomoc parašutistům s organizací realizací atentátu.

Group Říjen – a resistance group within the Sokol

network whose main job was to help Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík with the organization and realization of the assassination.

Záchytné adresy – tajná místa, kde se odboj mohl scházet, skrývat lidi, předávat zprávy nebo uchovávat materiál.

Safe addresses – secret locations used by resistance members to hide people or material, meet or exchange messages during WWII.

**Scene n. 1** – The office of František Moravec

Colin Gubbins knocks 3 times on the door.

**František Moravec:** Come in!

Gubbins takes off his military cap before speaking.

**Colin Gubbins:** Excuse me, General. The Czechoslovak soldiers are waiting outside, as you requested.

**František Moravec:** Bring them in, please.

**Colin Gubbins:** Of course, General.

Gubbins leaves the room and comes back after a while with Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík. Meanwhile, when the Major General is outside, František Moravec takes a sip of his coffee.

**Colin Gubbins:** Here they are, sir.

**František Moravec:** Thank you.

Gubbins gives a slight bow to Moravec, salutes, and leaves.

**Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík (together):** Hello, General!

Kubiš and Gabčík give Moravec a slight bow and shake his hand.

**František Moravec:** Hello! It's very good to meet you. As you surely know, you've been chosen from many other men for a special covert operation that could help free your country from the German occupation. Out of 2,000 men, only 24 were selected for the special training under the British SOE\* - and only two of them were chosen for the operation itself. You must be among the very best to have made it this far!

**Jan Kubiš:** Thank you, sir, but I wasn't actually meant to be here.

It was supposed to be Karel Svoboda. He got injured during training, so they sent me instead.

\* Special Operations Executive (SOE) - Oddělení pro zvláštní operace, sekce britské zpravodajské služby během 2. světové války, zaměřená na vedení boje nestandardními metodami

**František Moravec:** I'm sure that you'll be just as good as Svoboda would have been. You're all brave men and your country will remember you for this!

**František Moravec:** Now, have a seat, please. We've got a lot of work to do.

**Scene n. 2** – Meanwhile in Prague...

Reinhard Heydrich sits behind his desk, surrounded by documents and

some stationery, and he's writing something. After a moment, he stands up, walks to the window, lights a cigarette and stares out over the city.

Suddenly, Johannes Klein knocks on the door.

**Reinhard Heydrich:** Who is it?

**Johannes Klein:** It's Klein, sir.

**Reinhard Heydrich:** Come in!

**Reinhard Heydrich:** What do you want? Why are you disturbing me? Don't you see I have a lot of work to do?! You'd better say something important!

Heydrich's voice is sharp and impatient.

Klein stands stiffly at attention, avoiding eye contact. His voice is quite nervous but still firm.

**Johannes Klein:** Apologies, sir. I bring a report. Another transport left this morning. Around five hundred Jews. The numbers keep rising.

**Heydrich** says coldly:

**Reinhard Heydrich:** Good. Let it rise. Go now! And bring me some cognac.

Heydrich exhales smoke slowly.

**Johannes Klein:** Certainly, sir.

Johannes Klein gives him a slight bow and quickly leaves.

**Scene n. 3** – Back in London...

Moravec, Gabčík and Kubiš are sitting around a table. A large map is spread out in front of them, with three cups of coffee placed nearby. The room is silent. Tension hangs in the air. Gabčík and Kubiš are full of expectations.

**Jozef Gabčík:** So... what are we gonna start with?

**František Moravec:** Before we start planning anything, you must understand what our Operation Anthropoid truly involves. You're here voluntarily, yes - but you still don't know exactly what you're being asked to do.

Gabčík and Kubiš exchange worried glances.

You've been chosen for a very special and dangerous mission. If you accept this - there's no turning back.

**Jan Kubiš:** What is it? Tell us!

**František Moravec:** Your mission is not sabotage. It's an assassination. The target... is Reinhard Heydrich. The Acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia - a man whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands, not just your people.

Gabčík and Kubiš exchange a horrified look - but there's determination in their eyes. Kubiš clenches his fists.

**Jan Kubiš:** That's crazy. We're going to kill Heydrich!

**Jozef Gabčík:** Yes, we are.

**František Moravec:** If this is your final decision, we can start.

Moravec gives a faint sigh of relief.

**František Moravec:** First of all, we need to figure out how to get you somewhere near Prague...

**Scene n. 4** – Two months later, on the night of 28th to 29th December 1941

Kubiš and Gabčík are on a plane. Suddenly, the navigator starts to speak through their transmitter. The voice cracks.

**Navigator:** Operation Anthropoid, prepare for exit. You will jump in 2 minutes. In the final 10 seconds, the plane's door will begin to open. Good luck.

Gabčík nods slightly, his face tense.

**Jozef Gabčík:** Understood. Thank you.

**Jozef Gabčík:** You alright?

**Jan Kubiš:** Yeah...

The plane's door slowly opens, and the cabin is filled with the roar of the engine and the wind.

**Jozef Gabčík:** Let's count to three. 1, 2...3!

They jump. After a while, they start to see the city better.

**Jan Kubiš:** Open your parachute! Now!

**Jozef Gabčík:** OK – I'm trying!

After a while, they land on a field. Gabčík groans in pain.

**Jan Kubiš:** What happened?

**Jozef Gabčík:** I hurt my leg! I must have landed wrong.

**Jan Kubiš:** Oh, no! Can you walk?

**Jozef Gabčík:** I don't think so. You must help me.

**Jan Kubiš:** Alright. Lean on me. We should find our safe address.

But how are we gonna do that? You're injured, it's really dark and I can't even recognize this place. Do you remember studying the map of Ejovice, the place we were supposed to land at? This just doesn't look familiar to me... What if we landed at a wrong place?

**Jozef Gabčík:** But how could that happen? We had it all planned.

And we had a navigator. You probably can't recognize it because it's dark.

**Jan Kubiš:** Alright, but anyway. We can't stay here and there's no way we'll find our safe address right now. Do you see that house? There is a small garden shed next to it. We can try to hide there till the morning.

**Jozef Gabčík:** It's risky, but it seems like we have no choice.

Perhaps we'll find our safe address tomorrow.

Kubiš supports Gabčík, and they move slowly across the dark field.

They're getting closer to the garden shed.

**Jan Kubiš:** It's safe. No one's here. Let's break the door open.

They break in and put down everything they carry – parachutes, weapons, and heavy containers. After that, Kubiš helps Gabčík to sit and he takes out a bandage from his bag to wrap Gabčík's wounded leg.

**Scene n. 5** – The next day

Kubiš is already awake in the garden shed. He nudges Gabčík to wake him up.

**Jan Kubiš:** Wake up! It's almost 8 AM. (He checks his watch) Listen, I was right. I went outside to check where we are, but I still can't recognize this place at all! We need to ask someone, but very carefully. I have an idea.

**Jozef Gabčík:** Alright, tell me.

**Jan Kubiš:** There's a church nearby, so I you could go there and ask the priest. It's probably the safest option. I could tell him that I was on my way back home from work in the Riech, but got lost.

**Jozef Gabčík:** Sounds good to me. Come back soon, I'll wait here.

**The Narrator:** The local priest, František Samek, told Jan Kubiš where he was and he also provided him with contacts of people that later helped the skydivers to get to Rokycany.

Due to a mistake of the plane operator, Jan Kubiš and Josef Gabčík ended up around 100 km away from Ejpovice u Plzně - the place they were supposed to land at. They landed near a small village Nehvizdy.

After a few days, they finally got into Rokycany where they met one of the resistance members, Václav Stehlík. The operation could continue again as planned. He took them in his car to Plzeň, where they met the Chief Police Inspector, Václav Král...