

## The reflections of resistance and post-war struggle

War had had a major effect on people's lives around the world. Shootings, unfairness to ethnic minorities, deportations and exiles, food and other products deficiencies – all of these posed an enormous threat to everyone's health and well-being. Many countries had been occupied and lost their independence during World War II. One of them was Lithuania. Lithuania had had a difficult past and many threats to its freedom throughout the history. However, our nation has always been known as very militant and determined to protect Lithuania. Actions after World War II proved that we have these qualities. Many people risked their lives by not losing the hope of Lithuania being free: some hid in the woods and fought with arms, some promoted ideas about independence of Lithuania in literature, others illegally taught our language, but we all know that Lithuanians did everything they could to make it possible to Lithuania separating from USSR and they succeeded.

A huge contribution to our independence was made by partisans – a part of resistance movements. Partisans were regular civils, usually men, who were commanded by soldiers to fight with occupants. Their main aim was freedom of Lithuania. Partisans usually lived in the woods or hid in people's, who supported their ideas, houses. Many of them were caught, arrested, imprisoned, exiled or even assassinated for their activity against government of USSR. Partisans divided themselves into regions, areas, districts, so they were one of the most organized resistance movements, which helped them succeed. One of the most famous partisans and the commandant of Dainava region was Adolfas Ramanauskas - Vanagas. He was not only a partisan, but an educator and a journalist. He significantly conducted to fights of resistance and sacrificed his life for Lithuania's future. Adolfas Ramanauskas - Vanagas was given various awards after Lithuania finally got its independence. One of the ways he was honored was by giving his name to a school in Alytus, which is a heart of Dainava region. I am happy that I attend this school; it helps me remember what difficult situation Lithuania was in a few decades ago.

Our nation not only immersed in armed fight but in a verbal one as well. Harsh regimen in the country during occupation was depicted in literature and other forms of inscriptions. Many talented Lithuanians tried to portray everyday life of ordinary people and torture or suffering of Lithuanians who did not get on with government of USSR in fiction books. Because of press censorship writers risked their well-being by telling the truth in their creations. Other people

tried to lessen the impact occupants were doing to people by cherishing our language and highlighting distinctive features of Lithuania. This inspired many people not to give up and continuously fight for our freedom. By fostering idea of Lithuania's independence and not letting people forget how to talk in their mother tongue these people hugely contributed to Lithuania regaining autonomy in 1990. That is why these authors and public figures are respected and widely talked about nowadays. Their heritage is used to raise public spirit and nationality.

All in all, Lithuania definitely had had an extremely difficult past and our nation had to go through a lot until we finally became independent. Stories about partisans and soldiers who immolated their lives by trying to defend Lithuania represent how hard people had to fight for their country. These and other sacrifices are delineated in fiction books or diaries, which once again show the difficulties of Lithuania during World War II and promote the idea of loving your country.

Student: Justina Paušaitė, IVd, 18 year old,

Supervisor: Erika Balynienė, English teacher