



SLOVENSKO-ANGLICKÁ BILINGVÁLNA VERZIA

*

SLOVAK-ENGLISH BILINGUAL VERSION



THE ADVENTURES OF
 MILAN RASTISLAV
ŠTEFÁNIK

Tomáš Kriššák, Tomáš Eniac Cíger, Frenky Hříbal

Translated by Krištof Klestil and Dominique Noël

I.

”

Ocitol som sa v živote. Videl som tie obrovské vlny, tie nemilosrdné vlny, i bolo mi jasno, že vzdor všetkej sebadôvere, vzdor nádeje a povzbudzovania priateľov, vzdor nadšenia môjho a relatívneho šťastia, výhľady do budúcnosti sú veľmi nejasné. I pustil som sa pokojným srdcom v boj. Pokojným, lebo ďalším vývinom uvedomil som si, že účelnosť života nie je v sláve svetskej, ale v zdokonaľovaní nášho duševného človeka.

“

I

“I was once again back in the world of the living. I was aware of those huge waves, those merciless waves and I understood that in spite of all my self-confidence, in spite of my friends’ hope and encouragements, in spite of my enthusiasm and relative happiness, the future remained very uncertain. And so I threw myself into battle with a calm heart. I was serene because I understood that the meaning of life is not to be found in worldly achievements, but in perfecting our spiritual being”

Milan Rastislav Štefánik sa narodil v rodine evanjelického farára ako šieste z deviatich detí. Štúdiá započal v rodnej obci Košariská a pokračoval v Prahe, kde bol ovplyvnený myšlienkami T. G. Masaryka. Neskôr zmenil svoje zameranie a rozhodol sa študovať astronómiu na filozofickej fakulte. Po štúdiách koncom roka 1904 prichádza do Paríža splniť si sen a stať sa známym astronómom. Avšak stretáva sa s existenčnými problémami. Neskôr sa dostáva medzi kruhy známych hvezdárov a podniká vedecké výpravy na Mont Blanc, do Turkmenistanu, Ruska, strednej Ázie či do Afriky. Hľadá vhodné miesto pre vybudovanie hvezdárne. Ešte pred začiatkom prvej svetovej vojny získa francúzske občianstvo a onedlho aj vyznamenanie Rádu Rytiera čestnej légie za bádatelské a diplomatické úspechy. Úspechy žne v roku 1915 aj ako vojak na fronte. Vďaka svojim známostiam sa koncom roka stretáva s emigrantmi Edvardom Benešom a T. G. Masarykom, aby ich spojila myšlienka spoločného štátu. V roku 1916 zakladá spolu s nimi Národnú radu Československú, istú dočasnú vládu budúceho štátu. Podniká nábor dobrovoľníkov v Rusku, Rumunsku a v USA. V októbri 1918 sa stáva ministrom vojny v Československu. Buduje plány rozvoja nového štátu a plánuje sobáš s markízou Giulianou Benzoniovou. Dňa 4. mája 1919 odlieta z letiska Campoformido v Taliansku na lietadle Caproni 450 spolu s poručíkom Scottim, seržantom Merlinom a rádiotelegrafistom Aggiustom. Zopár kilometrov pred cieľom jeho cesty neďaleko obce Ivanka pri Dunaji sa z doposiaľ nezistených príčin lietadlo zrútilo. Milan Rastislav Štefánik je pochovaný v mohyle na Bradle, ležiacej v jeho rodnom kraji medzi Brezovou pod Bradlom a Košariskami.

MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK WAS THE SIXTH OF NINE CHILDREN OF AN EVANGELICAL PRIEST. HE BEGAN HIS STUDIES IN HIS HOMETOWN KOŠARISKÁ AND CONTINUED THEM IN PRAGUE, WHERE HE WAS INFLUENCED BY THE IDEAS OF T. G. MASARYK. LATER ON, HE DECIDED TO MOVE ON AND STUDY ASTRONOMY AT THE FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY.

AFTER HIS STUDIES, AT THE END OF 1904, HE WENT TO PARIS TO PURSUE HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A WELL-KNOWN ASTRONOMER. HOWEVER, HE WAS BESET WITH MATERIAL DIFFICULTIES. LATER ON HE JOINED WELL-KNOWN ASTRONOMERS' CIRCLES AND ORGANIZED SCIENTIFIC EXCURSIONS TO MONT BLANC, TURKMENISTAN, RUSSIA, CENTRAL ASIA AND AFRICA, LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE LOCATION ON WHICH HE COULD BUILD AN OBSERVATORY. HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FRENCH CITIZENSHIP BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND SOON AFTER, WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF HONOUR FOR HIS EXPLORATORY AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS. IN 1915, HE WAS ALSO REWARDED FOR THE PART HE HAD PLAYED AS SOLDIER DURING THE WAR. AT THE END OF THAT YEAR AND THANKS TO HIS CONTACTS, HE JOINED FORCES WITH EDVARD BENEŠ AND T.G. MASARYK EXILED IN PARIS, TO EXPLORE THE IDEA OF A COMMON STATE FOR CZECHS AND SLOVAKS. TOGETHER THEY FOUNDED THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1916, A SORT OF TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUTURE COUNTRY. HE SET ABOUT RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS IN RUSSIA, ROMANIA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN OCTOBER 1918 ŠTEFÁNIK WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE STARTED PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWLY CREATED STATE WHILE ALSO MAKING PLANS FOR HIS UPCOMING MARRIAGE WITH THE MARCHIONESS GIULIANA BENZONI. ON THE 4TH OF MAY, 1919, IN THE COMPANY OF LIEUTENANT SCOTTI, SERGEANT MERLIN AND THE RADIO TELEGRAPHIST, HE TOOK OFF FROM CAMPOFORMIDO AIRPORT IN ITALY ABORD A CAPRONI 450. JUST A FEW MILES FROM HIS DESTINATION, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF IVANKA PRI DUNAJI, THE PLANE CRASHED FOR REASONS WHICH REMAIN UNKNOWN TO THIS DAY. MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK WAS LAID TO REST NEAR THE BRADLO CAIRN IN HIS BIRTH REGION BETWEEN BREZOVÁ POD BRADLOM AND KOŠARISKÁ.

1880, KOŠARISKÁ



BUDÚCNOSŤ
MOJA
JE BUĎ
SKVELÁ,



BUĎ NIJAKÁ.



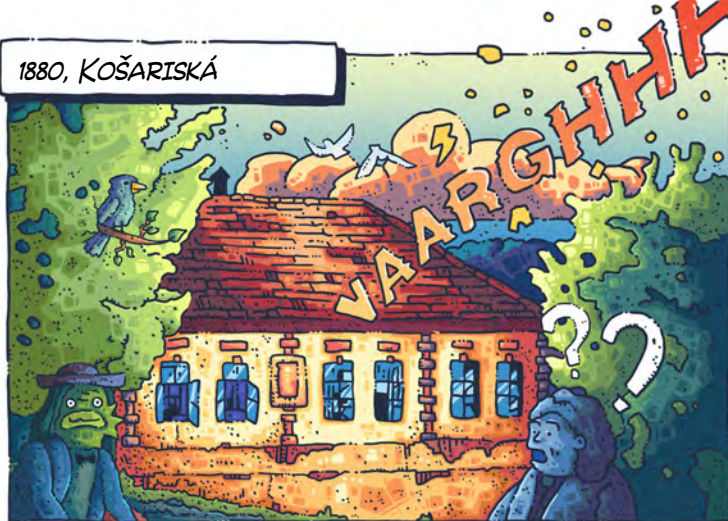
MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK

POCHÁDZAL ZO SKROMNÝCH POMEROV.
MAL 11 SÚRODENCŮV, NO DOSPELOSŤ SA
NAPCKON DOŽILO IBA DEVÄŤ DETÍ.

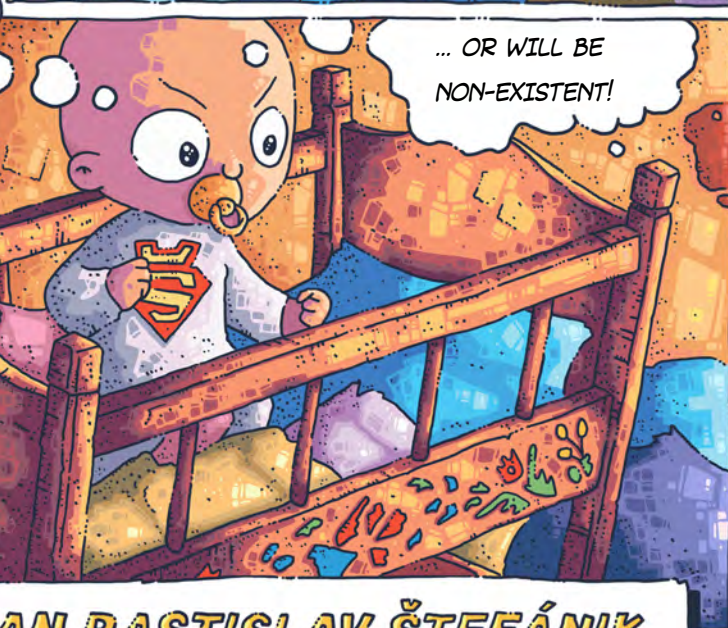
1887, KOŠARISKÁ



1880, KOŠARISKÁ



MY FUTURE WILL
EITHER BE GREAT...



... OR WILL BE
NON-EXISTENT!



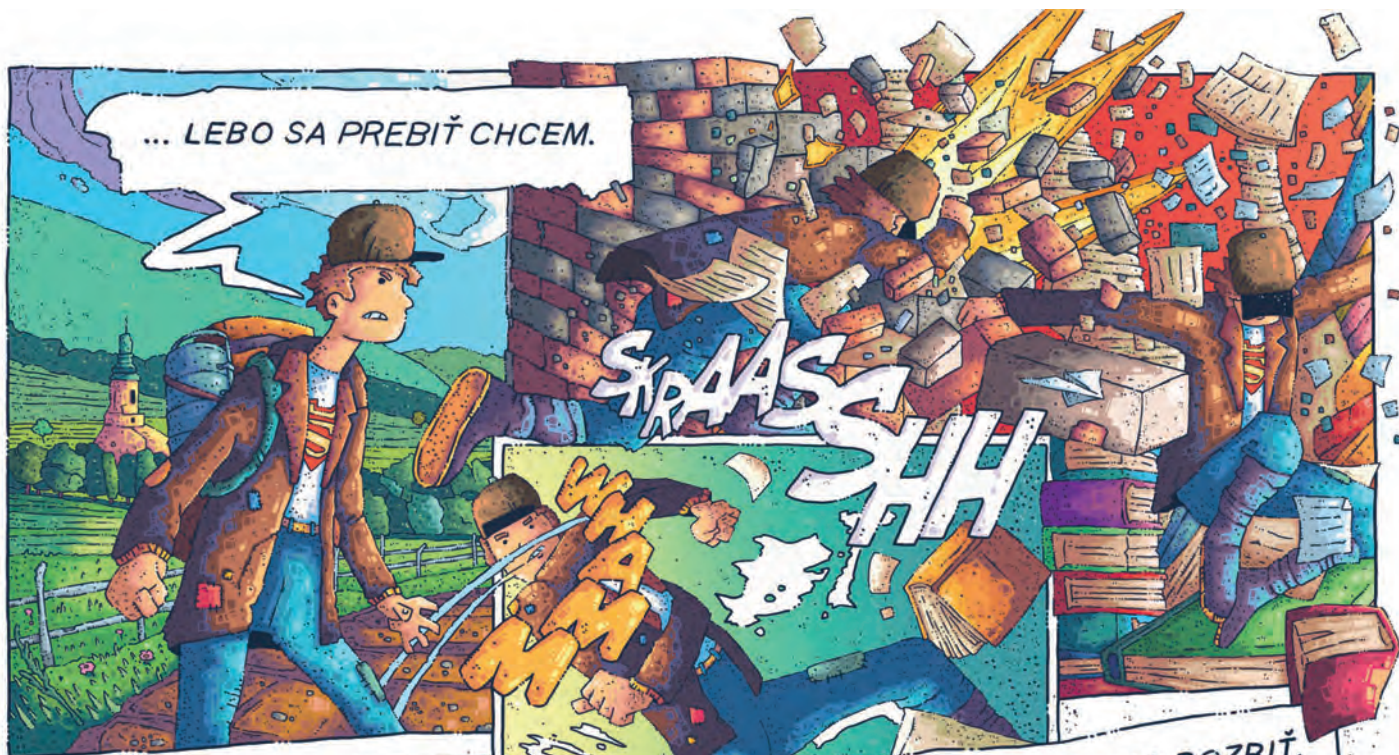
MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK

HAD A HUMBLE UPBRINGING. HE HAD ELEVEN SIBLINGS
BUT ONLY EIGHT OF THEM SURVIVED TO ADULthood.

1887, KOŠARISKÁ



I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, ...



... LEBO SA PREBIŤ CHCEM.

SKRAAS
HH

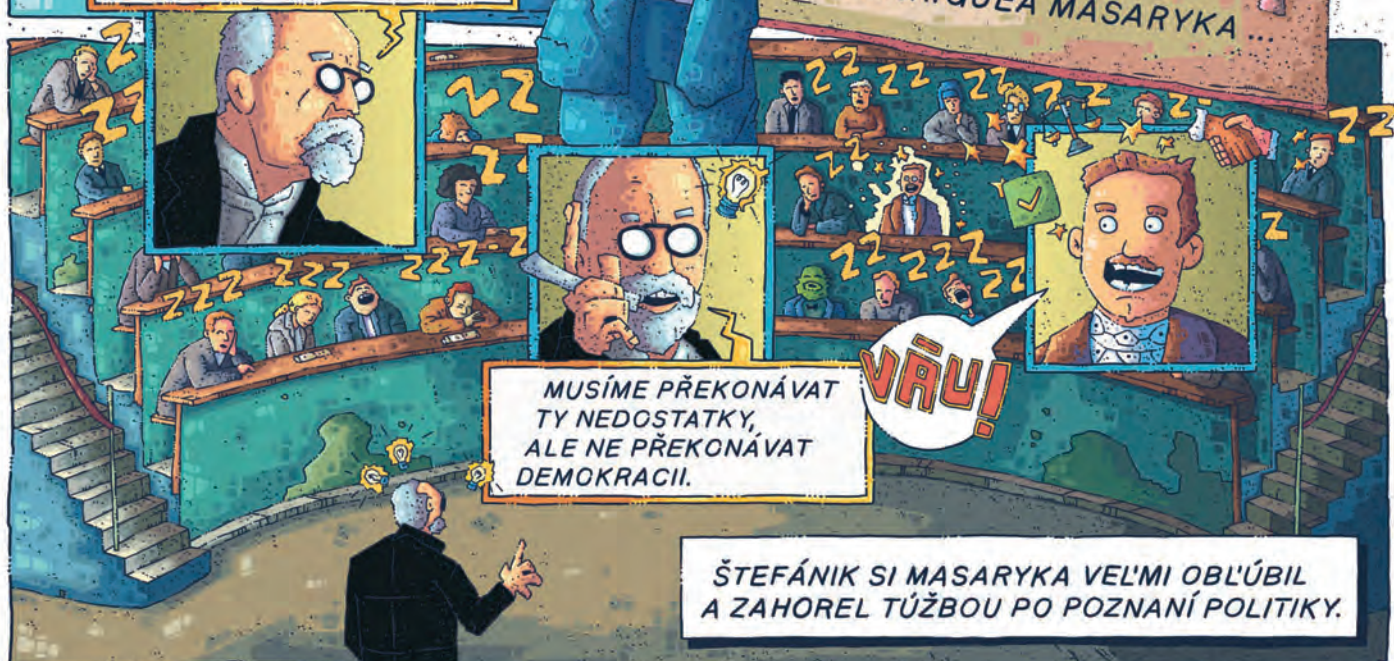
PREKÁŽKY TREBA ROZBIŤ,
A NIE SA IM PODDÁVAŤ.

PO STREDOŠKOLSKÝCH
ŠTÚDIÁCH CDIŠIEL MILAN RASTISLAV
DO PRAHY, KDE ZAČAL NAVŠTEVOVAŤ
ODBOR STAVEBNÉ INŽINIERSTVO.



MÁ-LI NAŠE DEMOKRACIE
SVÉ NEDOSTATKY,

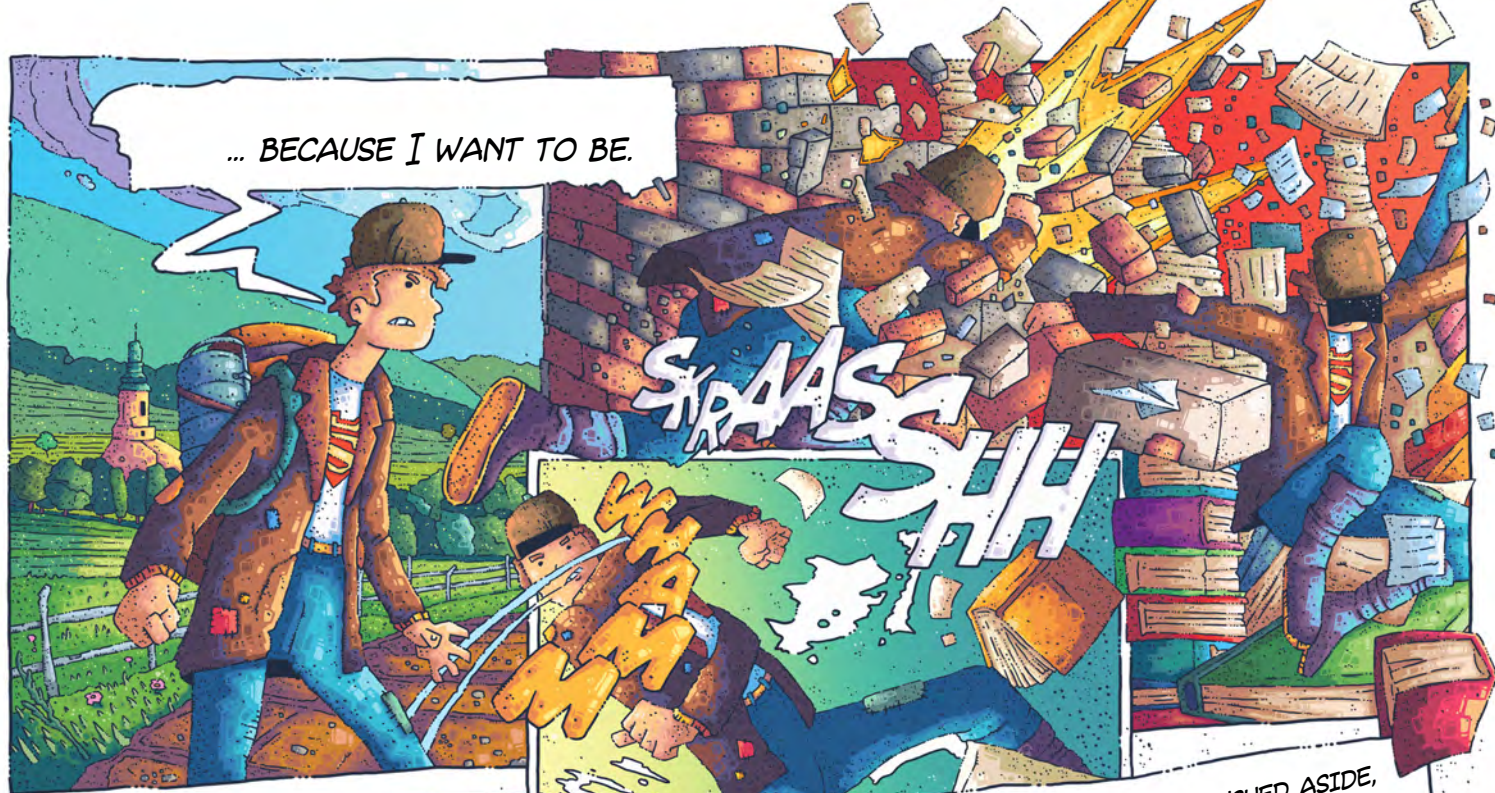
PRÁVE POBYT
V MESTE NA VLTAVE
URČIL ĎALŠIE
SMEROVANIE
TALENTOVANÉHO
SLOVÁKA. ŠTEFÁNIK
VSTÚPIL DO
VLASTENECKÉHO
SPOLKU DETVAN,
ZÍSKAL ŠTIPENDIUM,
STAL SA STÚPENCOM
PROFESORA TOMÁŠA
GARRIGUEA MASARYKA ...



MUSÍME PŘEKONÁVAT
TY NEDOSTATKY,
ALE NE PŘEKONÁVAT
DEMOKRACII.

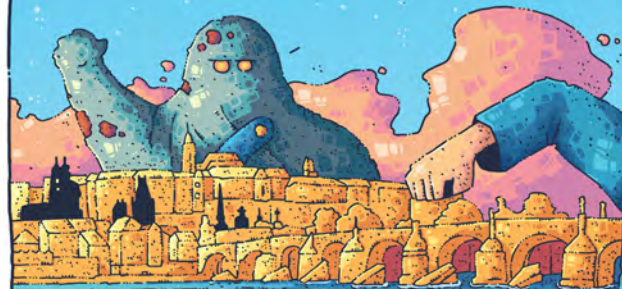
VĀU!

ŠTEFÁNIK SI MASARYKA VELMI OBLÚBIL
A ZAHOREL TÚŽBOU PO POZNANÍ POLITIKY.



OBSTACLES SHOULD BE PUSHED ASIDE,
NOT GIVEN IN TO.

AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL, MILAN WENT TO
PRAGUE TO STUDY CIVIL ENGINEERING.



SHOULD OUR DEMOCRACY HAVE
SHORTCOMINGS,

IT WAS HERE, ON THE BANKS
OF THE RIVER VLTAVA, THAT
THE FUTURE OF THE TALENTED
SLOVAK WAS DECIDED. ŠTEFÁNIK
JOINED THE PATRIOTIC
ASSOCIATION DETVAN,
OBTAINED A SCHOLARSHIP
AND BECAME A FOLLOWER
OF TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK...



THEN IT IS THESE SHORTCOMINGS
WHICH OUGHT TO BE REMOVED
AND NOT DEMOCRACY ITSELF.

WON OVER BY MASARYK'S IDEALS, ŠTEFÁNIK WANTED
TO GO INTO POLITICS.

V PRAHE VSTUPUJE DO SPOLKU DETVAN, KDE SPOZNÁVA MNOHÉ ĎALŠIE DÔLEŽITÉ OSOBNOSTI NAŠEJ HISTÓRIE.

NEMOŽNO ZOSTAŤ PASÍVNY A OČAKÁVAŤ SPÁSU ZVONKU OD DRUHÝCH. NAIVITA RUSOFILOV SPOLIEHA PRÁVE NA TENTO MESIANIZMUS. MY SLOVÁCI SME STROJCAMI SVOJHO OSUDU A ŠTASTIA.

ČLENOV SPOLKU DETVAN VIEDOL VAVRO ŠROBÁR. OD NEHO ŠTEFÁNIK POCHYTL VZŤAH K DEMOKRACII.

ŠTEFÁNIK SA PRVÝ RAZ ZÚČASTNIL NA ZHROMAŽDENÍ DETVANA 15. OKTÓBRA 1898 V HLAVOVEJ KAVIARNI.

NAZDAR KÁMO

NAZDAR.

NAZDÁREK.

HLAVOVA

HE JOINED THE DETVAN ASSOCIATION IN PRAGUE, WHERE HE MET OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR SLOVAKIAN HISTORY.



YOU CAN'T STAY PASSIVE AND EXPECT OTHERS TO BE YOUR SAVIORS. THIS MESSIANISM IS EXACTLY WHAT RUSSOPHILE NAIVETY EXPECTS. IT IS FOR US SLOVAKS TO TAKE CHARGE OF OUR OWN DESTINY AND HAPPINESS.



VAVRO ŠROBÁR WAS THE DETVAN ASSOCIATION LEADER AND IT WAS FROM HIM THAT ŠTEFÁNIK LEARNT TO APPRECIATE DEMOCRACY.



ON THE 15TH OCTOBER 1898, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ŠTEFÁNIK TOOK PART IN A DETVAN MEETING HELD AT HLAVOVKA CAFÉ – HLAVOVA KAVÁRNA.



HI!

HELLO!

HI THERE!



TU SA PRVÝ KRÁT STRETOL
S JOZEFOM GREGOROM TAJOVSKÝM
A S VERNÝMI KAMARÁTMÍ
ŽIGOM ZIGMUNDÍKOM A JÁNOM PROCHÁZKOM.



MILAN, NOŽE POVEDZ,
ČOMU NOVÉMU SI SA
ZAČAL VENOVAŤ?



ZAČAL SOM PRISPIEVAŤ DO ČASOPISU
HLAS. NÁRODNIARI TROCHU ZÁVIDIA,
ŽE PÍŠEM PRE LIBERÁLOV, ALE IŠIEL
BY SOM PROTI SEBE, KEBY SOM
ZAPREDAL SVOJE HODNOTY.



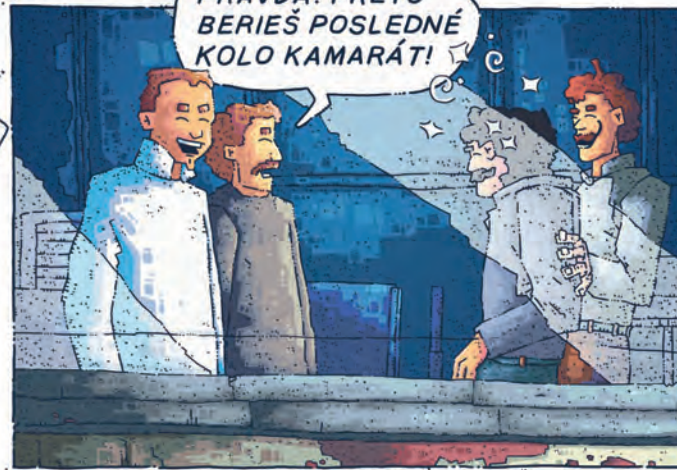
PÁČI SA MI TVOJ
ZÁPAL PRE IDEÁLY,
ALE POČUL SOM, ŽE
TAM MÁTE HLBOKO
DO VRECKA.



VÁŽENÍ HOSTIA,
ZATVÁRAME.



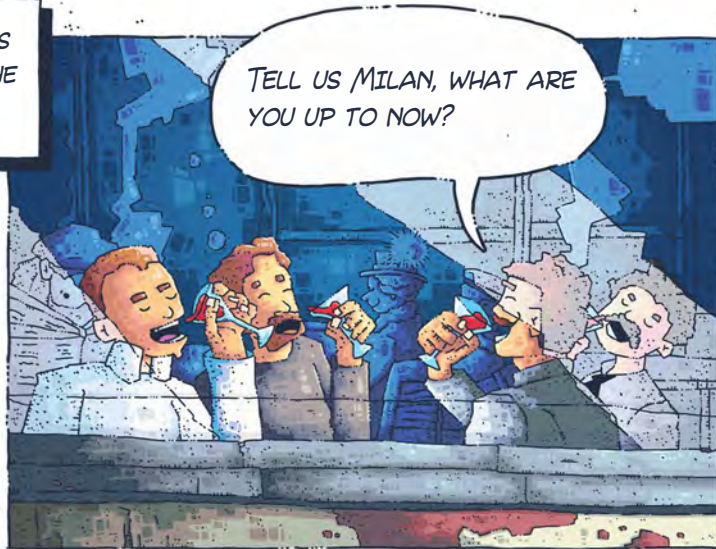
PRAVDA! PRETO
BERIEŠ POSLEDNÉ
KOLO KAMARÁT!



TÝŽDEŇ PO VÝPLATE
A SOM ZASE ŠVORCI



IT WAS THERE THAT HE MET JOZEF GREGOR TAJOVSKÝ AND HIS DEAR FRIENDS ŽIGO ZIGMUNDÍK AND JÁN PROCHÁZKA, FOR THE FIRST TIME.



TELL US MILAN, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

I'VE STARTED CONTRIBUTING TO THE MAGAZINE HLAS. NATIONALISTS TEND TO BLAME ME FOR WRITING FOR THE LIBERALS, BUT I'D BE GOING AGAINST MYSELF IF I WERE TO SELL OUT ON MY OWN VALUES.



I DO LOVE YOUR IDEALIST ENTHUSIASM, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ARE ALL PENNILESS.

DEAR CUSTOMERS, WE'RE CLOSING!



TOO TRUE, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE PAYING FOR THE LAST ROUND, MY FRIEND!



ONLY ONE WEEK HAS GONE BY SINCE PAY DAY AND I'M ALREADY BROKE.





ŠTEFÁNIK NA ŠTÚDIACH V PRAHE VIEDOL SKROMNÝ ŽIVOT. ČASTO SA AJ NIEKOĽKO DNÍ NEMAL ZA ČO NAJESŤ AŽ Z TOHO OCHOREL.



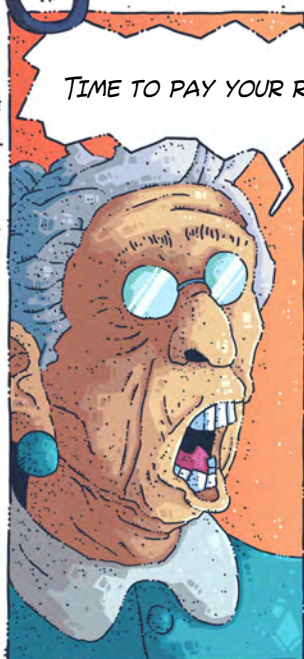
OBČAS MAL TOHO DOSŤ. JEHO PRÍSTAVOM BOLI JEHO SPOLUŽIACI A VINÁRNE.



BOL BY POŠIEL AJ NA ZIMU A CHLAD, KEĎ JEDNU OBZVLÁŠŤ CHLADNÚ ZIMU MRZOL SPOLU S ĎALŠÍMI ŠTUDENTAMI PRED MALOU VINÁRŇOU.



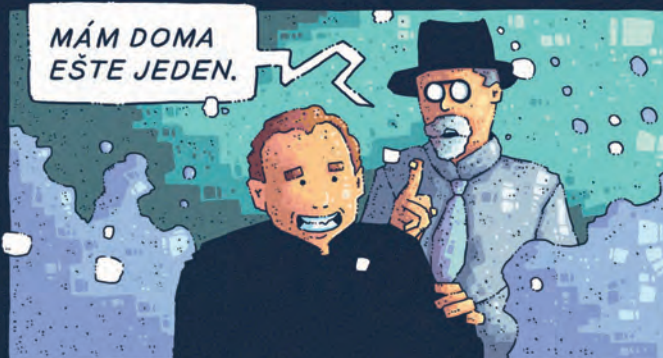
WHILE A STUDENT IN PRAGUE, ŠTEFÁNIK LIVED ON A SMALL BUDGET, SOMETIMES HAVING NOTHING TO EAT FOR DAYS WHICH MADE HIM FALL ILL.



SOMETIMES HE'D HAD ENOUGH. HE TOOK REFUGE IN HIS FRIENDS AND WINE BARS.



ONE PARTICULARLY HARSH WINTER, HE VERY NEARLY DIED OF COLD, SHIVERING WITH OTHER STUDENTS IN FRONT OF A SMALL BAR.



ŠTEFÁNIK BOL OSOBOU PROFESORA MASARYKA ČORAZ VIAC FASCI NOVANÝ. OB DIVOVAL JEHO ZÁSADOVOSŤ A CHARAKTER.

MASARYKOVI PRITOM JEHO ZÁSADY NERAZ SPÓSOBILI ŤAŽKÉ ČASY.

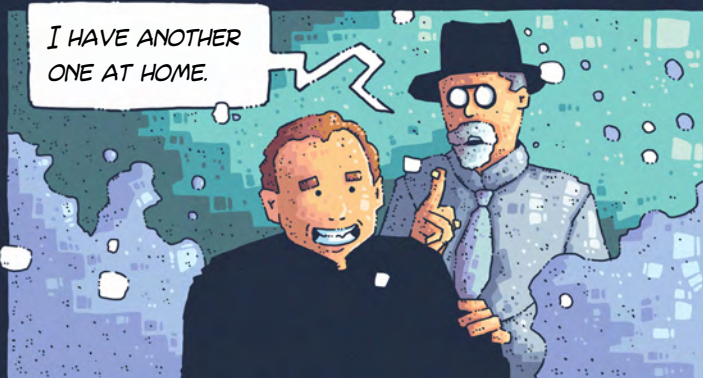
EXTRÉMNY PRÍPAD SA STAL UŽ V ROKU 1899, KEĎ MASARYK ČELIL HNEVU A ÚTOKOM ZO STRANY VEREJNOSTI, KEĎ HÁJIL LEOPOLDA HILSNERA. HILSNER BOL KRIVO OB VINENÝ Z VRAŽDY DEVÄTNÁSTROČNEJ ANEŽKY HRŮZOVEJ. HILSNERIÁDA BOLA ZÁROVEŇ SPOJENÁ S DOVTEDY NAJVÄČŠÍMI PREJAVMI ANTISEMITIZMU V ČECHÁCH.

MASARYK VEREJNE VYSTUPOVAL NAJ MÄ PROTI ROZŠÍRENEJ DOMNIEŇKE, ŽE ŠLO O RITUÁLNU VRAŽDU. PRE SNAHU ODHALIŤ PRAVDU ČELIL HNEVU A ÚTOKOM.

NAPRIEK TOMU USILOVAL O SPRAVODLIVÉ VYŠETRENIE HILSNEROVHO PRÍPADU.

TENTO PRÍBEH NÁM PRIPOMÍNA, ŽE JE POTREBNÉ, ABY SME STÁLI NA STRANE PRAVDY A SPRAVODLIVOSTI BEZ OHĽAHU NA TO, AKÉ VÁŠNE DOMINUJÚ NAD VEREJNOSŤOU.





ŠTEFÁNIK WAS MORE AND MORE FASCINATED BY MASARYK. HE ADMIRERD HIS PERSONALITY AND PRINCIPLES.

HOWEVER, THOSE VERY PRINCIPLES WERE, MORE THAN ONCE, THE CAUSE OF PROBLEMS FOR MASARYK.

ALREADY IN 1889 MASARYK HAD HAD TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE PUBLIC'S ANGER AFTER HAVING DEFENDED LEOPOLD HILSNER WRONGLY ACCUSED OF MURDERING YOUNG ANEŽKA HRŮZOVÁ, WHO WAS ONLY 19 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME. HILSNER'S CASE WAS CONNECTED WITH SOME OF THE WORST ANTI-JEWISH DEMONSTRATIONS IN CZECH COUNTRIES.

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MASARYK OPENLY EXPRESSED HIS OPINIONS, IN PARTICULAR HE FOUGHT AGAINST THE IDEA THAT THEY WERE FACING A RITUAL MURDER. HE WAS DETERMINED THAT THE TRUTH BE UNCOVERED, AS A RESULT OF WHICH HE WAS EXPOSED TO ANGER AND HATE.

IN SPITE OF THAT, HE FOUGHT FOR HILSNER'S CASE TO BE INVESTIGATED FAIRLY.

THIS STORY IS A REMINDER THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO BE ON THE SIDE OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE, WHATEVER THE PASSIONS GOVERNING THE PREVAILING SCHOOL OF THOUGHT.



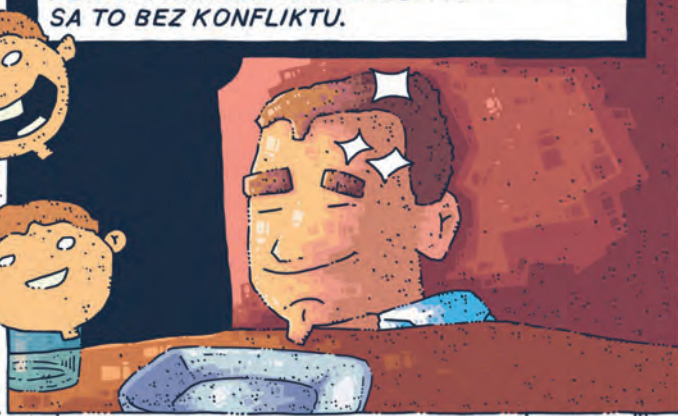


ŠTEFÁNIK POČAS ŠTÚDIA V PRAHE PREHODNOCOVAL SVOJ VZŤAH K VIERE V BOHA. PODĽA NIEKTORÝCH HISTORIKOV SA TIETO ZMENY UDIALI POD VPLYVOM MASARYKOVYCH PREDNÁŠOK. MASARYK BOL HLBOKO VERIACI, ALE VYZDVIHOVAL MYŠLIENKY HUMANIZMU, MRAVNÉ KONANIE A LÁSKU. NO OSTRO VYSTUPOVAL PROTI DOGMÁM A TMÁRSTVU.



ŠTÚDIUM FILOZOFIE A PRÍRODNÝCH VIED IBA POSILNILO JEHO SVETSKÉ VIDENIE SVETA.

PRAHA A VZDELANIE ŠTEFÁNIKA ZMENILO. JEHO RODIČIA NEBOLI Z NOVÝCH ZMIEN NADŠENÍ A NEMALI PRE NE POCHOPENIE, HLAVNE OTEC MAL ZO SYNOVEJ PREMENY HLAVU V SMÚTKU A NEZAOBIŠLO SA TO BEZ KONFLIKTU.



JA S UDIVENÍM NORÍM SA DO VESMÍRU A SNAŽÍM SA URČIŤ V ŇOM SÚRADNICE MOJEJ DUŠE.

ŠTEFÁNIK UKONČIL ŠTÚDIUM TECHNIKY A PRESTÚPIL NA ŠTÚDIUM ASTRONÓMIE.



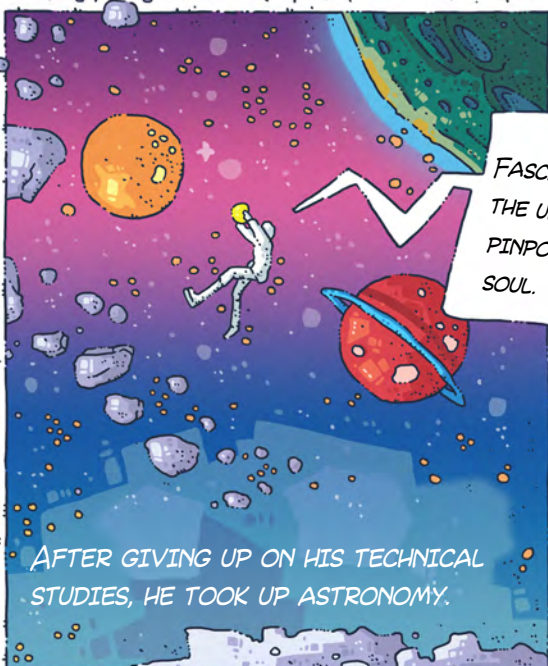
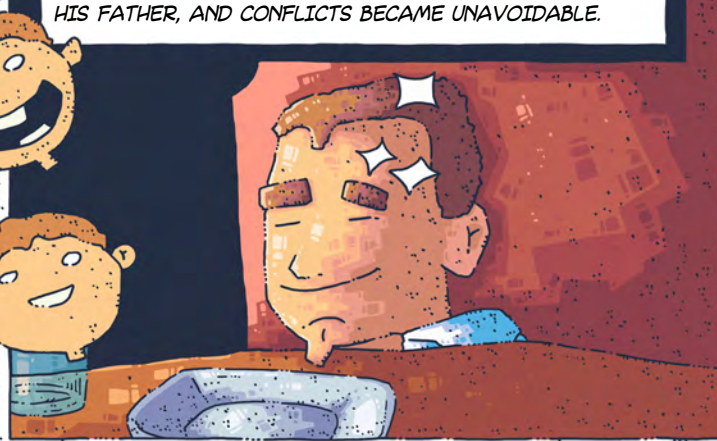
A PRÁVE VĎAKA JEHO, V TOM ČASE ZAISTE NEVŠEDNEJ PROFESII, NAVŠTÍVIL VEĽKÚ ČASŤ SVETA.



DURING HIS STUDIES IN PRAGUE, ŠTEFÁNIK ALSO BEGAN TO QUESTION HIS FAITH. ACCORDING TO SOME HISTORIANS THESE CHANGES WERE BROUGHT ABOUT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MASARYK'S TALKS AND LECTURES. MASARYK WAS A MAN OF DEEP FAITH, BUT HE STRONGLY BELIEVED IN HUMANS, MORAL ACTIONS AND LOVE, HE WAS OPPOSED TO DOGMATISM AND OBSCURANTISM.

STUDYING PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCES ONLY HELPED STRENGTHEN HIS SECULAR VIEW OF THE WORLD.

PRAGUE AND STUDIES CHANGED ŠTEFÁNIK. HIS PARENTS WERE NOT IMPRESSED BY THESE CHANGES WHICH SEEMED TO THEM TO BE LARGELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE; IT SADDENED THEM, ESPECIALLY HIS FATHER, AND CONFLICTS BECAME UNAVOIDABLE.



FASCINATED, I DIVE RIGHT INTO THE UNIVERSE AND TRY TO PINPOINT THE COORDINATES OF MY SOUL.

AFTER GIVING UP ON HIS TECHNICAL STUDIES, HE TOOK UP ASTRONOMY.



IT'S THANKS TO HIS PROFESSION, WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME FAIRLY UNCOMMON, THAT HE TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

28. NOVEMBER 1904

ŠTEFÁNIKOV SEN
POZOROVAŤ HVIEZDY
HO ZAVIAL AŽ DO PARÍŽA.

TU DOMA MÁM
VŠETKO TAK RÁD,
ALE PRE NAPLNENIE
SVOJICH SNOV
MUSÍM HLÁDAŤ
NOVÉ MOŽNOSTI.

MEOW.



JANSSENOVA HVEZDÁREŇ.

JANSSEN PRIJAL ŠTEFÁNIKA AKO SVOJHO
ASISTENTA. ŠTEFÁNIK SA NASTAHOVAL
PRIAMO DO HVEZDÁRNE A JANSSENOVA
RODINA HO PRIJALA AKO SVOJHO
ČLENA RODINY.

ASTRONÓMIA JE MIEROU
KULTÚRY, LEBO ČÍM
SME VZDELANEJŠÍ,
TÝM VYSPELEJŠÍM
NÁRODOM SA STÁVAME.

ŠTEFÁNIK SA ZDOKONALIL
AJ V METEOROLÓGII A INÝCH
VEDNÝCH ODBOROCH.

ASTRONÓM POTREBUJE POZNAŤ POZNATKY
Z METEOROLÓGIE, VEĎ AKO INAK MÔŽE
PLÁNOVAŤ SVOJE POZOROVANIA,
KEĎ VOPRED NEVIE, ČI BUDE POČAS
ZATMENIA ZAMRAČENÉ ALEBO JASNÁ OBLOHA.

THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER, 1904

HIS DREAM OF OBSERVING STARS BROUGHT ŠTEFÁNIK TO PARIS.

HERE, IN MY COUNTRY, I LOVE EVERYTHING BUT IF I WANT TO FULFIL MY DREAMS, I HAVE TO GO IN SEARCH OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

MIAOW.



JANSSEN HIRED ŠTEFÁNIK AS ASSISTANT. ŠTEFÁNIK MOVED INTO THE OBSERVATORY ITSELF, AND WAS ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF JANSSEN'S FAMILY.

ASTRONOMY IS A MEASURE OF OUR CULTURE: THE BETTER EDUCATED OUR PEOPLE BECOME AND THE MORE MATURE THEY WILL BE.

ŠTEFÁNIK BECAME SKILLED IN METEOROLOGY AS WELL AS IN OTHER SCIENCES.

AN ASTRONOMER SHOULD BE AWARE OF METEOROLOGICAL EVENTS. HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PLAN OBSERVATIONS IF HE WEREN'T IN A POSITION TO FORESEE THE STATE OF THE SKY DURING AN ECLIPSE.

ŠTEFÁNIK BOL PRVÝM SLOVÁKOM, KTORÝ VYSTÚPIL NA MONT BLANC. PRÁCOU, UMOM A CHARIZMOU SI ZÍSKAL DÔVERU A PODPORU SPRÁVCU HVEZDÁRNE JANSSENA A TEN ROZHODOL, ŽE SA ŠTEFÁNIK V JÚNI 1905 STAL ČLENOM VEDECKEJ VÝPRAVY NA NAJvyššIU HORU EURÓPY, MONT BLANC (4 810 METROV).



PRED VÝSTUPOM NA MONT BLANC ŠTEFÁNIK SPOLU S VÝPRAVOU PRECHÁDZAL CEZ MESTEČKO CHAMONIX.

HEJ, HEJ.

ŠTEFÁNIK WAS THE FIRST SLOVAK TO CLIMB MONT BLANC (4810 M). HIS WORK, HIS SKILLS AND HIS CHARISMA WON THE TRUST AND SUPPORT OF JANSSEN WHO DECIDED IN 1905 THAT ŠTEFÁNIK WAS TO BECOME PART OF A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO EUROPE'S HIGHEST PEAK.



BEFORE THE CLIMB, ŠTEFÁNIK AND MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION WENT THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF CHAMOMIX.



HEY, HEY.



PÁNOVIA! NEVIEM, NEVIEM,
ČI STE SI PRE SVOJ VÝSTUP
ZVOLILI ŠĽASTNÝ DEŇ.

TOTO NIE JE DOBA PRE VÝSTUP NA MONT BLANC.
JE EŠTE MOC SKORO. PÁR DNÍ PRED VAMI SA
O TO POKÚSILA PODOBNÁ VÝPRAVA Z ANGLICKA.
A VERU BOLI RADI, ŽE SA IM PODARILO VRÁTIŤ
NECHÁVAJÚC ZA
SEBOU DRAHÝ
VÝSTROJ A NIE
VLASTNÉ ŽIVOTY.

PRE ĽUDÍ PEVNÉHO
PREDSAVZATIA
A VYTRVALOSTI
NIET NEMOŽNOSTÍ.
TO VRÁVIEVAL
AJ VÁŠ NAPOLEON.

PANE A VY SNÁD
NIE STE FRANCÚZ?

JÁ SOM SLOVÁK.

SLOVÁK? V KTOREJ
REPUBLIKE ŽIJE
TENTO NÁROD?

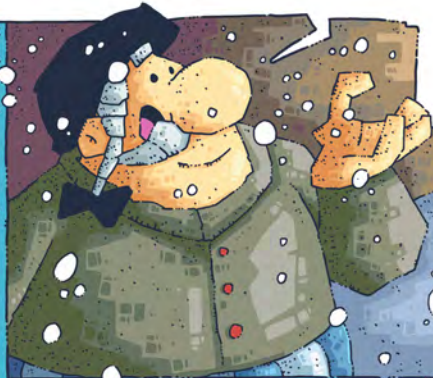
ŽIAL NAŠA REPUBLIKA
JE ZATIAĽ IBA NAŠOU
TÚŽBOU, NAŠ NÁROD
JE NATERAZ SÚČASŤOU
UHORSKA, ALE VERÍM,
ŽE TOMU TAK NEBUDE
VEČNE.

ŠĽASTNÚ CESTU A POZDRAVUJTE KRAJANOV.
ODKÁŽTE IM, ŽE IM DRŽÍM PALCE. AJ NÁM BOLO
VŠELIJKO, ALE AK VEDIETE SPRÁVODLIVÝ
BOJ, TAK ZVÍŤAZÍTE!



GENTLEMEN! I AM NOT AT ALL SURE YOU PICKED AN IDEAL DAY FOR THE CLIMB.

THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME FOR CLIMBING MONT BLANC. IT WAS ATTEMPTED ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO BY AN ENGLISH EXPEDITION. TO TELL THE TRUTH THEY WERE ONLY TOO PLEASED TO HAVE COME BACK ALIVE IN SPITE OF HAVING HAD TO LEAVE EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT BEHIND.



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED AND WHO PERSEVERE. YOUR NAPOLEON USED TO SAY THAT.



YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE NOT FRENCH, ARE YOU?



I'M SLOVAK.



SLOVAK? WHICH REPUBLIC DO THESE PEOPLE BELONG TO?

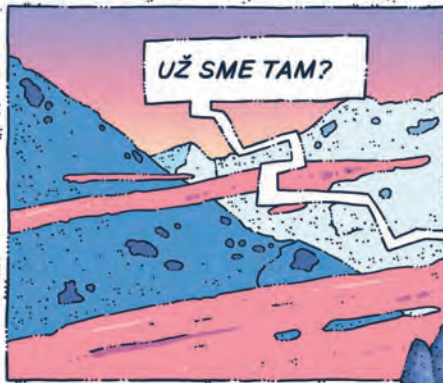


SADLY, OUR REPUBLIC IS BUT A DREAM FOR THE TIME BEING. OUR PEOPLE ARE NOW PART OF HUNGARY BUT I HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE THE CASE.

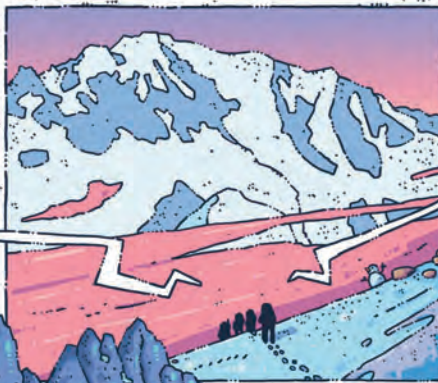


GOOD LUCK AND SAY HELLO TO YOUR COUNTRYMEN, TELLING THEM THAT I'M ROOTING FOR THEM. WE TOO WENT THROUGH ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS, BUT IF YOU FIGHT FOR A JUST CAUSE THEN YOU ALWAYS WIN IN THE END!





UŽ SME TAM?



VIEŠ, ČO?
EŠTE NIE.



MILLOCHAU, NEPOZNÁŠ
DÁKY FAJNÝ VTIP?



UPROSTRED MONT BLANC
VO VÝŠKE OKOLO TROCH
KILOMETROV NAD MOROM
SA STRETNÚ DVAJA SNEŽNÍ
MUŽI A JEDEN SA PÝTA
DRUHÉHO: "UŽ SI VIDEL
TOHO ČLOVEKA?"
"NIE. A TY NA NEHO VERÍŠ?"



HAAA
HAAAAHAA
HA!

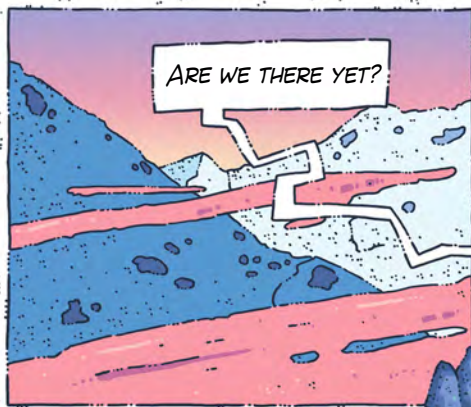


AAAA, PÁN YETI!

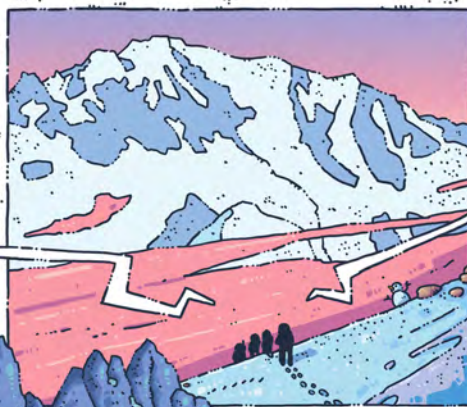


DOBRY DEN. PROSIM VAS
PÁN YETI, IDEME SPRÁVNE
NA VRCH MONT BLANC?

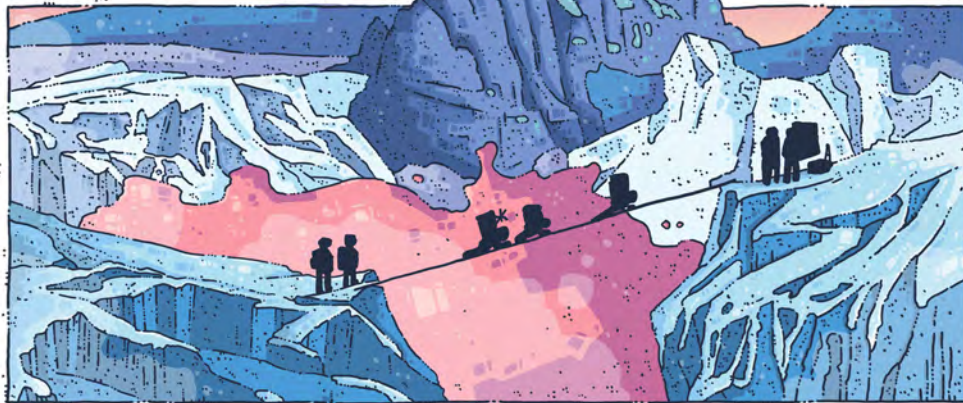
HEJ, LEN MUSÍTE VIAC DOLAVA
POD ZAMRZNUTÝM KOPCOM
NA SEVEROZÁPADE A POTOM
PRUDKO ZABOČIŤ NA JUHOVÝCHOD
A VYŠĽAPAŤ PO MORI MEGA
ŠMYKLAVÝCH KUSOV KAMEŇA
A POTOM BY STE UŽ MALI
ZBADAŤ HVEZDÁREŇ.



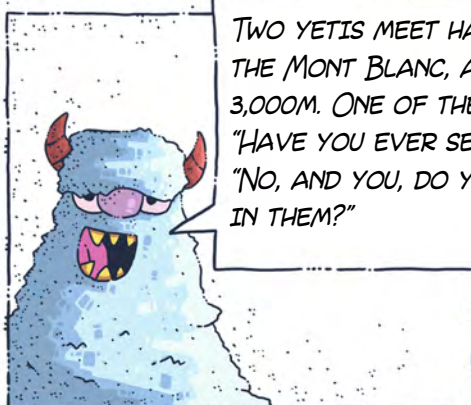
ARE WE THERE YET?



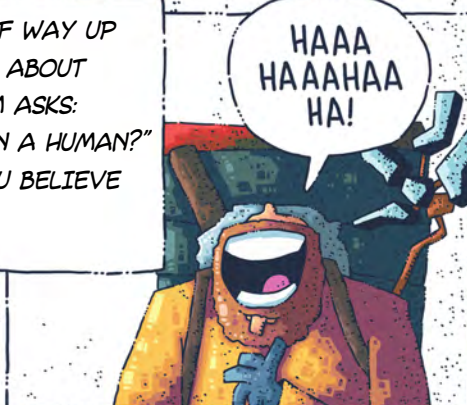
YOU KNOW
WHAT?
NOT YET.



MILOCHAU, WOULD YOU HAPPEN
TO KNOW A GOOD JOKE?



TWO YETIS MEET HALF WAY UP
THE MONT BLANC, AT ABOUT
3,000M. ONE OF THEM ASKS:
"HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HUMAN?"
"NO, AND YOU, DO YOU BELIEVE
IN THEM?"



HAAA
HAAAAHAA
HA!



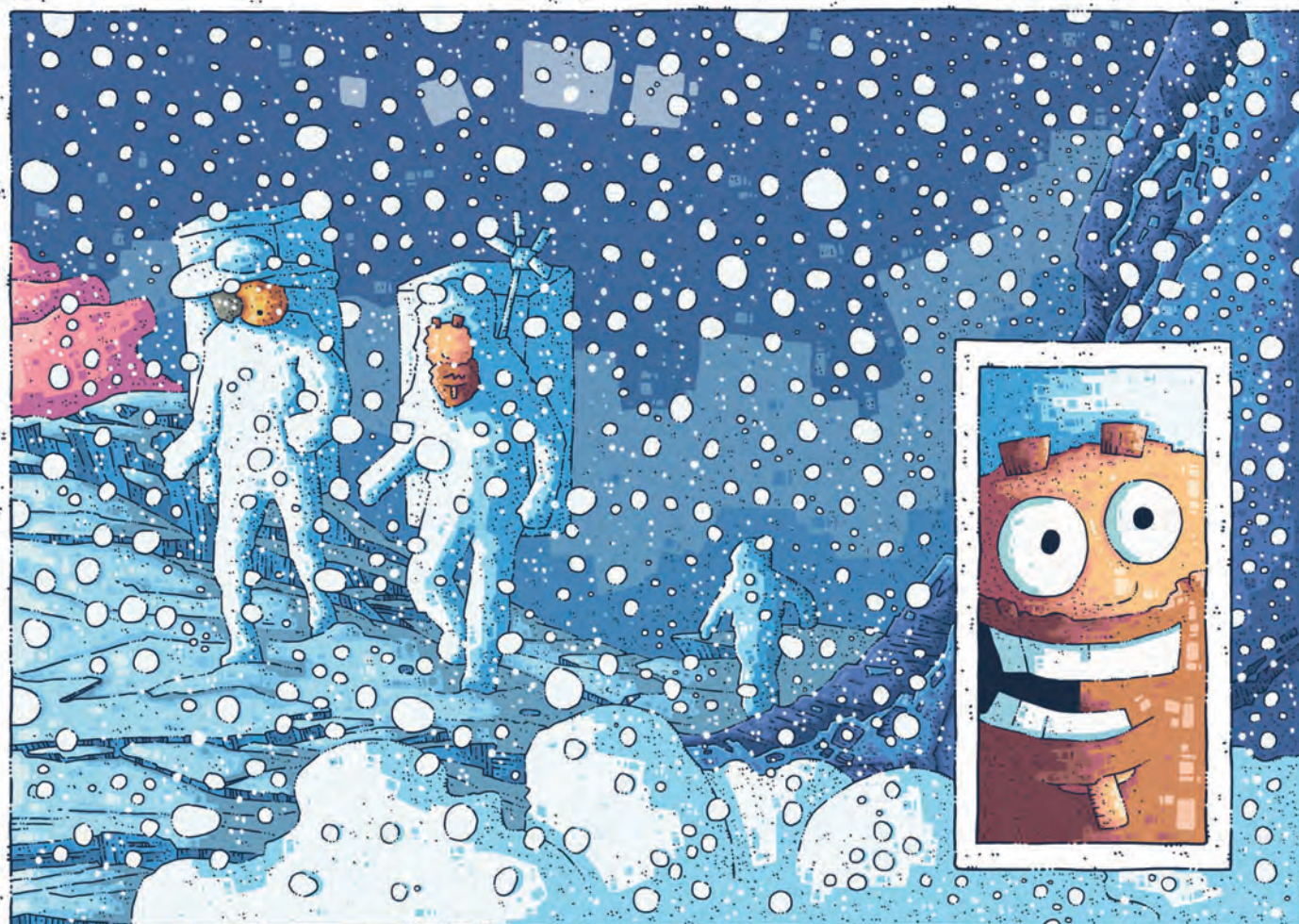
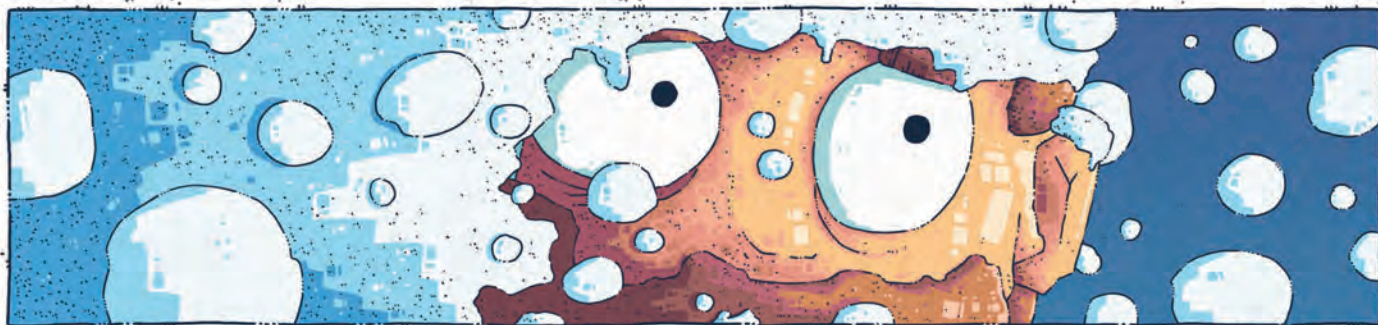
AAAAH, MR. YETI!

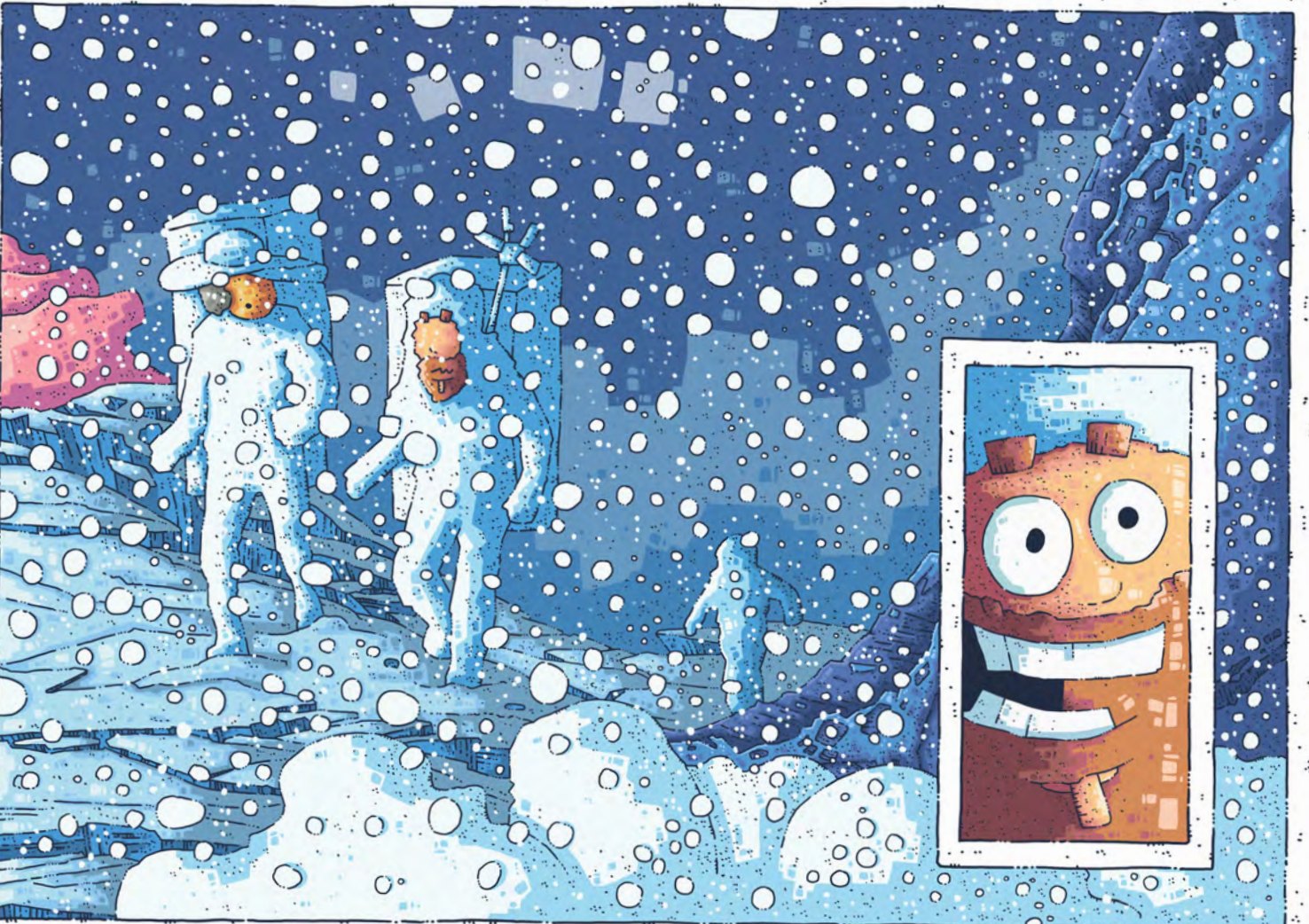
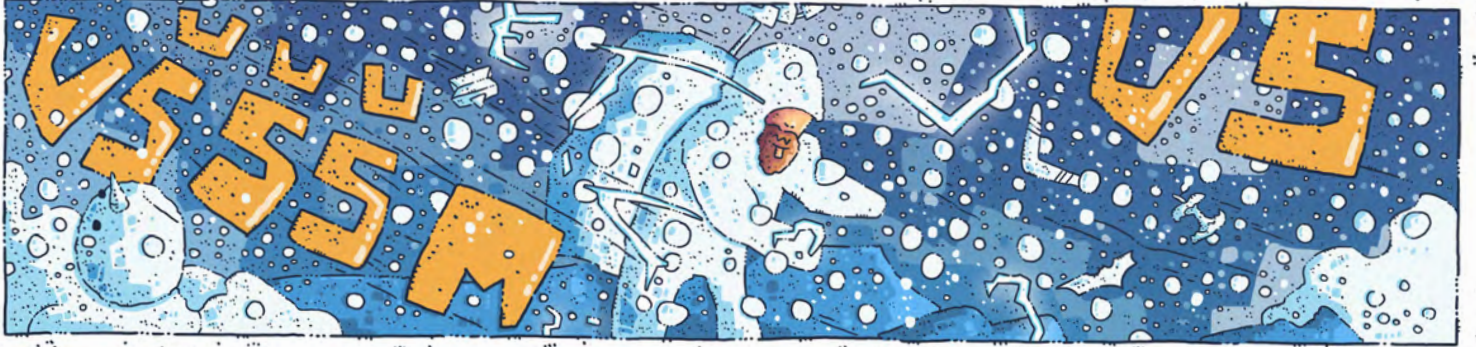
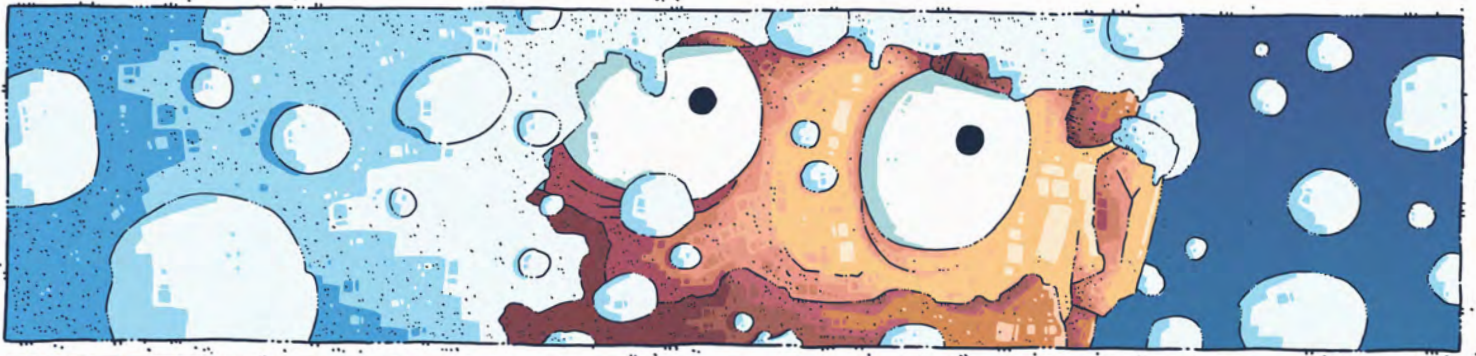


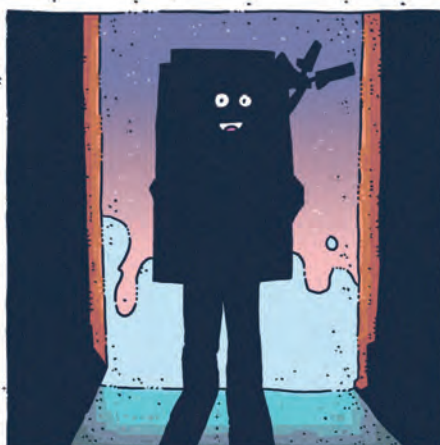
GOOD AFTERNOON, MR YETI. PLEASE,
IS THIS THE WAY TO THE TOP OF THE
MOUNTAIN?



YES, JUST MAKE SURE YOU TURN LEFT AT
THE FROZEN HILL ON THE NORTHWEST AND
THEN TAKE A SHARP TURN TO THE
SOUTHEAST, AFTER THAT YOU'LL CLIMB
ACROSS SUPER SLIPPERY ROCKS. FROM
THERE, YOU SHOULD ALREADY BE ABLE TO
CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE OBSERVATORY.





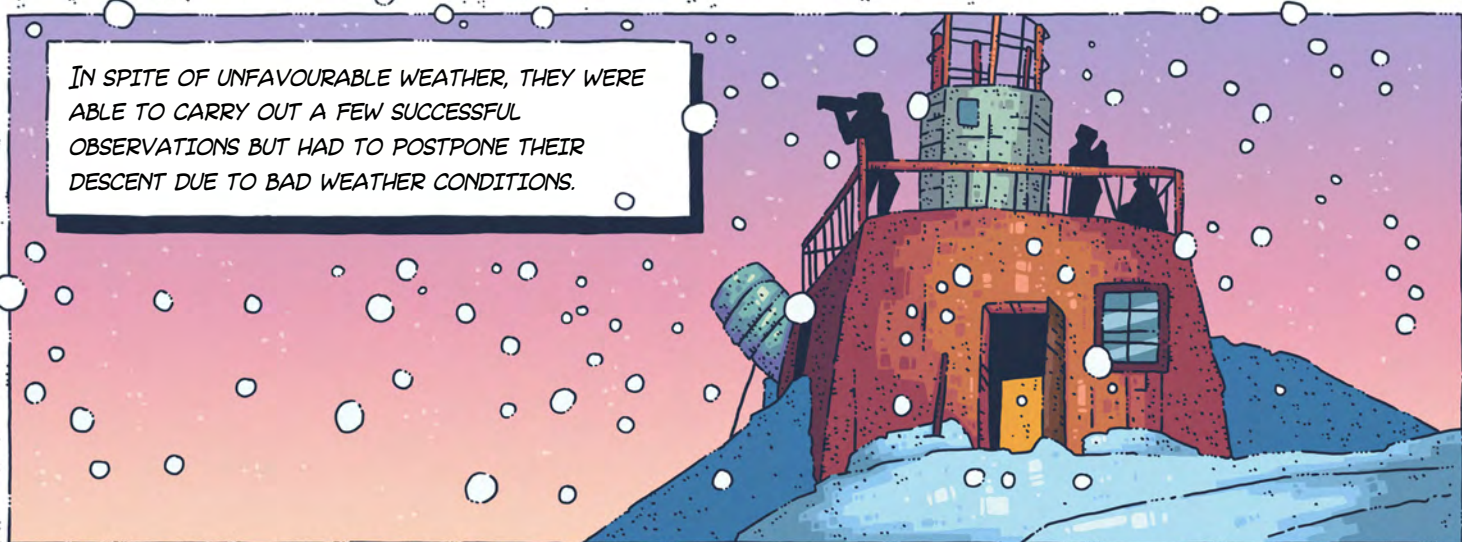


POČASIE SA NA VRCHOLE VÝRAZNE
ZHORŠILO, NO NAPRIEK TOMU UROBILI
NIEKOĽKO ÚSPEŠNÝCH POZOROVANÍ.
AVŠAK PRE ZHORŠUJÚCE SA
POVETERNOSTNÉ PODMIENKY
NAKONIEC ODLOŽILI ZOSTUP Z HORY.





IN SPITE OF UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER, THEY WERE
ABLE TO CARRY OUT A FEW SUCCESSFUL
OBSERVATIONS BUT HAD TO POSTPONE THEIR
DESCENT DUE TO BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS.



TRI DNI NEMOHLI OPUSTIŤ MALÚ
CHATRČ NA VRCHOLE HORY.
ZOSTALI UVIAZNUTÍ A NOSIČI IM NEMOHLI
POMÔCŤ DOPLNIŤ CHÝBAJÚCE ZÁSoby.
NAPRIEK HLADU A VYČERPANIU NAŠI
HRDINOVI NEPREPADLI ZÚFALSTVU.

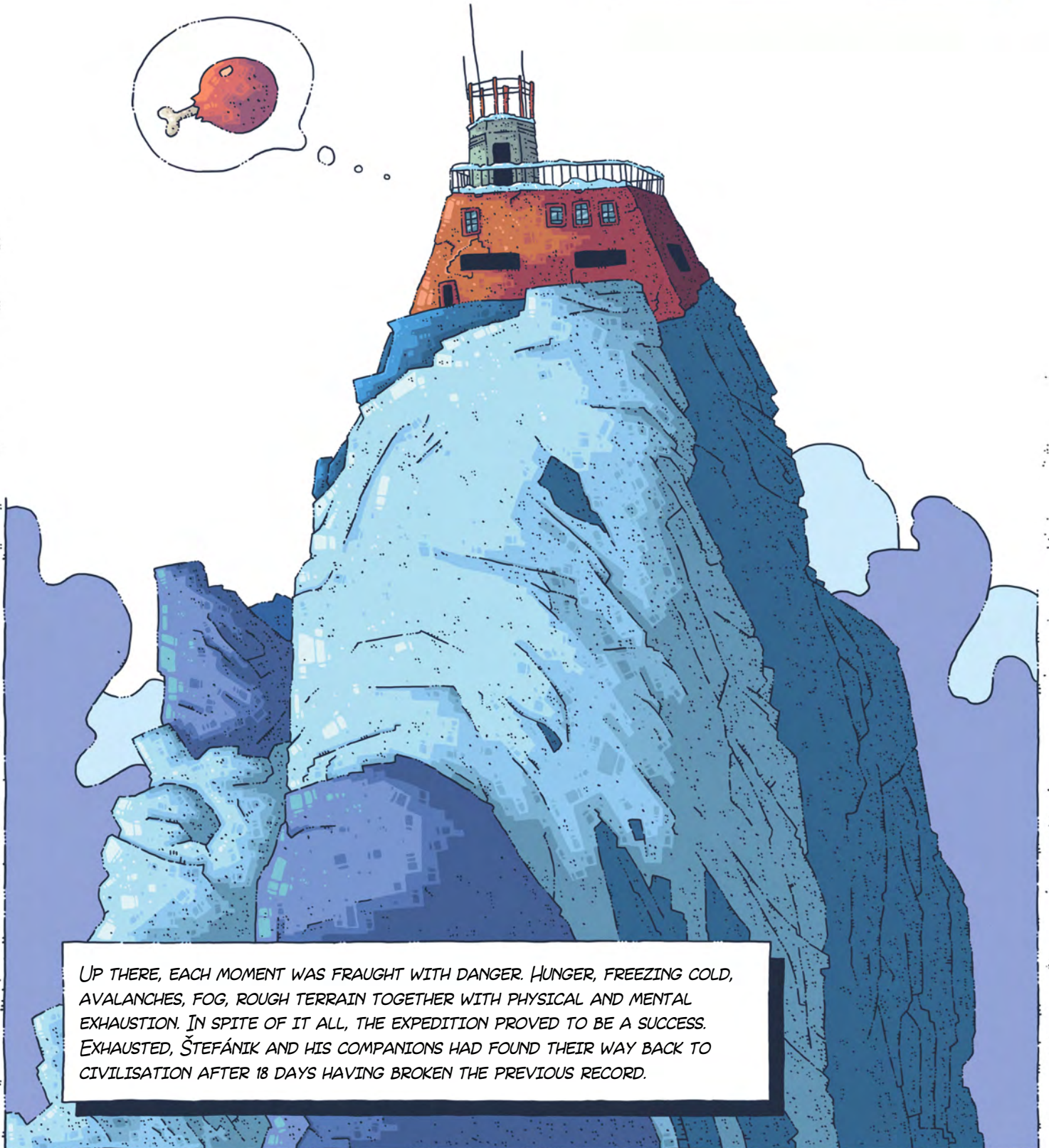
NAKONIEC SA POČASIE UMÚDRILO
A VÝPRAVA ZOSTÚPILA DO DOLINY.



NA HORE STRIEHLO NEBEZPEČENSTVO NA KAŽDOM KROKU.
HLAD, ZIMA, LAVÍNY, HMLA, NEBEZPEČNÝ TERÉN, ALE AJ FYZICKÉ
A DUŠEVNÉ VYČERPANIE. NO NAPRIEK HLADU A INÝM ÚTRAPÁM
BOLA VÝPRAVA ÚSPEŠNÁ. ŠTEFÁNIK A ĎALŠÍ PREKONALI VTEDAJSÍ
REKORD, KEĎ SA PO 18TICH DŇOCH VRÁTILI NA POKRAJI SÍL
SPÄŤ DO CIVILIZÁCIE.

FOR THREE LONG DAYS, THEY COULDN'T LEAVE THEIR REFUGE AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. THEY WERE TRAPPED AND THE PORTERS COULDN'T BRING ANY SUPPLIES. IN SPITE OF HUNGER AND EXHAUSTION OUR HEROES DID NOT GIVE IN TO DESPAIR.

FINALLY, THE WEATHER CALMED DOWN AND THE EXPEDITION WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO THE VALLEY.



UP THERE, EACH MOMENT WAS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. HUNGER, FREEZING COLD, AVALANCHES, FOG, ROUGH TERRAIN TOGETHER WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXHAUSTION. IN SPITE OF IT ALL, THE EXPEDITION PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS. EXHAUSTED, ŠTEFÁNIK AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO CIVILISATION AFTER 18 DAYS HAVING BROKEN THE PREVIOUS RECORD.

23. DECEMBRA 1907
ZOMIERA ŠTEFÁNIKOV
MENTOR JANSENN.

ĎAKUJEM
ZA VŠETKO.

EURÓPA

ROKU 1909 SMERUJE
DO ALŽÍRSKA
A DO TUNISKA.

ÁZIA

AFRIKA

PRI SVOJICH VÝPRAVÁCH HĽADÁ
V PÚŠTI MIESTO, KDE BY MOHOL
POSTAVIŤ OBSERVATÓRIUM.

STRETÁVA MIESTNYCH. NOMÁDOV,
ARABOV A UČÍ SA ICH SPÔSOBU
ŽIVOTA A ICH ZVYKOM.

HOCI MÁME RÔZNY PÔVOD,
JAZYK, FARBU PLETI,
ČI VIEROVYZNANIE
VO VNÚTRI SME VŠETCI
ĽUDIA A JESTVUJE MEDZI
NAMI ROVNOSŤ A BRATSTVO.

ŠTEFÁNIK'S MENTOR,
JANSSEN, DIED ON THE 23RD
OF DECEMBER, 1907.

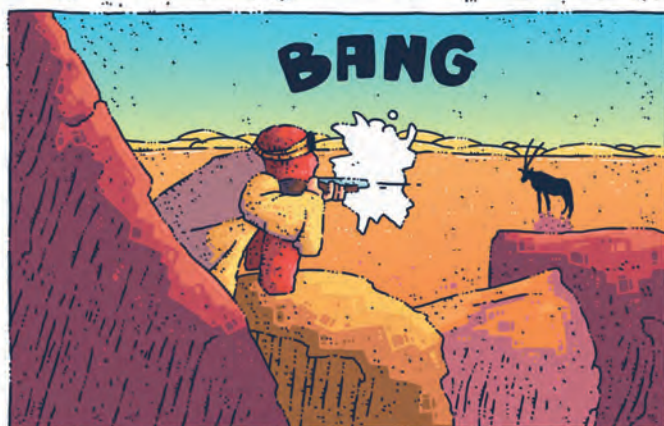
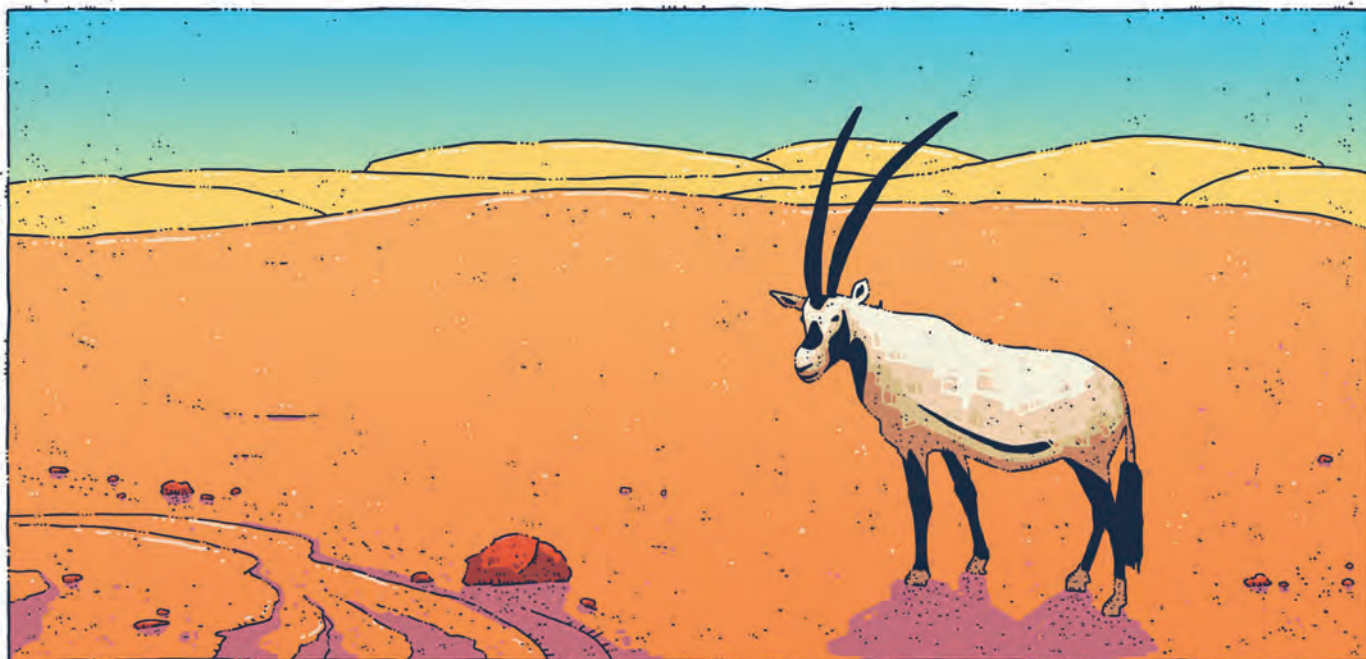
THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING.

IN 1909, ŠTEFÁNIK SETS
OFF FOR ALGERIA AND
TUNISIA.

WHILE ON HIS EXPEDITIONS IN THE DESERT,
HE KEPT AN EYE OUT FOR A PLACE WHICH
WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR AN OBSERVATORY.

HE MET THE LOCAL INHABITANTS: NOMADS AND
ARABS AND BECAME FAMILIAR WITH THEIR WAY
OF LIFE AND AND THEIR CUSTOMS.

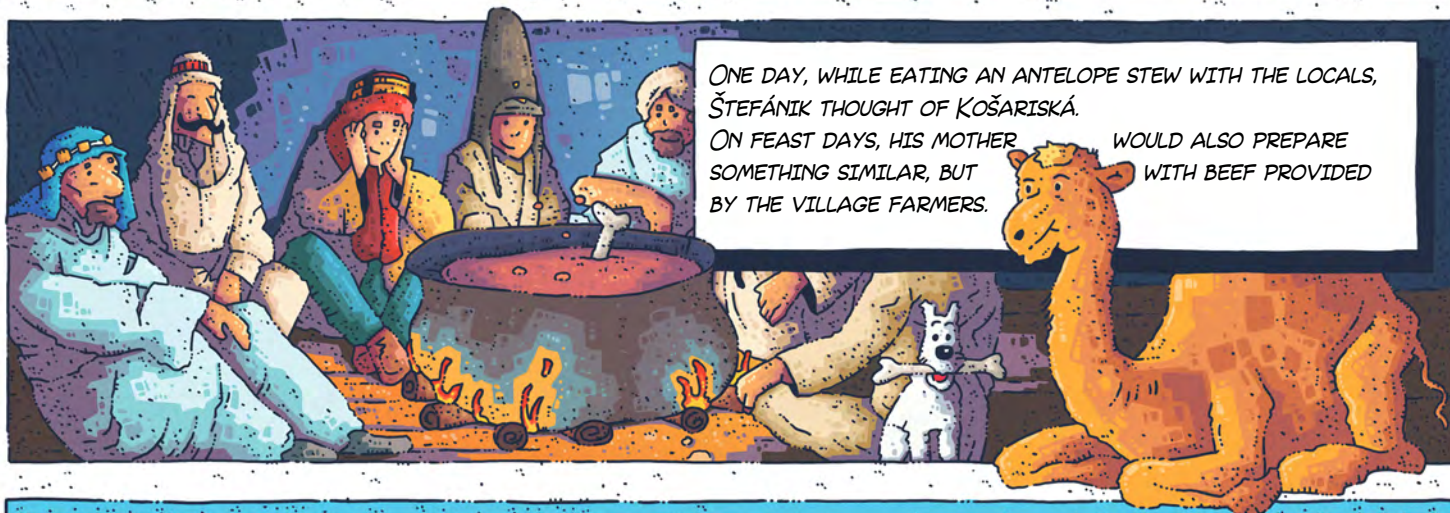
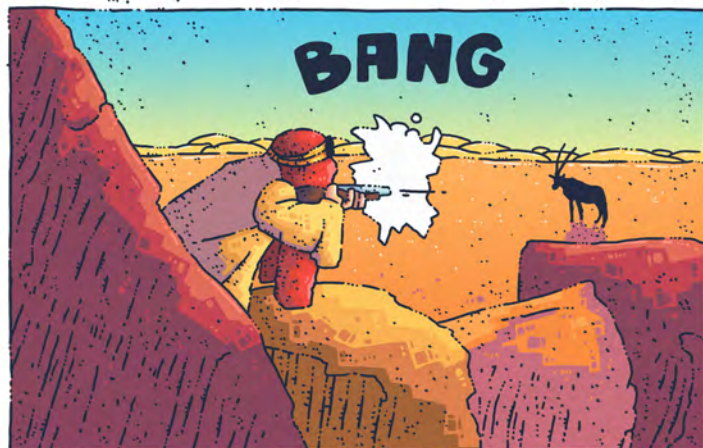
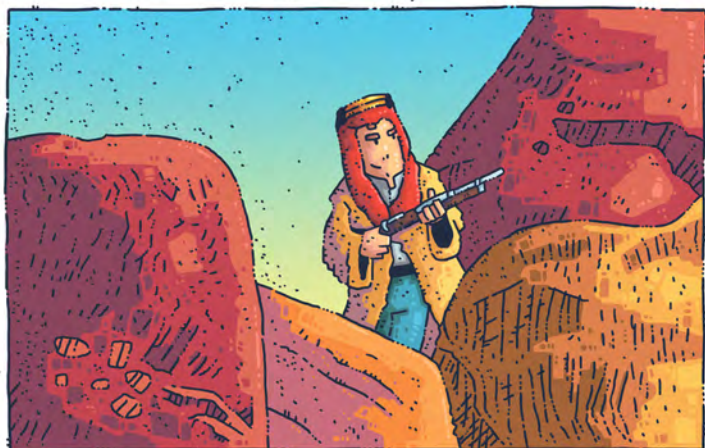
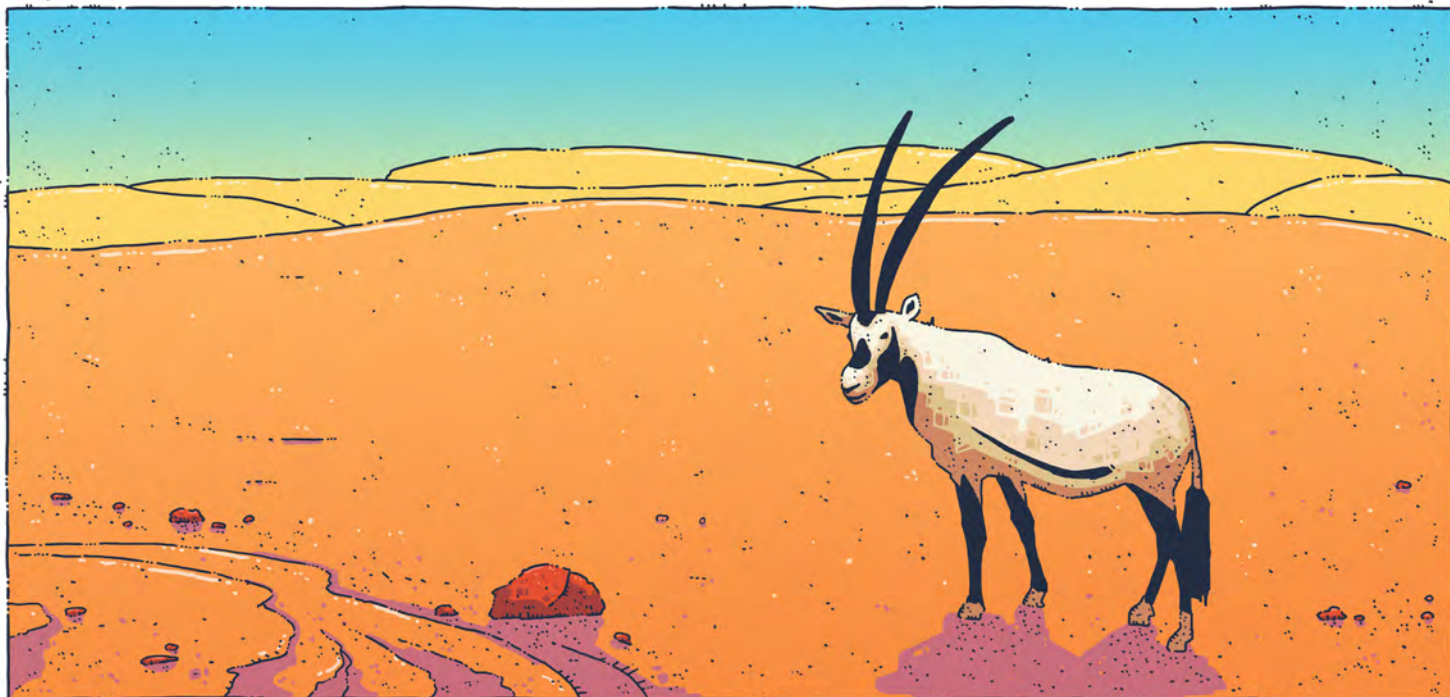
EVEN IF OUR BACKGROUNDS, OUR
SKIN COLOUR AND OUR BELIEFS
ARE DIFFERENT, INSIDE WE ARE
ALL HUMAN BEINGS, WE ARE
BROTHERS AND EQUAL.



KEĎ ŠTEFÁNIK HODOVAL SPOLU S MIESTNYMI
NA GULÁŠI Z ANTILOPY, SPOMENUL SI NA RODNÉ
KOŠARISKÁ. PODOBNÝ GULÁŠ VARILA AJ JEHO
MAMIČKA, ALE ZÁKLAD TVORILA
VZÁCNÁ HOVÄDZINA OD KRÁV
MIESTNYCH SEDLIAKOV.

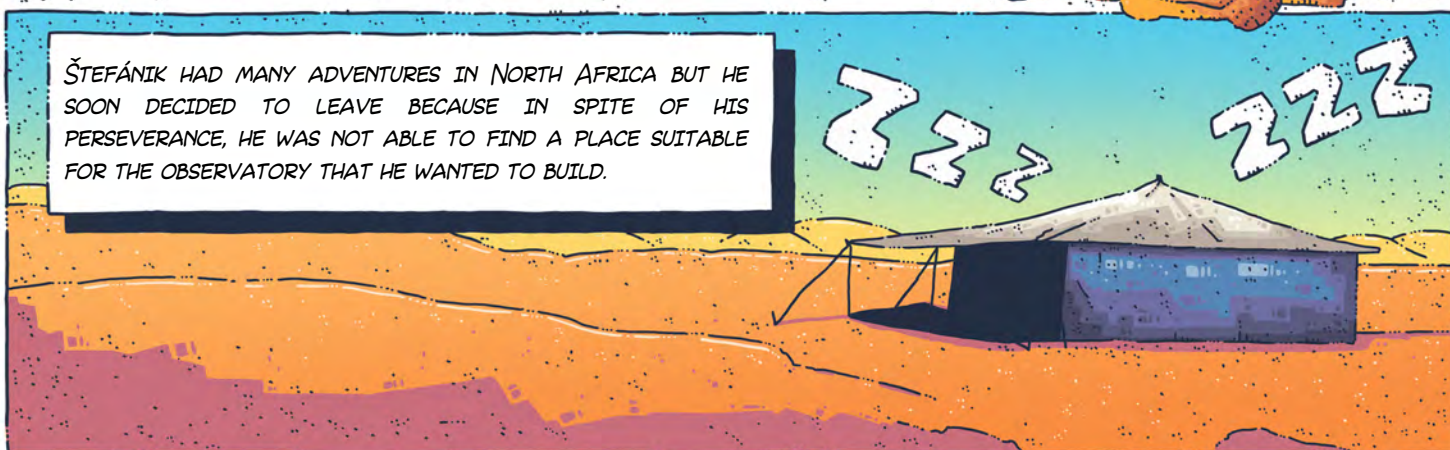
ŠTEFÁNIK TU ZAŽÍVAL MNOHÉ DOBRODRUŽSTVÁ,
ALE PO KRÁTKOM ČASE SA POBRAL NA ODCHOD.
JEHO CIEĽOM CESTY DO AFRIKY BOLA STAVBA
OBSERVATÓRIA, NO NAPRIEK VYTRVALÉMU
ÚSILIU JEHO MISIA SKONČILA NEÚSPECHOM.

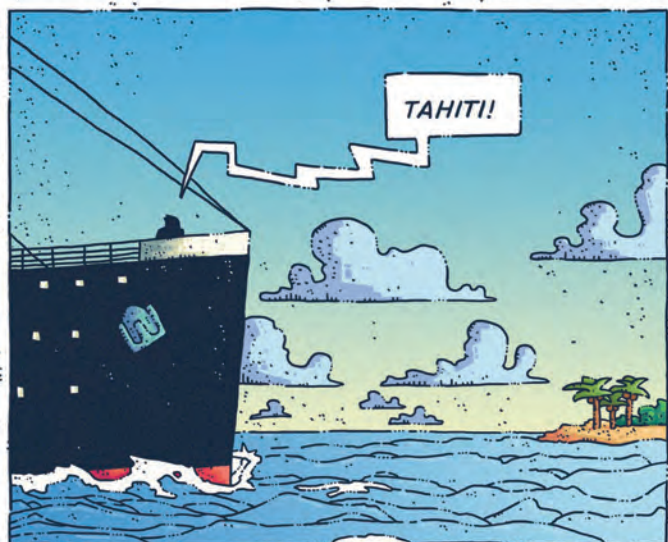
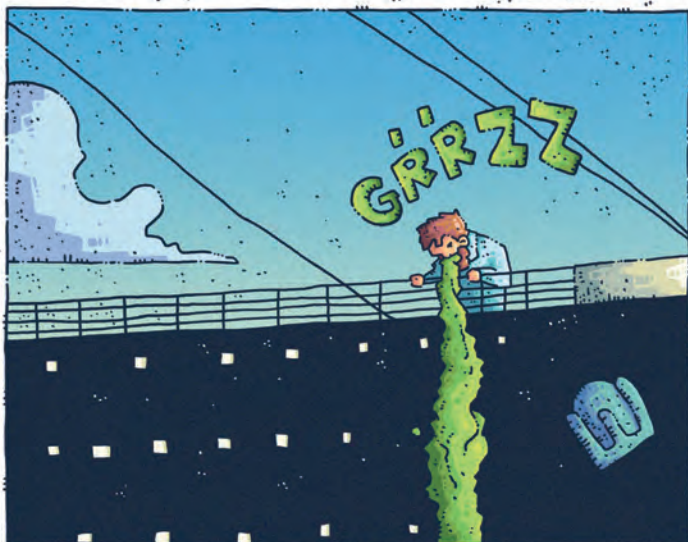


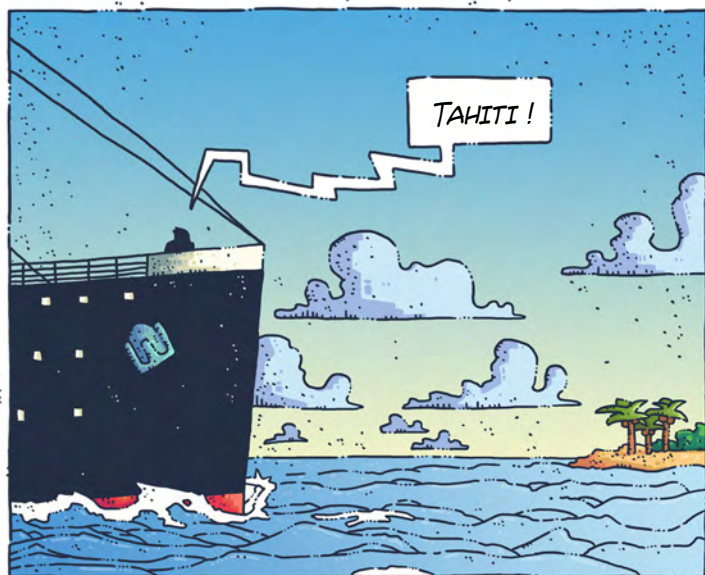
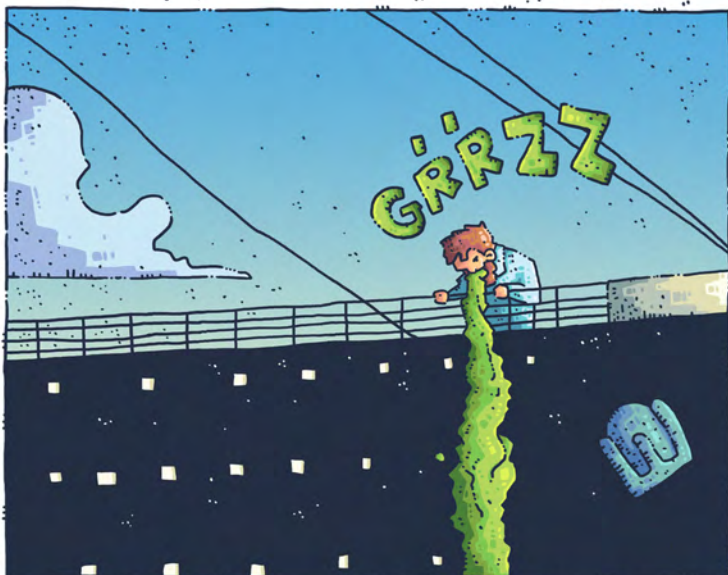
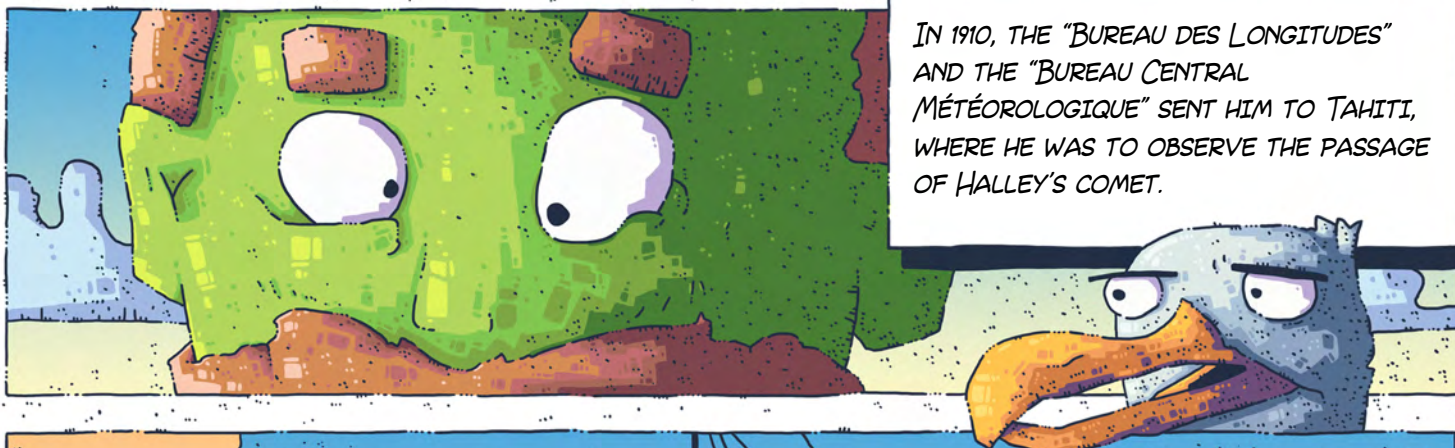


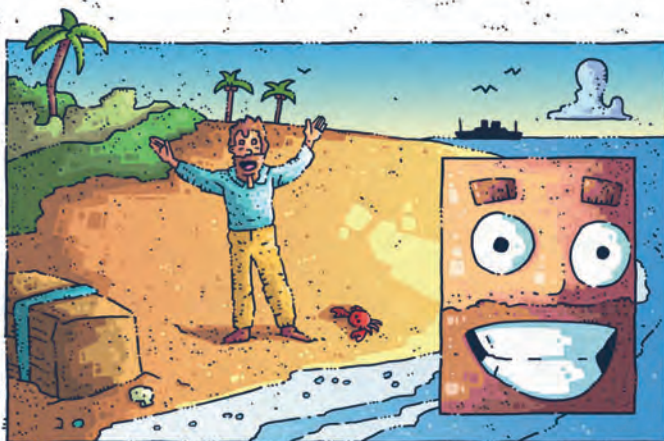
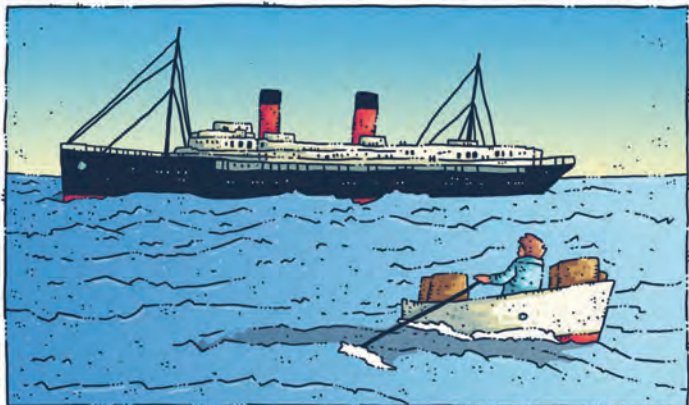
ONE DAY, WHILE EATING AN ANTELOPE STEW WITH THE LOCALS, ŠTEFÁNIK THOUGHT OF KOŠARISKÁ. ON FEAST DAYS, HIS MOTHER WOULD ALSO PREPARE SOMETHING SIMILAR, BUT WITH BEEF PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE FARMERS.

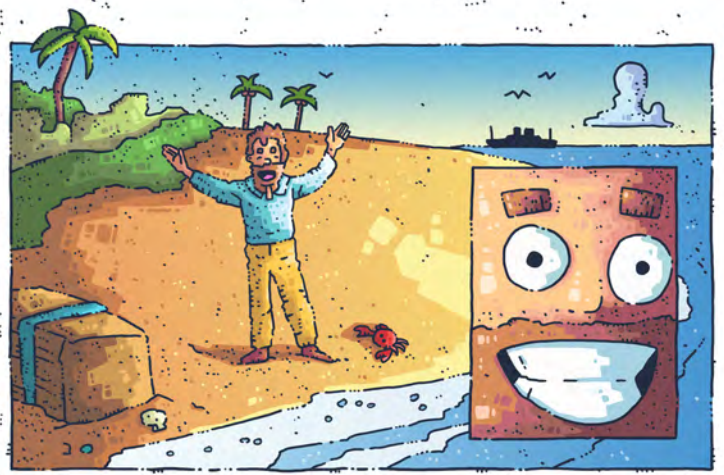
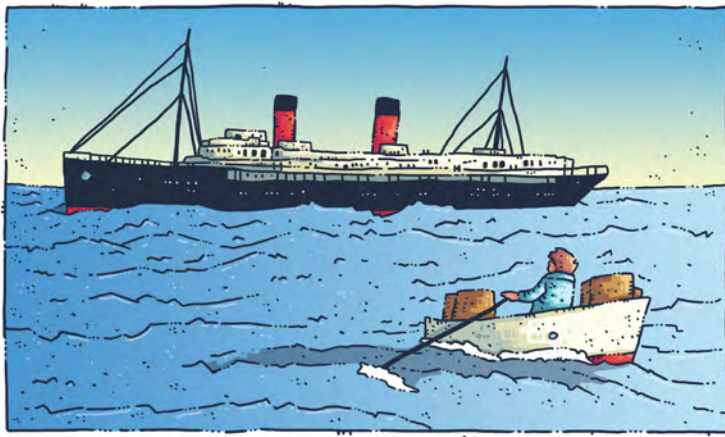
ŠTEFÁNIK HAD MANY ADVENTURES IN NORTH AFRICA BUT HE SOON DECIDED TO LEAVE BECAUSE IN SPITE OF HIS PERSEVERANCE, HE WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND A PLACE SUITABLE FOR THE OBSERVATORY THAT HE WANTED TO BUILD.



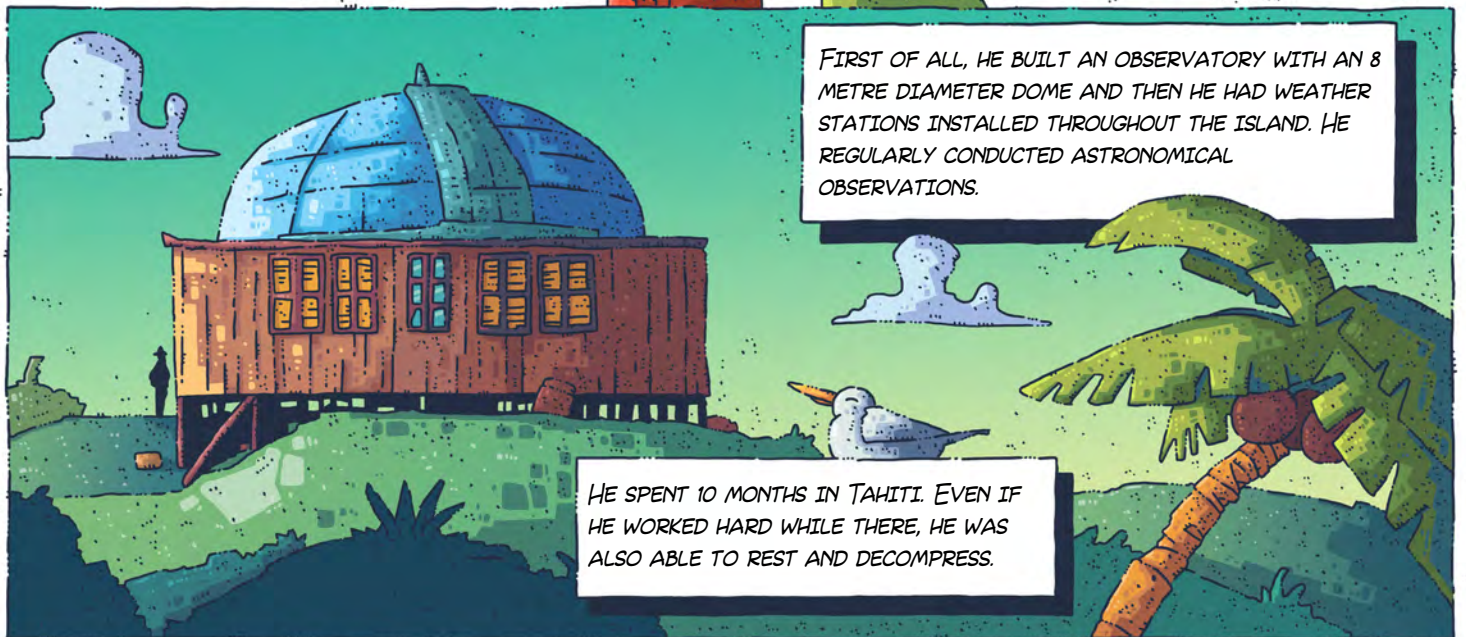








HE WAS COUNTED ON TO START BUILDING AN OBSERVATORY ON MONT FAIERE.

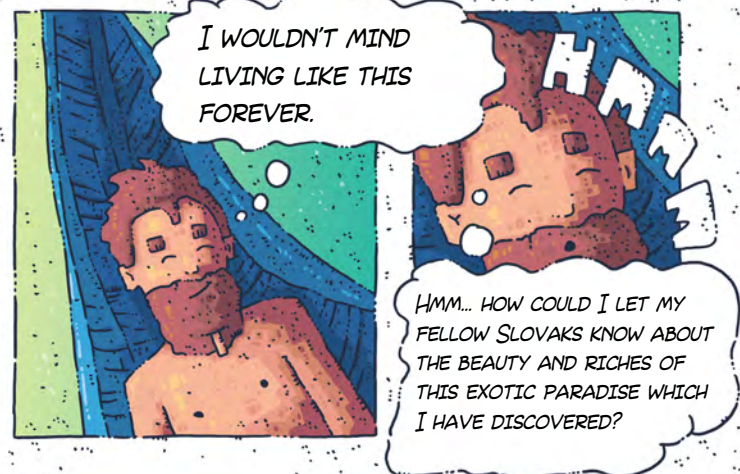


FIRST OF ALL, HE BUILT AN OBSERVATORY WITH AN 8 METRE DIAMETER DOME AND THEN HE HAD WEATHER STATIONS INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND. HE REGULARLY CONDUCTED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

HE SPENT 10 MONTHS IN TAHITI. EVEN IF HE WORKED HARD WHILE THERE, HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO REST AND DECOMPRESS.

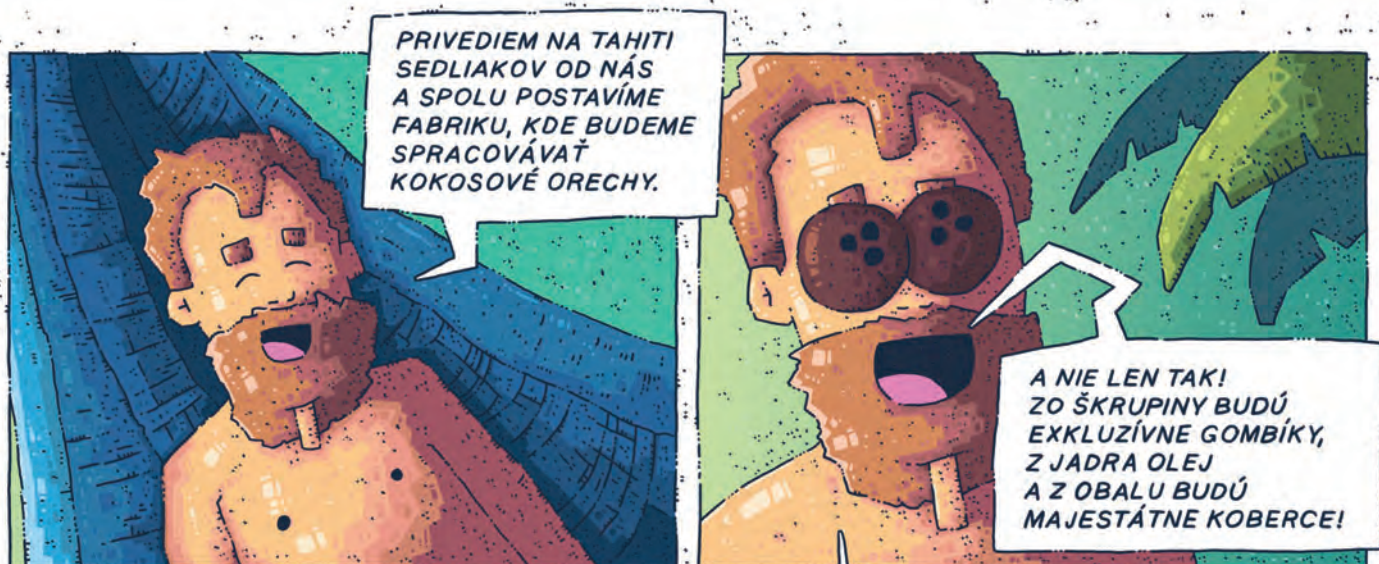


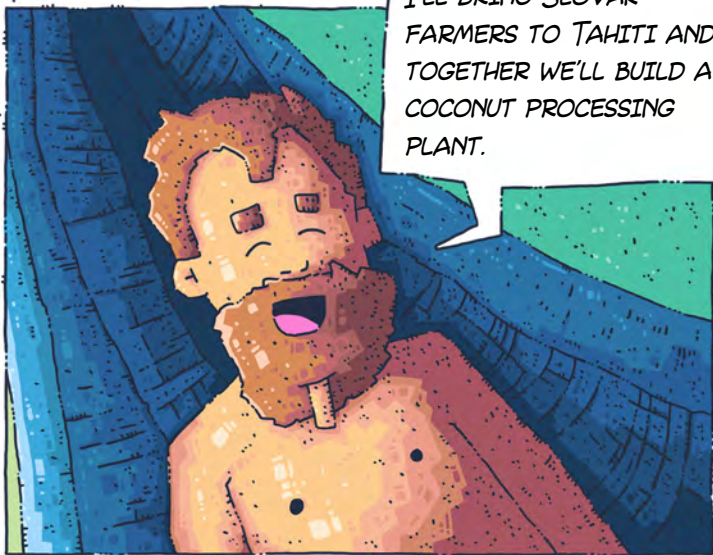
HE HAD EVEN STOPPED REWINDING HIS WATCH AND CHECKING WHAT TIME IT WAS.



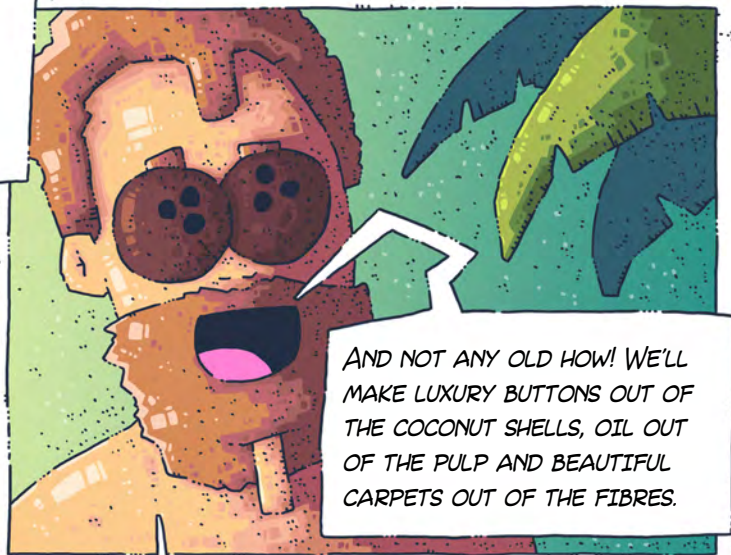
I WOULDN'T MIND LIVING LIKE THIS FOREVER.

HMM... HOW COULD I LET MY FELLOW SLOVAKS KNOW ABOUT THE BEAUTY AND RICHES OF THIS EXOTIC PARADISE WHICH I HAVE DISCOVERED?





I'LL BRING SLOVAK FARMERS TO TAHITI AND TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD A COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT.



AND NOT ANY OLD HOW! WE'LL MAKE LUXURY BUTTONS OUT OF THE COCONUT SHELLS, OIL OUT OF THE PULP AND BEAUTIFUL CARPETS OUT OF THE FIBRES.



WE'LL CREATE VAST COCONUT PLANTATIONS.

The New Times.

HE ADVERTISED IN AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER CALLING FOR EXILED SLOVAKS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE UNITED STATES, TO COME TO TAHITI TO BUILD THEIR NEW PARADISE TOGETHER.

HIS PROJECT FAILED. IN THE END HIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS NOT ANSWERED AND HE HIMSELF LEFT THE ISLAND AFTER 10 MONTHS.



PO NÁVRATE DO EURÓPY
SMEROVAL ŠTEFÁNIK DO MAROKA,
KDE SA VENOVAL VÝSTAVBE OBSERVATÓRIA.



TU HO ZASTIHLI SPRÁVY O VYHLÁSENÍ
MOBILIZÁCIE FRANCÚZSKEJ ARMÁDY
V REAKCII NA ZAČIATOK PRVEJ
SVETOVEJ VOJNY.



V MAROKU EŠTE STIHOLO ZÍSKAŤ KRÍŽ
RYTIERA ČESTNEJ LÉGIE ZA MIMORIADNE
SLUŽBY PRE FRANCÚZSKO NA TAHITI
A V REPUBLIKE EKVÁDOR. OCENENIE MU
OSOBNE ODOVZDÁVA GENERÁL LYAUTEYA
A PRE ŠTEFÁNIKA JE TENTO AKT
OBROVSKOU ČŤOU A ZADOSTUČINENÍM.



OCENENIE ZÍSKAL PRETO, LEBO PREUKÁZAL
POZORUHODNÉ SLUŽBY OBCHODNÉMU LOĎSTVU
A NA VLASTNÉ NÁKLADY POSTAVIL OBSERVATÓRIUM
NA TAHITI. A ABY TOHO NEBOLO MÁLO, TAK
NA OSTROVOCH FRANCÚZSKEJ OCEÁNIE ZRIADIL
KOMPLETNÚ METEOROLOGICKÚ SLUŽBU.



ON HIS RETURN TO EUROPE, ŠTEFÁNIK WENT TO MOROCCO WHERE HE CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING AN OBSERVATORY.



IT WAS THERE THAT NEWS OF WORLD WAR I MOBILIZATION REACHED HIM.



WHILE STILL IN MOROCCO, HE WAS AWARDED THE CROSS OF THE CHEVALIER DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO FRANCE IN TAHITI AND THE EQUATOR. THIS DISTINCTION WAS PERSONALLY HANDED OVER BY GENERAL LYAUTEY WHICH WAS A GREAT HONOUR AND SOURCE OF IMMENSE SATISFACTION FOR ŠTEFÁNIK.



HE RECEIVED THIS AWARD FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO THE MERCHANT FLEET AND FOR BUILDING THE TAHITI OBSERVATORY AT HIS OWN EXPENSE. AND IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH, HE HAD ALSO SET UP AN ENTIRE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE IN THE FRENCH OCEANIA ISLANDS.



NAPRIEK MOBILIZÁCII SMEROVAL ŠTEFÁNIK PO NÁVRATE DO EURÓPY ROVNO DO NEMOCNICE, KDE SI LIEČIL SVOJ CHRONICKY CHORÝ ŽALÚDOK.



POČAS MESIACOV, KEDY SA LIEČIL UŽ V EURÓPE NAPLNO ZÚRILA VOJNA. ŠTEFÁNIK HODLAL RÝCHLO NARUKOVAŤ DO FRANCÚZSKEJ ARMÁDY. NO CHÝBALI MU ZDRAVIE A SILA, ALE TIE KOMPENZOVALI JEHO ODVAHA A ODHODLANIE.



PRED NARUKOVANÍM NA FRONTU POTREBOVAL ŠTEFÁNIK ABSOLVOVAŤ LEKÁRSKU PREHLIADKU.

STE PRÍLIŠ CHUDÝ,
NEUNESIETE V RUKE ZBRAŇ!

TIE DVE JAZVY NA BRUCHU
VYZERAJÚ ŠKAREDO,
S TAKÝM ZDRAVÍM
NARUKOVAŤ NEMÔŽETE!



MÁTE PYLORICKÚ STENÓZU,
ZÚŽENIE ZVIERAČA ŽALÚDKA.
JE TO CHOROBA Z VYČERPANIA.
TAKTO NEMÔŽETE ÍŠŤ DO PRÁCE,
NIETO EŠTE BOJOVAŤ NA FRONT.



IN SPITE OF MOBILISATION, ON HIS RETURN TO EUROPE, ŠTEFÁNIK WENT STRAIGHT TO HOSPITAL WHERE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR HIS CHRONIC STOMACH PAINS.



WAR HAD BEEN RAGING THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS DURING WHICH HE WAS RECEIVING TREATMENT. ŠTEFÁNIK FULLY INTENDED TO INTEGRATE THE FRENCH ARMY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT HE LACKED BOTH STRENGTH AND HEALTH WHICH HE COMPENSATED FOR BY HIS COURAGE AND WILL POWER.



BEFORE HEADING FOR THE FRONT LINES, ŠTEFÁNIK HAD TO HAVE A CHECK-UP.

YOU'RE TOO UNDERWEIGHT TO BE ABLE TO CARRY A GUN!

THOSE SCARS ON YOUR STOMACH DON'T LOOK GOOD, YOU CAN'T JOIN THE ARMY IN SUCH A STATE OF HEALTH!



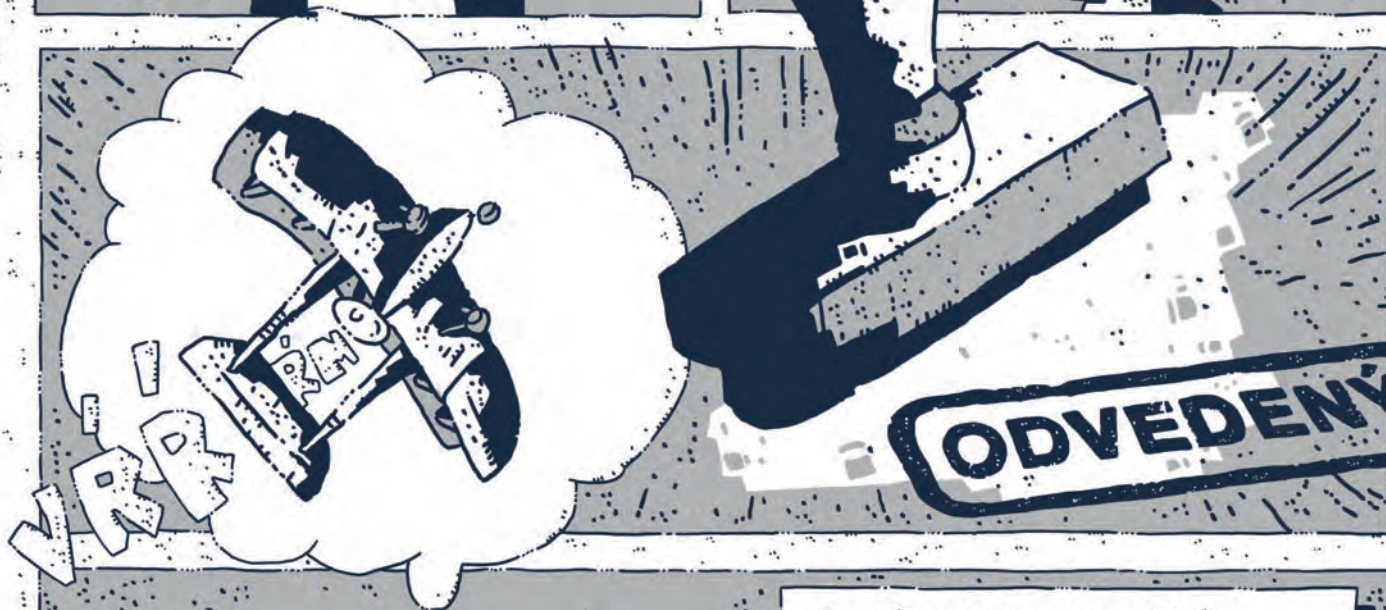
AS A RESULT OF EXHAUSTION, YOU HAVE PYLORIC STENOSIS, A NARROWING OF THE SPHINCTER LEADING FROM THE STOMACH TO THE SMALL INTESTINE. YOU CAN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS AND YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T GO AND FIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES.



BUDEM SA LIEČIŤ
A AKO VOJAK ZOSILNIEM!

JE TO NEZMYSEL, AK CHCETE AKO
TAK ĎALEJ EXISTOVAŤ, POTREBUJETE
NA SVOJE BOLESTI A CHRONICKÚ
CHOROBU UŽÍVAŤ OPIÁTY A NANÁŠAŤ
LIEČIVÉ MASTI.

BUDEM VIAC DBAŤ O SVOJE ZDRAVIE
A SNAŽIŤ SA VYZDRAVIET.



ŠTEFÁNIK NECHCEL DO ARMÁDY
NARUKOVAŤ AKO RADOVÝ PEŠIAK
NA FRONTE. V HLAVE SI PREDSTAVOVAL,
AKO LIETA NAD FRONTOM A SLEDUJE
VOJNU Z VÝŠKY. VZAL SI DO HLAVY,
ŽE ABSOLVUJE LETECKÝ VÝCVIK
A PRIDÁ SA K LETECTVU.

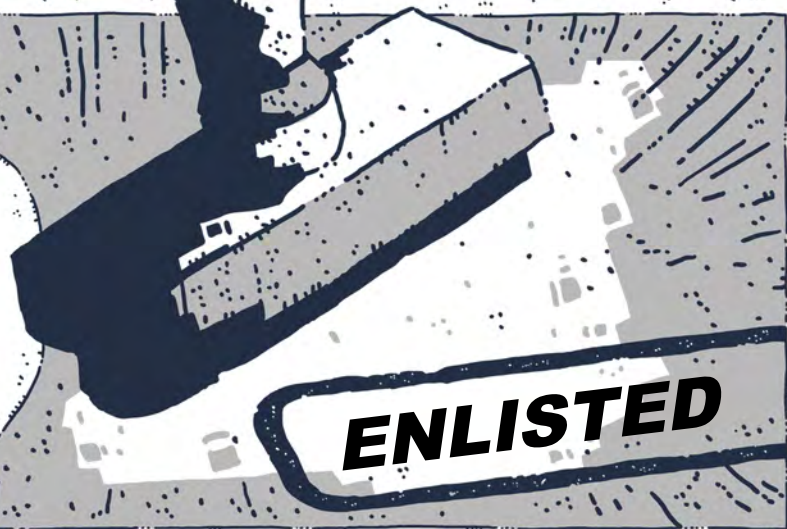
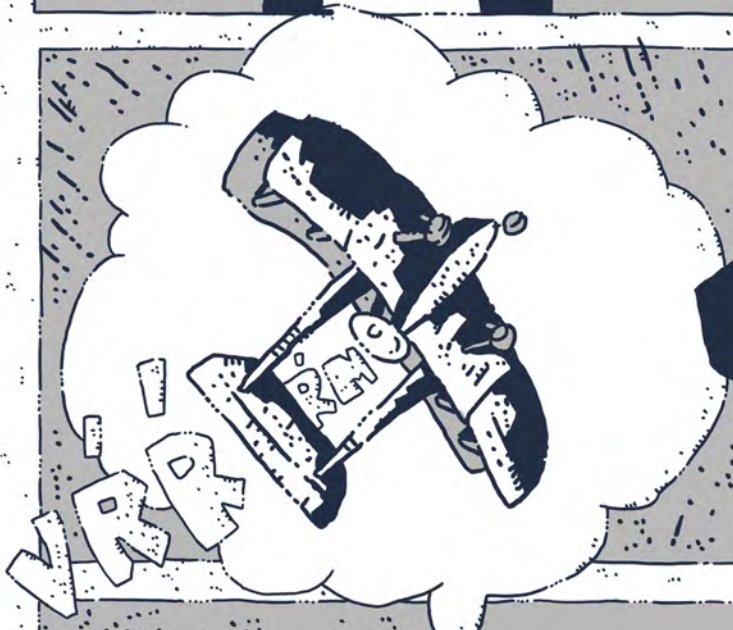
I WILL FOLLOW A COURSE OF TREATMENT AND BEING A SOLDIER WILL HELP ME GROW STRONGER.



THAT'S ABSURD! IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE, YOU SHOULD TAKE OPIUM FOR YOUR PAIN AND APPLY MEDICAL OINTMENTS FOR YOUR CHRONIC ILLNESS.



I'LL TAKE BETTER CARE OF MYSELF AND MAKE SURE THAT I BECOME HEALTHY AGAIN.



ŠTEFÁNIK DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT AS FOOT SOLDIER IN THE FRONT LINES. HE ENVISAGED FLYING OVER THE WAR ZONES AND SO HE DECIDED TO ENROL IN A PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM AND TO JOIN THE AIR FORCE.



NO PREDTÝM AKO SA MU TO PODARILO
BOJOVAL V ZÁKOPOCH, KDE ZAŽIL
BRUTÁLNU NEMECKÚ OFENZÍVU.



ABY SA MU SPLNIL SEN O LIETANÍ, HLADÁ SPOJENCOV A KONTAKTY.
V AUGUSTE 1914 SPOZNÁVA PAULA RAPHAELA A VYROZPRÁVA MU
O TOM, AKO VIDEL PRVÝ PRELET KANÁLU LA MANCHE.

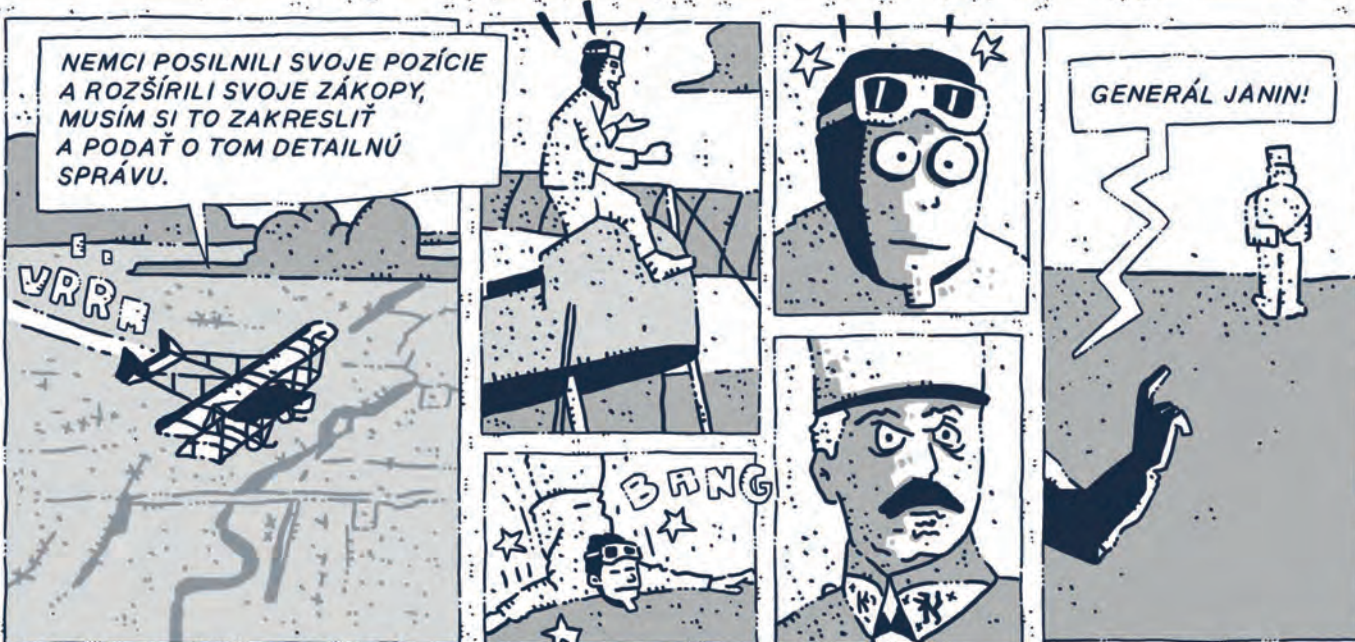
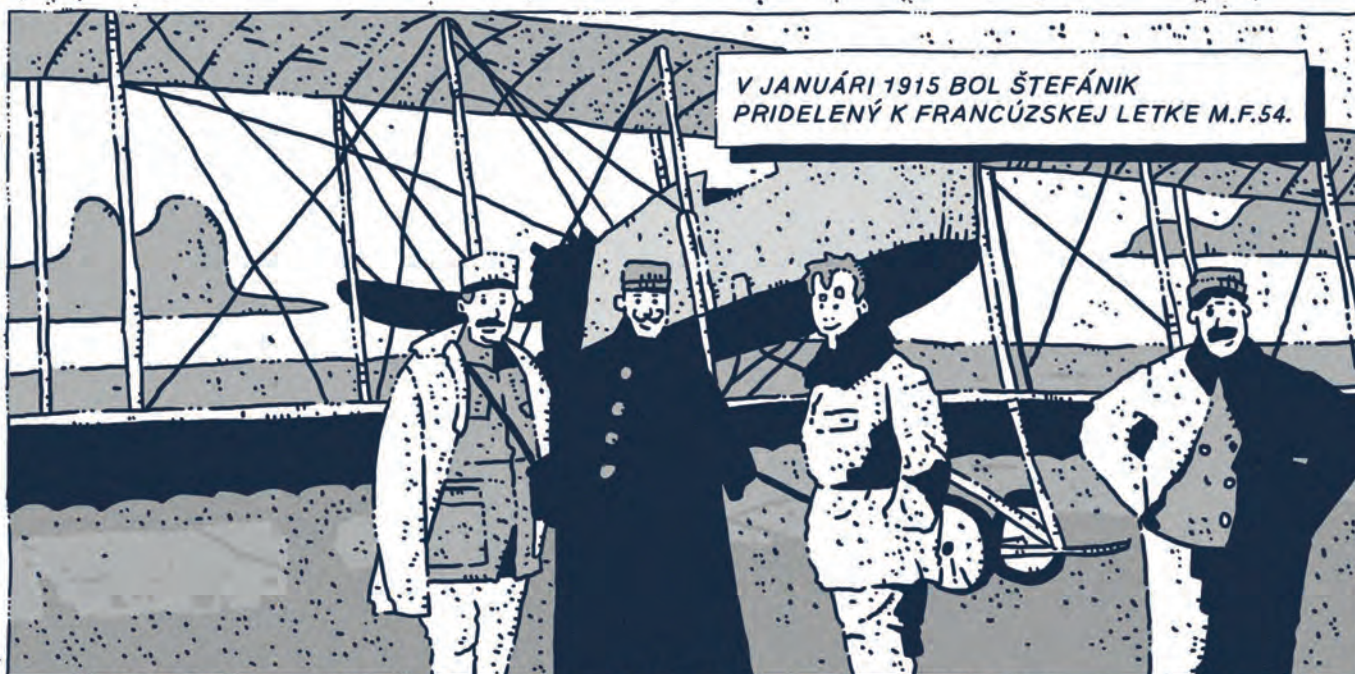


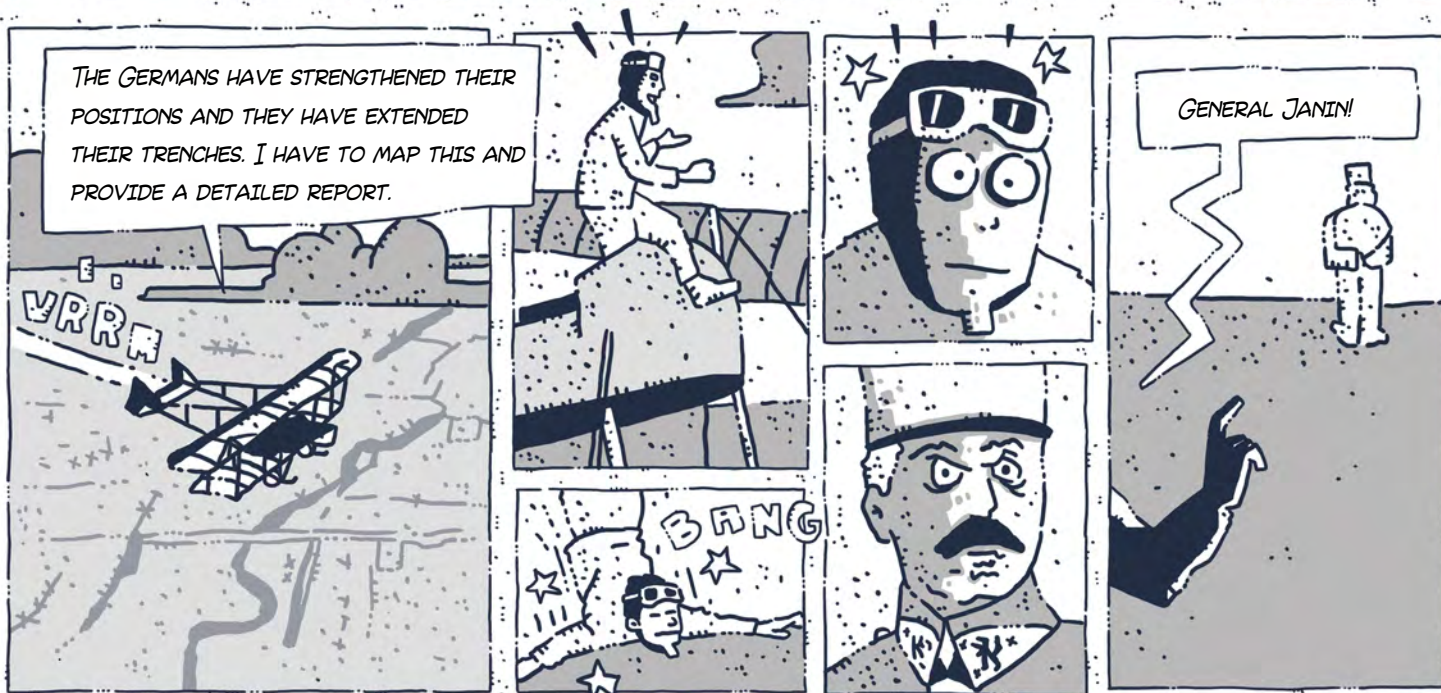
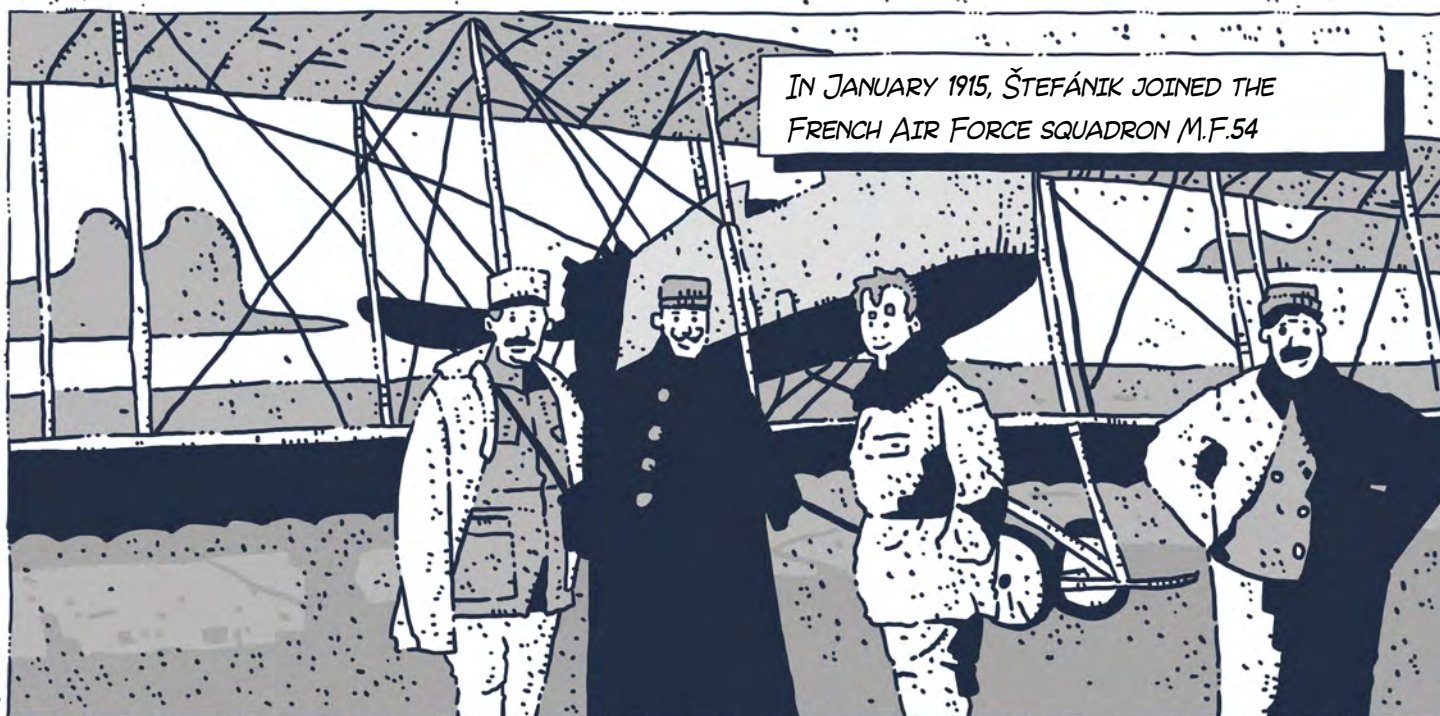
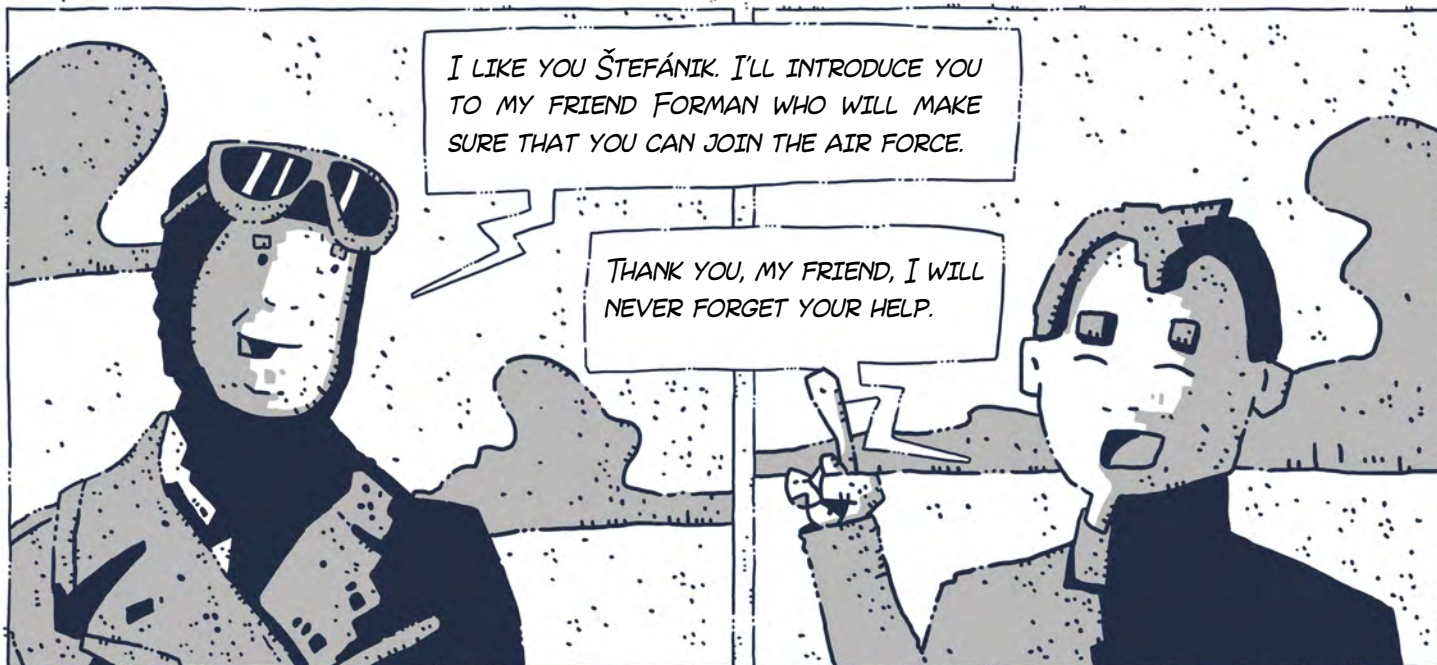
BUT BEFORE BEING ABLE TO DO THIS, HE FOUND HIMSELF HAVING TO FIGHT IN THE TRENCHES WHERE HE LIVED THROUGH A BRUTAL GERMAN OFFENSIVE.



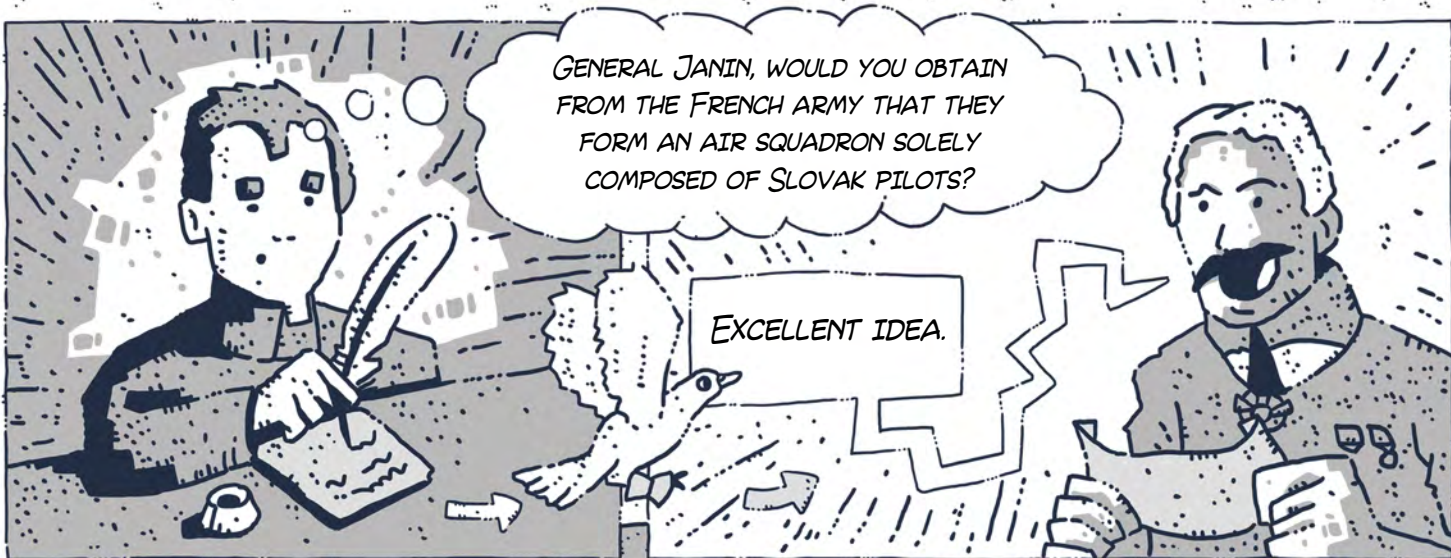
SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE HIS WISH TO FLY, HE STARTED LOOKING FOR CONTACTS AND ALLIES WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP HIM. IN SO DOING, IN 1914 HE MET PAUL RAPHAEL AND TOLD HIM ABOUT HOW HE HAD WATCHED THE FIRST CROSS-CHANNEL FLIGHT.











GENERAL JANIN, WOULD YOU OBTAIN FROM THE FRENCH ARMY THAT THEY FORM AN AIR SQUADRON SOLELY COMPOSED OF SLOVAK PILOTS?

EXCELLENT IDEA.



THAT IS HOW ŠTEFÁNIK FORMED THE BASIS ABROAD OF FUTURE SLOVAK NATIONAL UNITS WHICH WOULD GIVE RISE TO THE FUTURE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS.



GENERAL JANIN, OUR PLANES CAN'T TAKE OFF BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY RAINFALL. EXPLORATION FLIGHTS ARE THEREFORE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE CANNOT CONTINUE OUR OFFENSIVE. IF ONLY WE KNEW WHEN THE WEATHER WOULD BE IN OUR FAVOUR...

THAT'S NOT GOOD. WE'RE LOSING TIME AND, MEANWHILE, THE GERMANS ARE STRENGTHENING THEIR POSITIONS.



GENERAL, IT'LL BE NICE AND SUNNY TOMORROW AGAIN, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO FLY ONCE MORE.

BE QUIET!
A SOLDIER IS NOT TO SPEAK UNLESS SPOKEN TO. AND AS FOR YOUR CHARLATAN WEATHER FORECASTS, THEY ARE BEST KEPT TO YOURSELF, ŠTEFÁNIK!



AKO STE MOHLI VEDIET,
ŽE DÁŽD USTANE A NAHRADÍ
HO SLNEČNÉ POČASIE?

VO FRANCÚZSKU SOM DOSTAL PRÍLEŽITOSŤ
PRIUČIŤ SA TAJOM ASTRONÓMIE. POZOROVANIE
NOČNEJ OBLOHY BY SA NEZAOBIŠLO BEZ
SCHOPNOSTI POZNAŤ VÝVOJ POČASIA.
OVLÁDAM METEOROLÓGIU A VĎAKA NEJ VIEM
VÝPOČÍTAŤ VÝVOJ POČASIA.



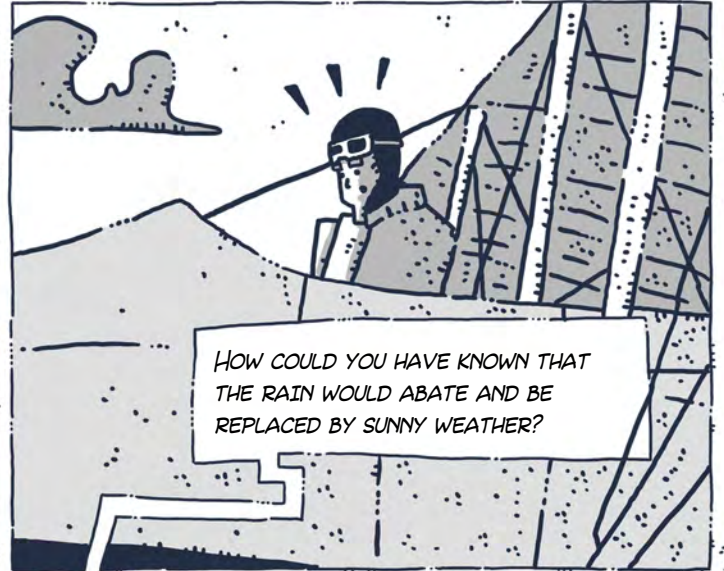
TAK PREDSA NIE STE ŠARLATÁN,
ALE VEDEC.



POČUJTE ŠTEFÁNIK, POZNAŤ VÝVOJ POČASIA BY NÁM
POMOHLO ZACHRÁNIŤ TISÍCKY ŽIVOTOV NAŠICH
VOJAKOV A ZÍSKAŤ TAKTICKÚ VÝHODU NAD
NEPRIATEĽOM. ZAŽIL SOM PRÍLIŠ VEĽA BITIEK, KDE
O VÍTAZSTVE A PREHRE ROZHODOVALO PRÁVE POČASIE.
VOJAK, KTORÝ SA ZABORÍ DO BAHNA JE PRE
NEPRIATEĽA LAHKÝ TERČ, NEHOVORIAC O VČERAJŠEJ
SITUÁCII, KEDY NEMOHLI VZLIETNUŤ NAŠE STROJE.



MÁTE PRAVDU, PÁN GENERÁL. DOVOLTE
MI PREDAŤ MOJE VEDOMOSTI ĎALŠÍM
VOJAKOM, SPOLOČNE VYTVOŘÍME
METEOROLOGICKÚ JEDNOTKU A
INFORMÁCIE O VÝVOJI POČASIA BUDÚ
K DISPOZÍCII NIELEN PRE LETECTVO,
ALE PRE CELÚ FRANCÚZSKU ARMÁDU.



HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN THAT THE RAIN WOULD ABATE AND BE REPLACED BY SUNNY WEATHER?

IN FRANCE, I STUDIED ASTRONOMY AND BECAME FAMILIAR WITH ITS SECRETS. OBSERVING THE NIGHT SKY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT A KNOWLEDGE OF METEOROLOGY. I HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE, AND IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT I AM ABLE TO PROVIDE WEATHER FORECASTS.



SO, YOU'RE NOT A CHARLATAN AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST!



LISTEN TO ME ŠTEFÁNIK, BEING ABLE TO FORECAST WEATHER CONDITIONS COULD HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS AND WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. I'VE EXPERIENCED TOO MANY BATTLES WHERE THE DECISIVE FACTOR WAS THE WEATHER. A SOLDIER STUCK IN MUD IS AN EASY TARGET, LET ALONE WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WHEN OUR PLANES COULDN'T EVEN TAKE OFF...



YOU'RE RIGHT SIR. ALLOW ME TO SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHER SOLDIERS AND TOGETHER WE'LL CREATE A METEOROLOGICAL UNIT AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEATHER WILL BE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY TO THE AIR FORCE, BUT TO THE ENTIRE ARMY.





NA ZÁKLADE TOHTO ROZHOVORU
NAPOMÁHA ŠTEFÁNIK VZNIKU PRVEJ
METEOROLOGICKEJ SLUŽBY
OZBROJENÝCH SÍL. TÁTO UDALOSŤ
SA STANE DÔLEŽITÝM MILNÍKOM
PRI MODERNIZÁCII FRANCÚZSKEJ
ARMÁDY, KTORÉ PRINESÚ ŠTEFÁNIKOV
NEBÝVALÉ UZNANIE.



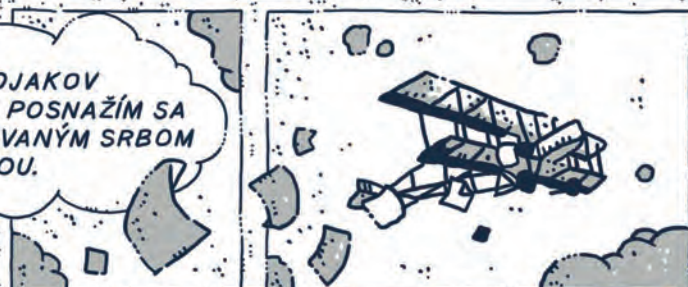
THANKS TO THIS CONVERSATION, ŠTEFÁNIK
CREATED THE FIRST ARMY METEOROLOGICAL
SERVICE. THIS EVENT WAS A TURNING POINT
IN THE MODERNIZATION OF THE FRENCH
ARMY FOR WHICH A GREAT DEAL OF
GRATITUDE WAS SHOWN TO ŠTEFÁNIK.



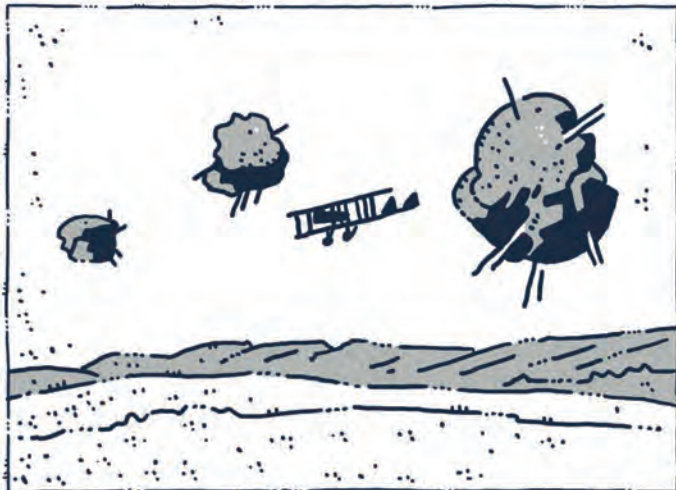
ŠTEFÁNIK POKRAČUJE VO SVOJICH PRIESKUMNÝCH LETOCH. JEHO LETY SÚ ČORAZ DLHŠIE A ODVÁŽNEJŠIE. KRÁTKO PO TOM, AKO RAKÚSKO-UHORSKO NAPADNE SRBSKO SA DOSTANE AŽ NAD ÚZEMIE BALKÁNU.



ZMAPUJEM POZÍCIE VOJAKOV RAKÚSKO-UHORSKA A POSNAŽÍM SA POMÔCŤ DEMORALIZOVANÝM SRBOM POD ŤAŽKOU OFENZÍVOU.

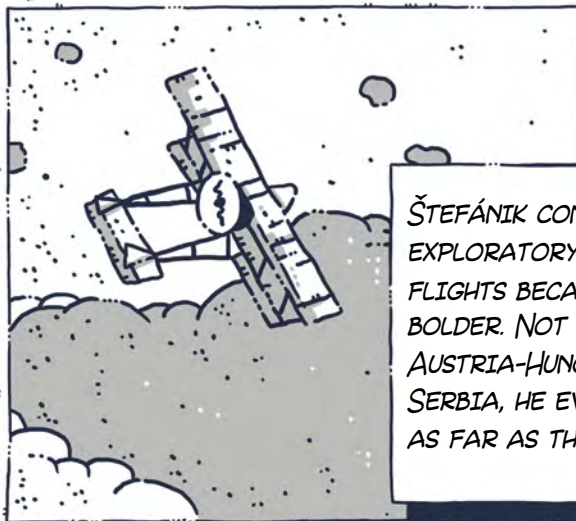


UVEDOMUJE SI, ŽE V TEJTO ARMÁDE BOJUJE AJ VEĽA JEHO KRAJANOV, KTORÝCH BY CHCEĽ ZAPOJIŤ DO BOJA ZA SAMOSTATNOSŤ. PRETO Z LIETADLA POČAS PRIESKUMNÝCH LETOV ROZHADZUJE LETÁKY, KDE VYZÝVA ČECHOV A SLOVÁKOV V RADÁCH RAKÚSKO-UHORSKEJ ARMÁDY, ABY DEZERTOVALI A PRIDALI SA K JEDNOTKÁM FRANCÚZOV A TALIANOV.

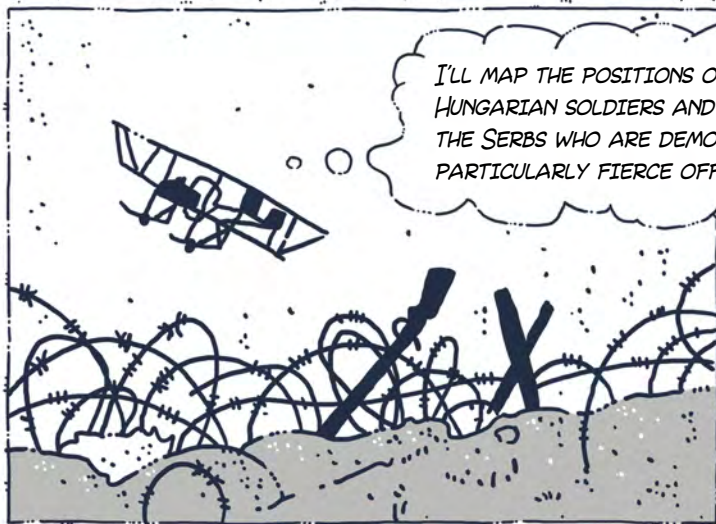


SME POD PALBOU!

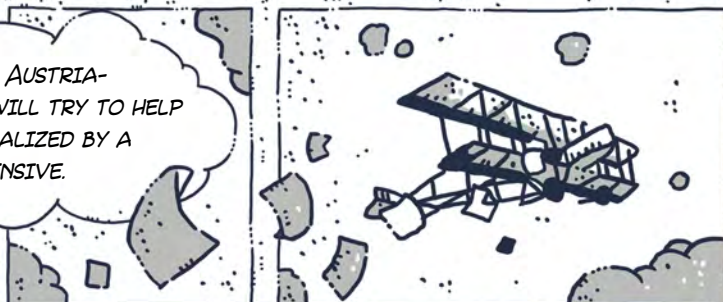




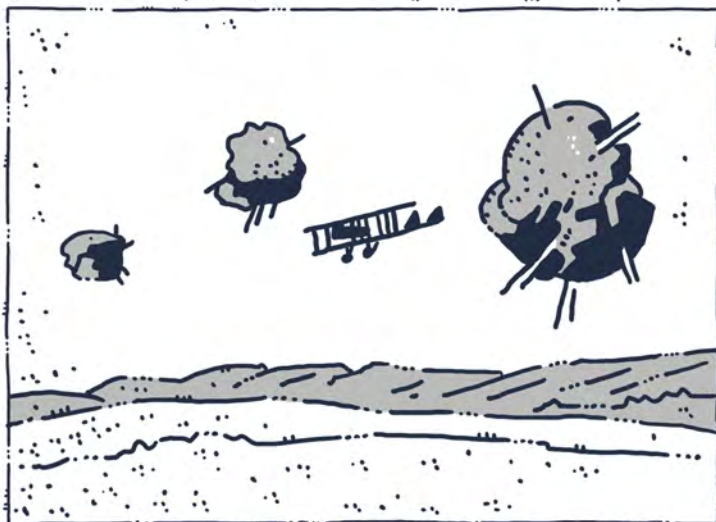
ŠTEFÁNIK CONTINUED WITH EXPLORATORY FLIGHTS. HIS FLIGHTS BECAME LONGER AND BOLDER. NOT LONG AFTER AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ATTACKED SERBIA, HE EVEN VENTURED AS FAR AS THE BALKANS.



I'LL MAP THE POSITIONS OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN SOLDIERS AND WILL TRY TO HELP THE SERBS WHO ARE DEMORALIZED BY A PARTICULARLY FIERCE OFFENSIVE.



HE WAS ALSO AWARE THAT THAT ARMY INCLUDED MANY OF HIS COUNTRYMEN, WHOM HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO ENROL IN THE FIGHT FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE. THAT'S WHY DURING HIS FLIGHTS, HE DROPPED LEAFLETS ENCOURAGING CZECHS AND SLOVAKS TO LEAVE THE AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN ARMY AND JOIN THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN UNITS.

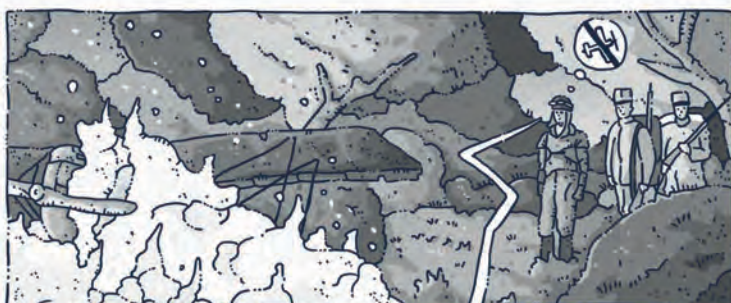




6. NOVEMBER 1915,
SRBSKO, ALEKSANDROVAC



NAŠI DRUHOVIA BOJOVALI
STATOČNE, ALE NEPRIATEĽ
ZAÚTOČIL V PRESILE, BOLO
ICH 3X TOĽKO, ČO NÁS.
MUSÍME SA DAŤ NA ÚTEK.



BEZ NÁHRADNÝCH DIELOV SVOJ STROJ
NEOPRAVÍM. NEMÁM INÚ MOŽNOSŤ
AKO HO ZNIČIŤ. NEMÔŽEM DOPUSTIŤ
ABY PADOL DO RÚK NEPRIATEĽA.



MITROVICA,
KOSOVO



PRIZREN

BUDÚCNOSŤ MOJA
JE BUĎ SKVELÁ,
BUĎ NIJAKÁ.

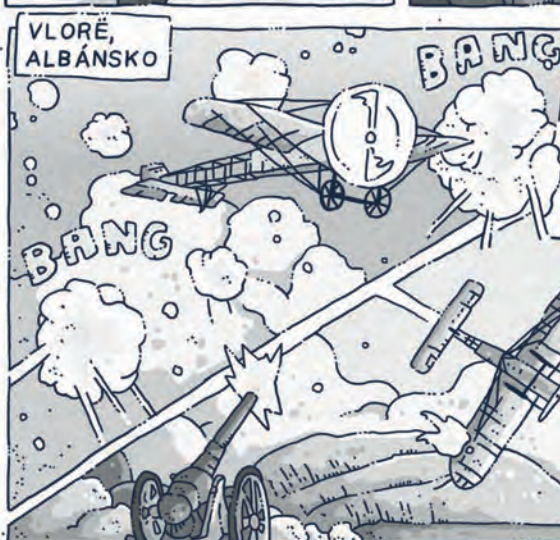
PRE ĽUDÍ, PEVNÉHO
PREDSAVZATIA
A VYTRVALOSTI
NIET NEMOŽNOSTÍ.



MILAN, STRATILI SME SA!



KPT. PAULHAN SLEDUJ HVIEZDY.
TIE NÁS ZAVEDÚ DO CIEĽA.



VLOŘE,
ALBÁNSKO

PROTIVZDUŠNÁ OBRANA
VLOŘE SI ŠTEFÁNIKOV
STROJ POMÝLILA S
NEPRIATEĽOM A ZAHÁJILA
PALBU. PAULHAN A ŤAŽKO
RANENÝ ŠTEFÁNIK
HAVAROVALI
V PRILIAHLÝCH
MOČIAROCH.



DOČERTA!
VŠAK TO SÚ NAŠI!





THE 6TH OF NOVEMBER, 1915,
SERBIA, ALEKSANDROVAC

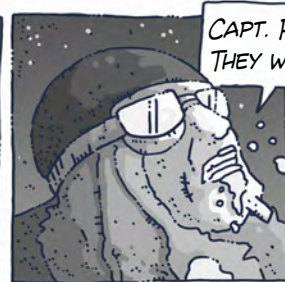
OUR MEN FOUGHT BRAVELY BUT THE
ENEMY ATTACKED IN GREATER
NUMBERS. WE WERE OUTNUMBERED
BY THREE TO ONE. WE HAVE TO
RETREAT.

I CAN'T REPAIR MY PLANE WITHOUT SPARE
PARTS. I HAVE NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO
DESTROY IT. I CAN'T LET THE ENEMY HAVE
ACCESS TO IT.

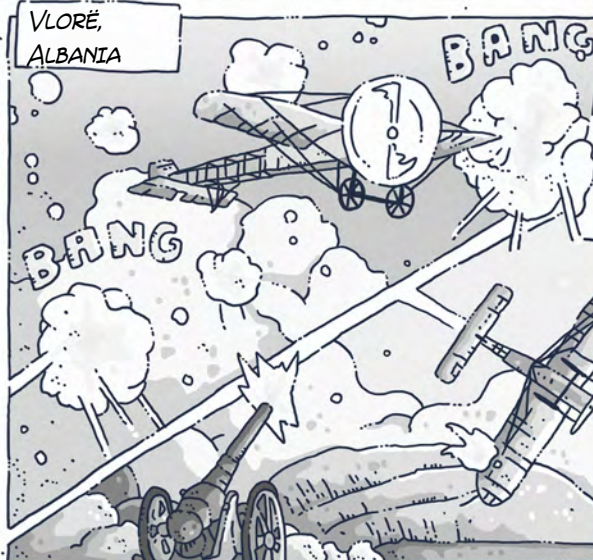


MY FUTURE WILL EITHER
BE GREAT OR WILL BE
NON-EXISTENT.

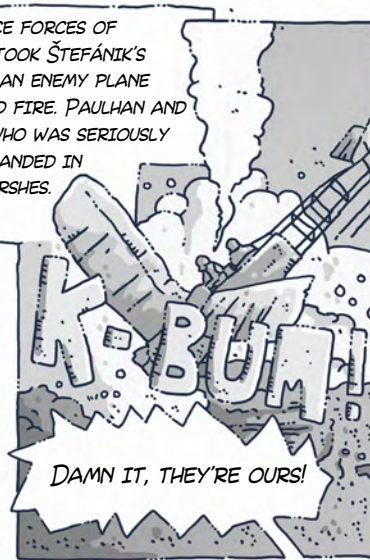
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THOSE WHO ARE
DETERMINED AND WHO
PERSEVERE.



CAPT. PAULHAN, FOLLOW THE STARS.
THEY WILL SHOW US THE WAY.



AIR DEFENCE FORCES OF
VLORE MISTOOK ŠTEFÁNIK'S
PLANE FOR AN ENEMY PLANE
AND OPENED FIRE. PAULHAN AND
ŠTEFÁNIK WHO WAS SERIOUSLY
WOUNDED, LANDED IN
NEARBY MARSHES.



DAMN IT, THEY'RE OURS!



II.

”

Život na mňa musí čakať, a nie živorenie.

“

II

“My whole life lies ahead of me, not survival.”



MILANKHO, SOBUT SA, UŠ
JE ŠAS...

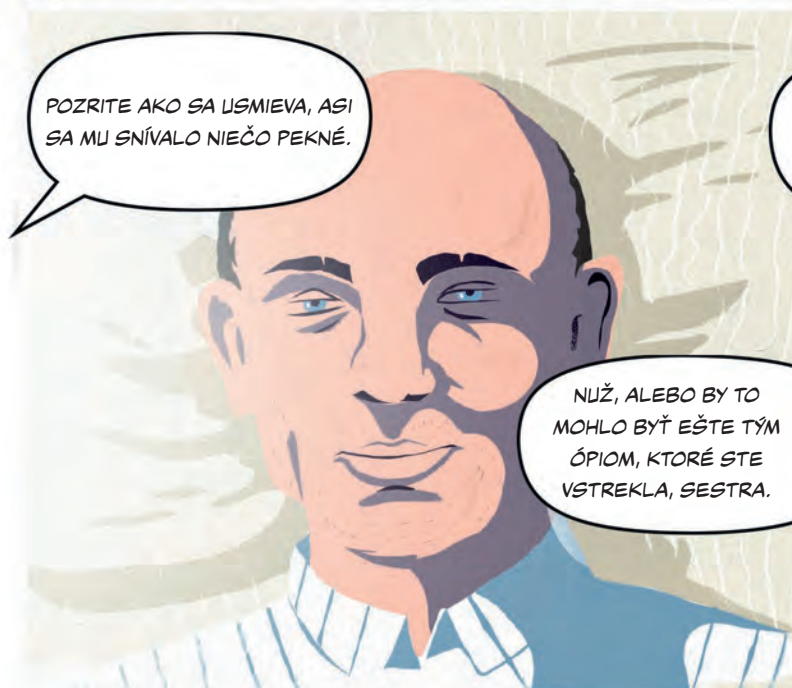


ARAVA

DOTTORE, MYSLÍM, ŽE TEN
FRANCÚZ SA...

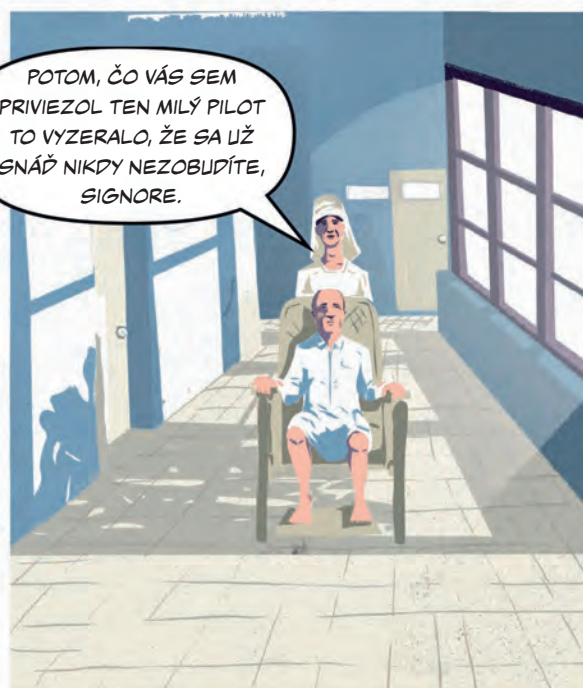


PREBERÁ.

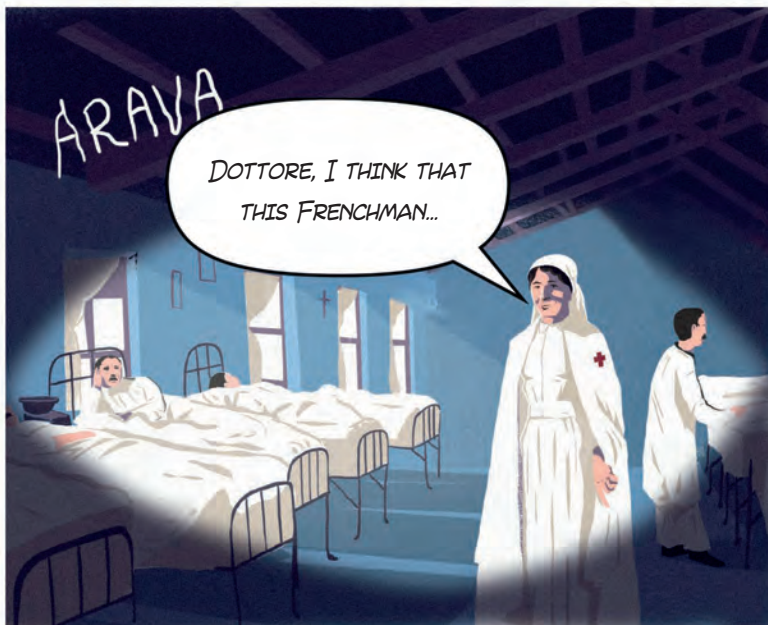


POZRITE AKO SA USMIEVA, ASI
SA MU SNÍVALO NIEČO PEKNÉ.

NUŽ, ALEBO BY TO
MOHLO BYŤ EŠTE TÝM
ÓPIOM, KTORÉ STE
VSTREKLA, SESTRA.



POTOM, ČO VÁS SEM
PRIVIEZOL TEN MILÝ PILOT
TO VYZERALO, ŽE SA UŽ
SNÁĎ NIKDY NEZOBUDÍTE,
SIGNORE.





A ČO SA VLASTNE
STALO, SESTRA?

OCHVÍĽU SA VŠETKO
DOZVIETE. NIKTO TU UŽ
NA VÁS ČAKÁ.



NO POZRIME SA NA NEHO,
KAMARÁT TY ALE VYZERÁŠ,
MON DIEU!

LOUIS PAULHAN

1883 - 1963

Najväčšie letecké eso medzi
francúzskymi bojovými pilotmi
I. svetovej vojny.

TIE MOČIARE BOLI ROZ-
HODNE VÄČŠÍM NEBEZPE-
ČENSTVOM NEŽ TALIANSKI
OSTROSTRELCI.

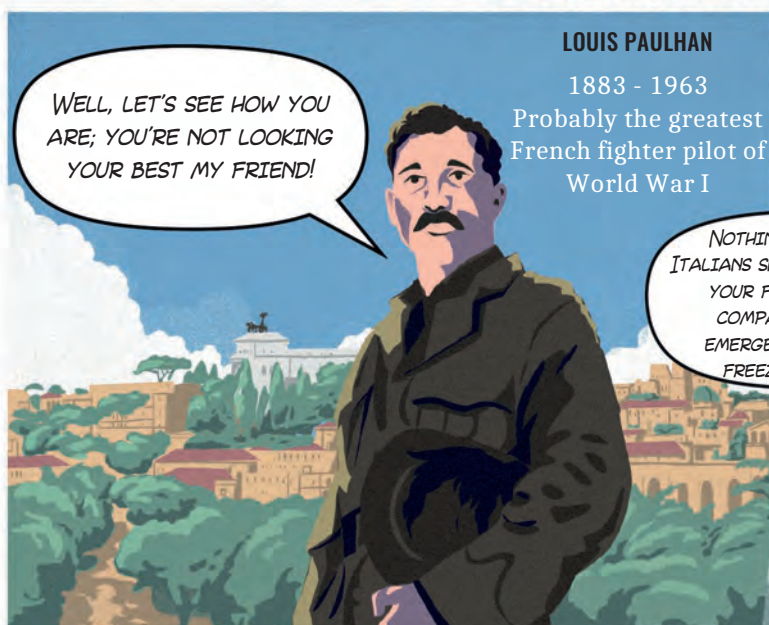


A ŽE SI SA Z TEJ CHOROBY TAK
RÝCHLO VYSTRÁBIL, MÔŽEŠ ĎAKO-
VAŤ MADAME DE JOLVENEL.
TÁ PANIČKA MÁ KONEXIE ASI VŠADE.
NA, TU JE POZVANIE K NEJ DO
PARÍŽA.



AND WHAT
HAPPENED
EXACTLY, SISTER?

YOU'LL SOON FIND
OUT, SIGNOR
ŠTEFÁNIK.



LOUIS PAULHAN

1883 - 1963

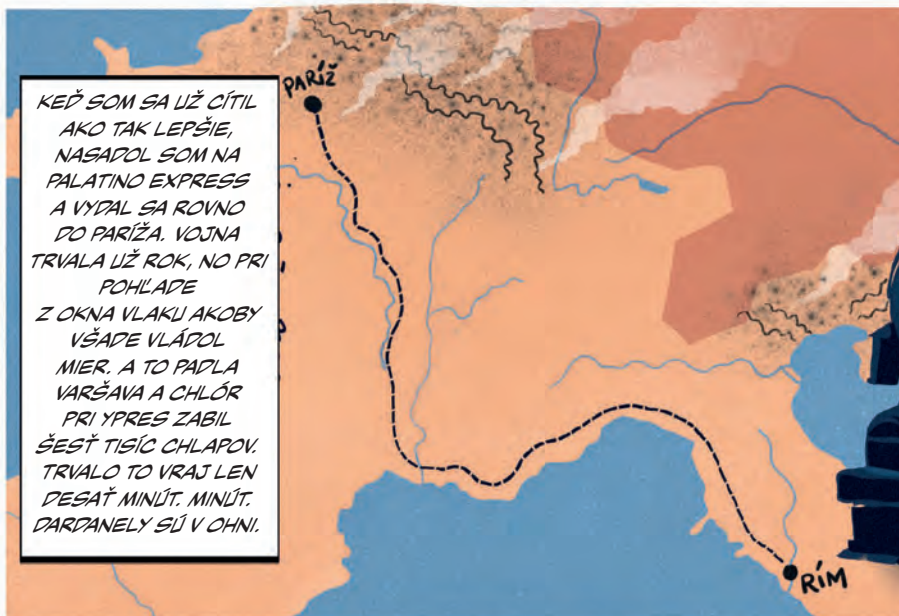
Probably the greatest
French fighter pilot of
World War I

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW YOU
ARE; YOU'RE NOT LOOKING
YOUR BEST MY FRIEND!

NOTHING, NEITHER THE
ITALIANS SHOOTING AT US, NOR
YOUR FAINTING, COULD
COMPARE WITH THAT
EMERGENCY LANDING IN
FREEZING MARSHES.



YOU SHOULD THANK MADAME
DE JOUVENEL'S CONTACTS FOR
YOUR SPEEDY RECOVERY. YOU
MUST HAVE LEFT QUITE AN
IMPRESSION LAST YEAR IN
PARIS. HERE'S A LETTER WITH
HER SEAL.



KEĎ SOM SA UŽ CÍTIL
AKO TAK LEPŠIE,
NASADOL SOM NA
PALATINO EXPRESS
A VYDAL SA ROVNO
DO PARÍŽA. VOJNA
TRVALA UŽ ROK, NO PRI
POHLÁDE
Z OKNA VLAKU AKOBY
VŠADE VLÁDOL
MIER. A TO PADLA
VARŠAVA A CHLÓR
PRI YPRES ZABIL
ŠEŠŤ TISÍC CHLAPOV.
TRVALO TO VRAJ LEN
DESAŤ MINÚT. MINÚT.
DARDANELY SÚ V OHNI.



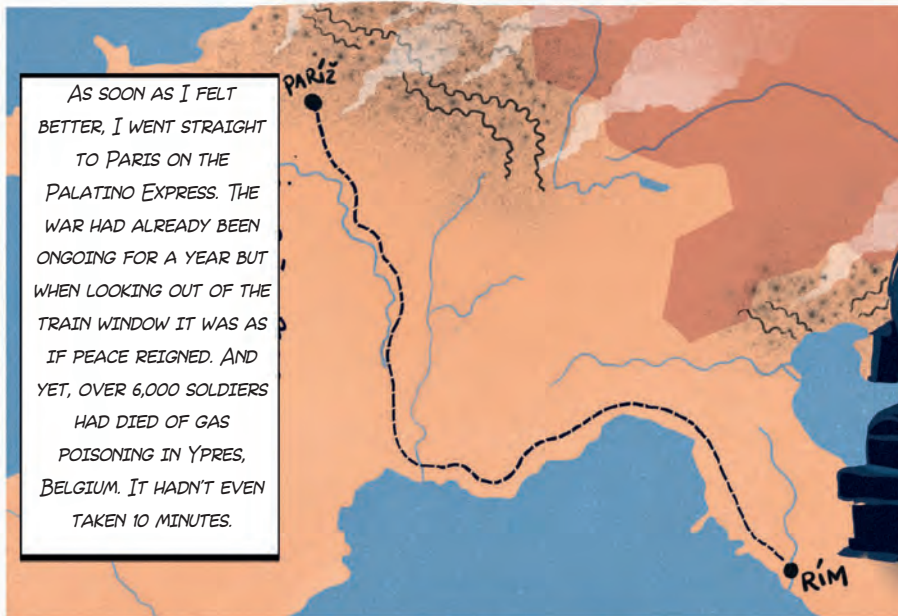
V PARÍŽI VLÁDNE ZDANLIVÝ KLUD. V ULICIACH
JE NEBYVÁLÉ MNOŽSTVO ŽIEN, PROSTITÚ-
TOK ALE AJ MRZÁKOV. NEČÚDO, FRONT JE
ĎALEKO LEN HODINU JAZDY AUTOMOBILOM.



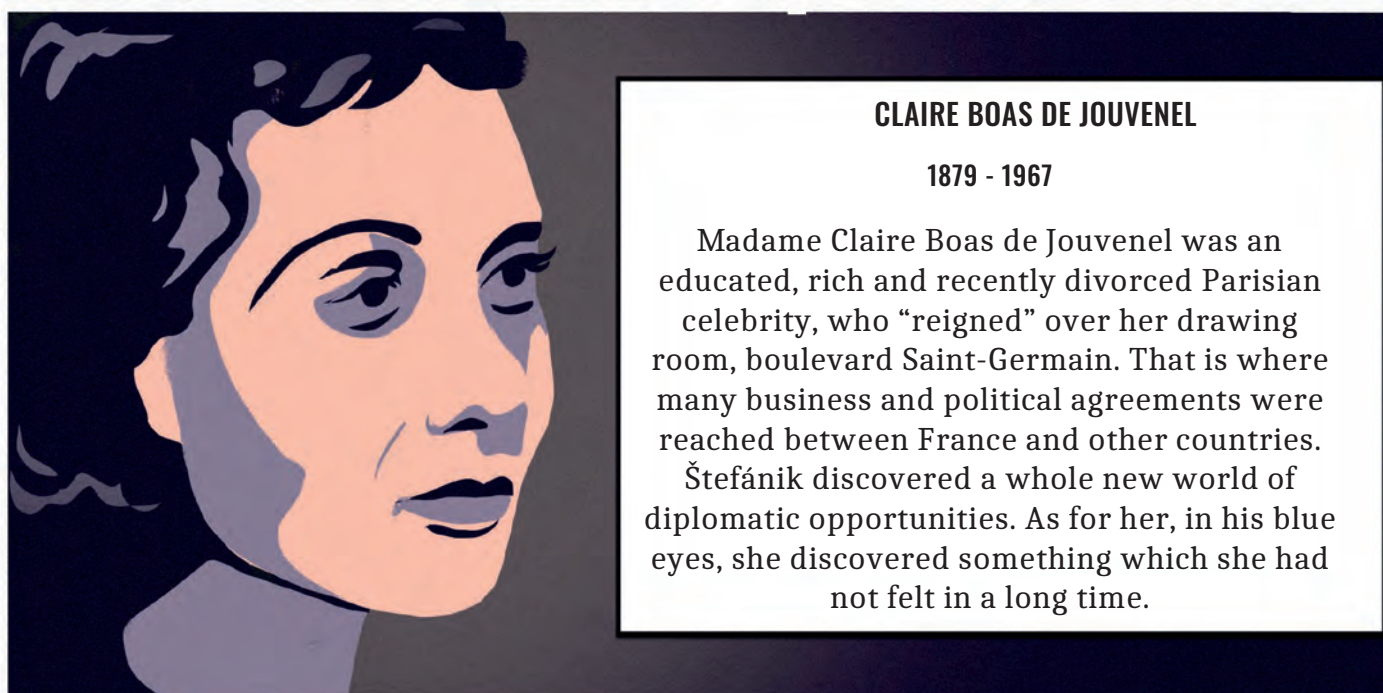
TAK TOMU HOVORÍM
PALÁC.



ZA MADAME DE
JOLIVENEL, OČAKÁVA MA.







CLAIRE BOAS DE JOUVENEL

1879 - 1967

Madame Claire Boas de Jouvenel was an educated, rich and recently divorced Parisian celebrity, who “reigned” over her drawing room, boulevard Saint-Germain. That is where many business and political agreements were reached between France and other countries.

Štefánik discovered a whole new world of diplomatic opportunities. As for her, in his blue eyes, she discovered something which she had not felt in a long time.



OSPRAVEDLŇUJEM SA
MADAME, LEN MI HLAVOU VÍRI
PRIVEĽA MYŠLIENOK.



KÝM SI TU MI KLEBETÍME O TOM
A TAMTOM, A SLUŽOBNÍCTVO NOSÍ
NA STÔL JEDNU PAŠTÉTU ZA
DRUHOU, MUŽI V ZÁKOPOCH ĎALEJ
UMIERAJÚ.



NA ZÁPADE, VÝCHODE, V RUSKU,
STOVKY, TISÍCIE MOJICH AJ VAŠICH
KRAJANOV PRELIEVAJÚ KRV. TÍ
MOJI NAVYŠE ZA RÍŠU, V KTOREJ
NIE SÚ SLOBODNÍ.



AK CHCETE PRE NICH NIEČO
UROBIŤ, ŠTEFÁNIK, VRÁŤTE SA
DOLU A HOVORTE S MOCNÝMI.
LEN TÍ SÚ SCHOPNÍ UKONČIŤ
TOTO ŠIALENSTVO.



TAK NA TO SI S VAMI
PRIPIJEM DESIATNIK, VIVA
LA ČESKOSLOVENSKO!

Či už to bolo šťastie alebo cit pre príležitosť, Milan Rastislav dokázal nadviazať kontakty s dôležitými ľuďmi európskej politiky. Vďaka za to určite svojmu intelektu, jazykovému nadaniu, ako aj šarmu zdedenému možno od svojich myjavských predkov. Štefánik vedel, že len s otvorenou myslou v otvorenom svete môže dosiahnuť svojich veľkých plánov.



Štefánik, a citizen of the world on principle, formed powerful alliances which allowed the creation of Czechoslovakia. His choice of values is part and parcel of our history. It was a case of creating an interconnected and open world where everyone - in those days Štefánik, today each one of us - would be able to fulfil his dreams and bring his projects to life.

PRE SVOJ PLÁN POTREBUJEM HOVORIŤ S ČO NAJVIACŠÍM MNOŽSTVOM ĽUDÍ. MYŠLIENKU O ČESKOSLOVENSKU MUSÍM ŠÍRIŤ AKOBY ŠLO O HOTOVÚ VEC...HNEĎ AKO VOJNU VYHRÁME.



OPĚT V RÍME

SIGNOR ŠTEFÁNIK, PREKVAPUJE MA S AKOU ISTOTOU HOVORÍTE O ČESKOSLOVENSKU, AKOBY O EXISTUJÚCOM ŠTÁTE. VIETE, ŽE HABSBUERG ANI ZDÁLEKA NEPOVEDAL POSLEDNÉ SLOVO.



EDVARDE BENEŠI, JE TREBA VYRAZIŤ MEDZI ĽUDÍ.



Nebyť Štefánikovej angažovanosti v československom zahraničnom odboji, tak by sa Beneš pohyboval výlučne v akademických kruhoch a chýbali by mu dôležité kontakty v zahraničnej politike.

Bez nich by nikdy nevytvoril medzinárodnú politickú vôľu vytvoriť na troskách Habsburskej monarchie nový štát Čechov a Slovákov.



PÁN MINISTER, DOVOĽUJEM SI VÁM PREDSTAVIŤ PROFESORA MASARYKA.

ŠTEFÁNIK KNEW HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO BRING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES AND TO BUILD TRUST BETWEEN NATIONS SHARING SIMILAR VALUES: SUCH AS DEMOCRACY, LIBERALISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC.

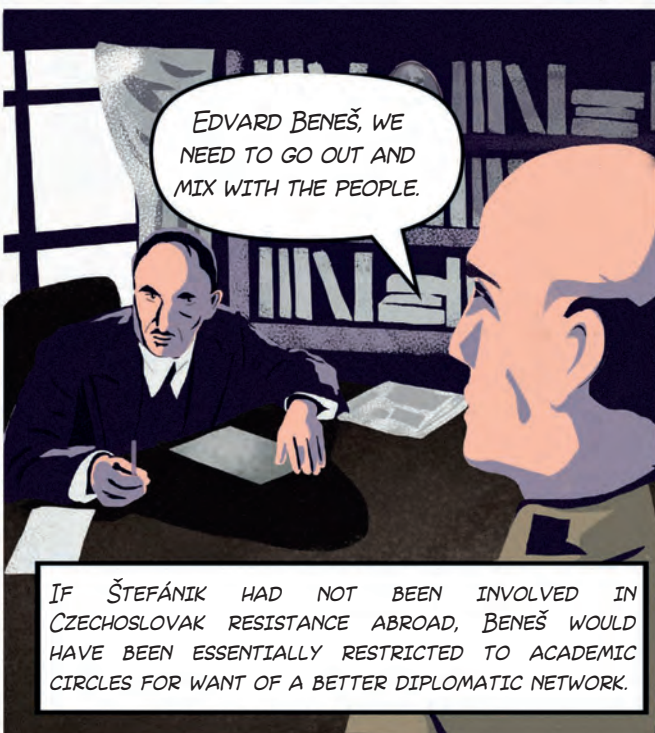


BACK TO ROME

SIGNOR ŠTEFÁNIK, I AM IMPRESSED BY THE CERTAINTY WITH WHICH YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR STATE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AS IF IT EXISTED ALREADY. YET HABSBURG HASN'T EVEN REMOTELY AGREED YET.



EDVARD BENEŠ, WE NEED TO GO OUT AND MIX WITH THE PEOPLE.



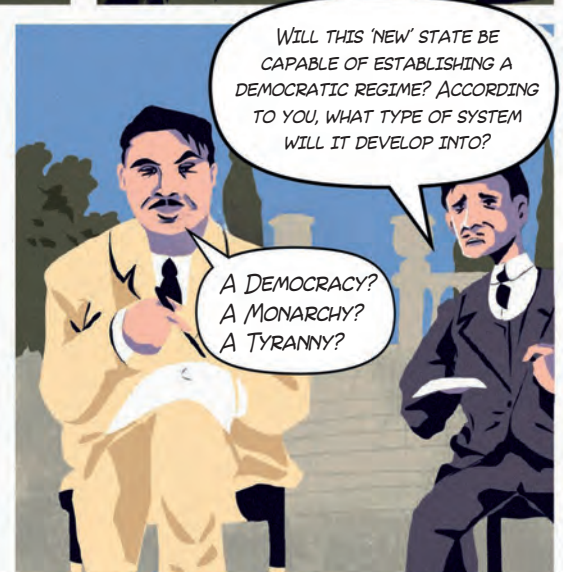
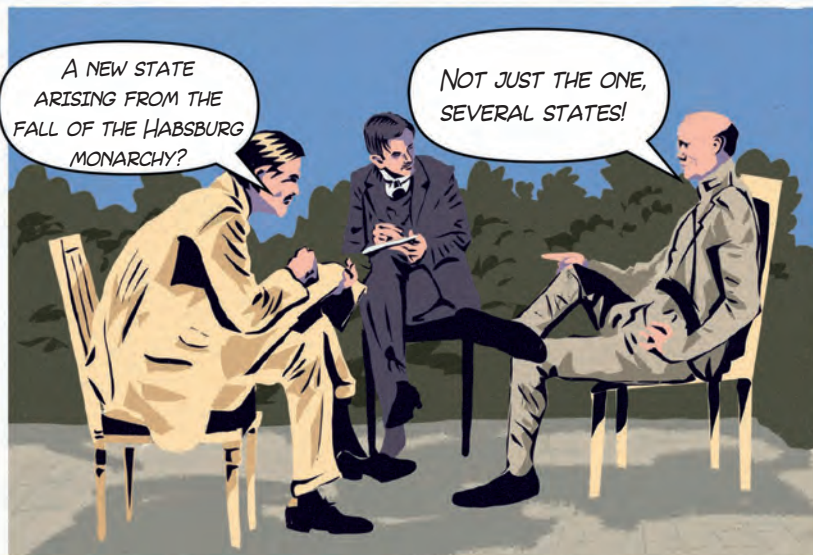
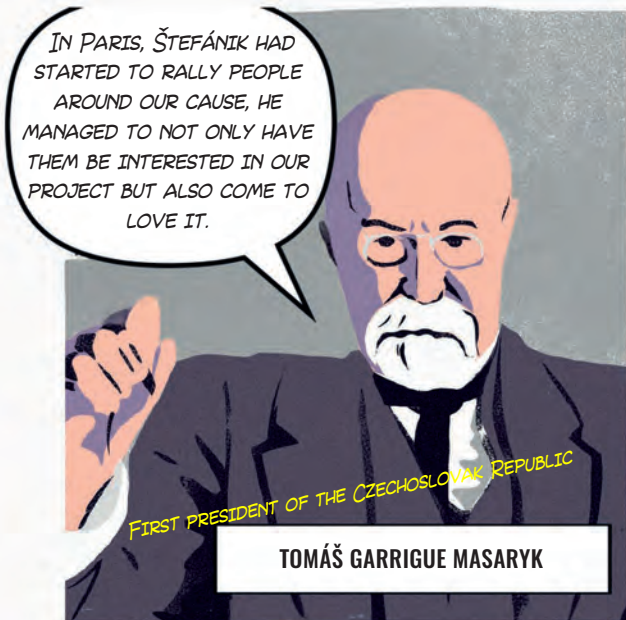
IF ŠTEFÁNIK HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN CZECHOSLOVAK RESISTANCE ABROAD, BENEŠ WOULD HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY RESTRICTED TO ACADEMIC CIRCLES FOR WANT OF A BETTER DIPLOMATIC NETWORK.

WITHOUT THESE CONTACTS, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ROUSE THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL WILL WHICH LED TO THE BIRTH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.



SIR, DO YOU KNOW PROFESSOR MASARYK?







PREMÝŠLALI STE NIEKEDY NAD MANŽELSTVOM, ŠTEFÁNIK?

NEPREDBIEHAJTE LOUISE, ČO TAK NAJSKÔR NIEČO SLADKÉ?



O DIEŤ, ČO JA NA TOM MALOM CUDZINCOVI LEN VIDÍM? VLASY UŽ NEMÁ SKORO ŽIADNE, TÁ POĎOBANÁ TVÁR OD KIAHNÍ A VRAJ SO ZDRAVÍM NA TOM TIEŽ NIE JE NAJLEPŠIE. ALE KEĎ SA NA MŇA ZADÍVA TÝMI SVOJIMI MODRÝMI OČAMI, MÁM POCIT, ŽE SOM NAJDÔLEŽITEJŠÍ ČLOVEK NA SVETE. A TIE JEHO VEĽKOLEPÉ PLÁNY. VRAJ ŠTÁT. DOKÁŽE O ŇOM VRAVIET CELE HODINY, ALE AJ O HVIEZDACH, O TÝCH VRAVÍ AZDA EŠTE RADŠEJ. PRAVDEPODOBNE SOM SA ZAMILOVALA. CHCEM HO POŽIADAŤ O RUKU, SKÔR KÝM TO NEUROBÍ INÁ.



ŠTEFÁNIK: NA VÝCHODE VYK...

NAVY PUNDS PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN VESSELS

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years

St. Petersburg, Russia

Kto sú Bolševici?

RUSSIAN VESSELS

NAVY PUNDS PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIAN VESSELS



ŠTEFÁNIK, TO VÁM BOL MANIPULÁTOR! MYSLÍM TO ALE V DOBROM. ON AKOBY VIDEL ĽUĎOM DO HLÁV. STAČILA CHVÍLKA KONVERZÁCIE A UŽ STE HO POKLAĎALI ZA STARÉHO ZNÁMEHO.

MAURICE JANIN, generál



HM, ALE KTO BY POSKYTNOL LOPE PRE TRANSPORT TAK VEĽKÉHO POČTU ČESKÝCH ZAJATCOV?

CITY A MYŠLIENKY INÝCH SA MI JAVILI AKO NIEČO HMATATEĽNÉ, ČOHO SA MÔŽEM DOTKNÚŤ A SPRÁVNE ICH POCHOPIŤ.



VIDÍM, ŽE NEVERÍŠ MOJMU PLÁNU.

SKÚSME TO INAK.



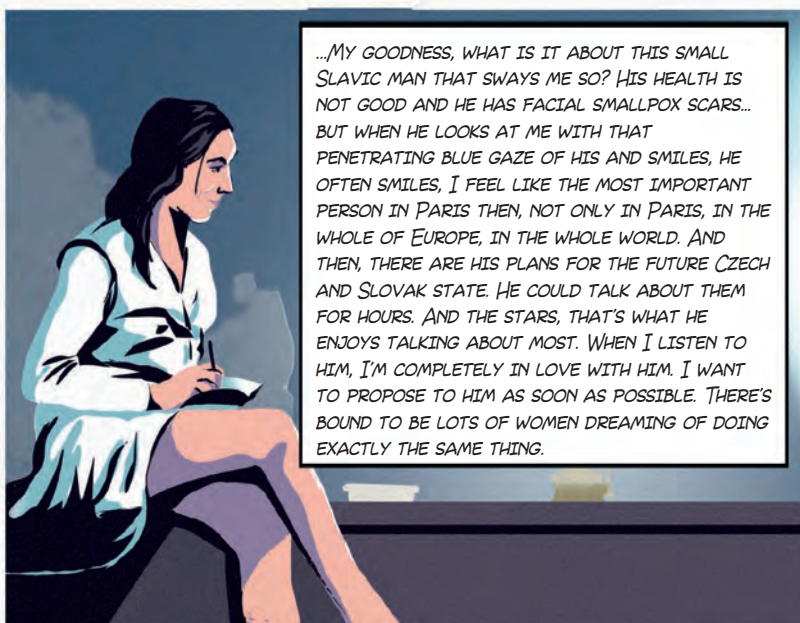
SOM PRESVEDČENÝ, ŽE AKO VÝZNAMNÝ OCELIAR A OBCHODNÍK POZNÁTE RIZIKO INVESTÍCIE.

NA ČOM ZALOŽIŤ HOSPODÁRSTVO MLADÉHO ŠTÁTU S UŽ DOBRŮU PRIEMYSLENOIU ZÁKLADŇOU A CHUŤOU DOBEHNÚŤ ZÁPADNÉ DEMOKRACIE?



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF GETTING MARRIED, ŠTEFÁNIK?

LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES, DEAR LOUISE...



...MY GOODNESS, WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS SMALL SLAVIC MAN THAT SWAYS ME SO? HIS HEALTH IS NOT GOOD AND HE HAS FACIAL SMALLPOX SCARS... BUT WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME WITH THAT PENETRATING BLUE GAZE OF HIS AND SMILES, HE OFTEN SMILES, I FEEL LIKE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN PARIS THEN, NOT ONLY IN PARIS, IN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE, IN THE WHOLE WORLD. AND THEN, THERE ARE HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE CZECH AND SLOVAK STATE. HE COULD TALK ABOUT THEM FOR HOURS. AND THE STARS, THAT'S WHAT HE ENJOYS TALKING ABOUT MOST. WHEN I LISTEN TO HIM, I'M COMPLETELY IN LOVE WITH HIM. I WANT TO PROPOSE TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE'S BOUND TO BE LOTS OF WOMEN DREAMING OF DOING EXACTLY THE SAME THING.



ŠTEFÁNIK: NA VÝCHODE VÝHRA

NAVY PUNISHES PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MISSILE VESSELS

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt

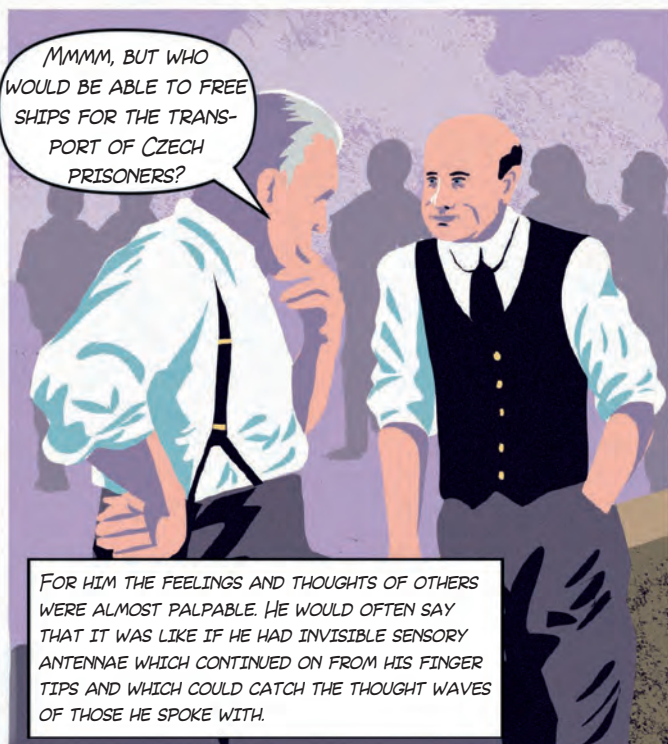
Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt

Heaviest Trading in 8 Years Marks Stock Market Spurt



OH, ŠTEFÁNIK WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY MANIPULATOR, IN A POSITIVE SENSE THAT IS. WHEN HE TALKED WITH PEOPLE, IT WAS AS IF HE COULD READ THEIR MINDS.

GENERAL MAURICE JANIN



MMMM, BUT WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO FREE SHIPS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF CZECH PRISONERS?

FOR HIM THE FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS OF OTHERS WERE ALMOST PALPABLE. HE WOULD OFTEN SAY THAT IT WAS LIKE IF HE HAD INVISIBLE SENSORY ANTENNAE WHICH CONTINUED ON FROM HIS FINGER TIPS AND WHICH COULD CATCH THE THOUGHT WAVES OF THOSE HE SPOKE WITH.



I SEE YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS VENTURE....

LET'S TRY ANOTHER WAY.



I AM SURE THAT FOR AN IMPORTANT STEEL ENGINEER SUCH AS YOURSELF, INVESTMENTS HAVE NO SECRETS FOR YOU....

TELL ME, WHERE SHOULD YOU INVEST YOUR RESOURCES IF YOU WERE A YOUNG STATE WITH A GOOD INDUSTRIAL BASE AND A WILLINGNESS TO CATCH UP WITH WESTERN DEMOCRACIES?



JOSEF DÜRICH 1847 - 1927

Bol jedným z hlavných členov Československej národnej rady, ktorá zastrešovala zahraničný odboj. V lete roku 1916 odcestoval spolu so Štefánikom do Ruska, aby vyjednal zriadenie československých légii. Dürich bol však známy rusofil a obdivovateľ cárskeho zriadenia.

Predstavou "jeho" Československa malo byť stredoeurópske kráľovstvo ovládané z Petrohradu. Členovia ČNR ale tušili, že cárske Rusko práve nie je najvhodnejším štátom slúžiacim za vzor mladej republiky. Ako odchovanci západných univerzít verili, že prevažne katolícke obyvateľstvo Habsburskej ríše má oveľa bližšie k západu než k pravoslávii a Rusku.



JOSEF DÜRICH

1847 - 1927

Josef Dürich (1847 - 1927) was one of the central members of the Czechoslovak national council, which was responsible for resistance abroad. In summer 1916, he had gone to Russia with Štefánik to negotiate the creation of Czechoslovak legions. But Dürich was known to be a Russophile and to admire the Tsardom of Russia. "His" Czechoslovakia was to be a kingdom ruled from Petersburg. Members of the Czechoslovak board knew that Russia was not an ideal State and that links with it could at best be friendly. As former students of western universities and institutions, the predominantly catholic population of the Habsburg monarchy was much closer to the ideals of the West than to those of the East.



Štefánik
SIBÍRSKA MISIA



Štefánik
SIBÍRSKA MISIA

SIBERIA MISSION

Československé légie, boli mimoriadne dôležitou súčasťou zahraničného odboja počas I. svetovej vojny, ktorého snahou bolo vytvorenie samostatného štátu Čechov a Slovákov. Sám Masaryk tvrdil, že bez legionárov by nebolo Československa.

Najpočetnejšie československé légie sa vytvorili v Rusku. Pred vypuknutím I. svetovej vojny, kde vtedy žilo niekoľko desaťtisíc Čechov a Slovákov.

28. septembra 1914 slávnostnou prísahou vznikla Česká družina. Tento dátum bol neskôr oslavovaný ako deň vzniku československého vojska. Československé vojenské oddiely v rokoch 1914 – 1915 plnili najmä výzvedné úlohy a v tyle nepriateľa sa snažili získať prebehlikov z radov českých a slovenských vojakov rakúsko-uhorskej armády.

Druhou najpočetnejšou skupinou zahraničných Čechov a Slovákov boli rodáci žijúci v Amerike. Počas vojny slúžilo v americkej armáde asi 30-tisíc etnických Čechov a Slovákov, pričom na začiatku sa počet dobrovoľníkov pohyboval medzi dvoma až troma tisíckami. Neskôr ich počty posilnilo štyritisíc českých a slovenských zajatcov, ktorých prepustilo spojenecké Srbsko. Toto číslo v priebehu vojny pomaly narástlo na 10-tisíc.

V rámci francúzskej cudzineckej légie vznikla 31. augusta 1914 rota Nazdar, tvorená z vojakov Českej národnosti. Českí a Slovenskí legionári boli nasadení na západnom fronte. V roku 1918 vznikla česko-slovenská brigáda vo Francúzsku, ktorá sa na jar v roku 1919 vrátila do Česko-Slovenska. Bolo v nej asi 9 600 vojakov.

Dobrovoľnícke jednotky zložené z Čechov a Slovákov vznikli aj na Talianskom území už v roku 1917 ako výzvedné oddiely. Do jednotiek bolo zaradených asi 20 000 vojakov, po podpísaní prímeria sa zo zajatcov vytvorili ďalšie, tzv. domobranecké prápory o počte asi 60 000 vojakov.

O ich hrdinstve a boji za slobodu kolujú legendy, ktoré naprieč kontinentami spája jediné meno, generál Milan Rastislav Štefánik.

CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS WERE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF FOREIGN RESISTANCE DURING WORLD WAR I, AND IT WAS THIS WHICH WAS TO BE AT THE ROOT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE FOR CZECHS AND SLOVAKS. MASARYK HIMSELF SAID THAT WITHOUT THE LEGIONNAIRES, THERE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN A CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE BIGGEST CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY IN RUSSIA. BEFORE WORLD WAR I, SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CZECHS AND SLOVAKS LIVED THERE.

ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1914, A CZECH MILITARY UNIT WAS CREATED, THE SOLDIERS BEING ENROLLED BY SOLEMN OATH. LATER, THIS DATE WAS TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE DAY ON WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY CAME INTO BEING. THE ROLE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK TROOPS WAS ESSENTIALLY TO SPY AND, FROM BEHIND THE FRONT LINES, TO RECRUIT AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN DESERTERS INTO THE CZECH AND SLOVAK ARMY.

IMMIGRANTS WHO HAD SETTLED IN AMERICA CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN GROUP OF CZECHS AND SLOVAKS. DURING THE WAR, APPROXIMATELY 30,000 NATIVE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS SERVED IN THE AMERICAN ARMY; AT FIRST, THERE WERE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS. AFTERWARDS, THESE WERE JOINED BY 4,000 CZECH AND SLOVAK PRISONERS RELEASED BY ALLIED SERBIA. AS THE WAR PROGRESSED SO THE NUMBERS INCREASED PROGRESSIVELY TO REACH 10,000.

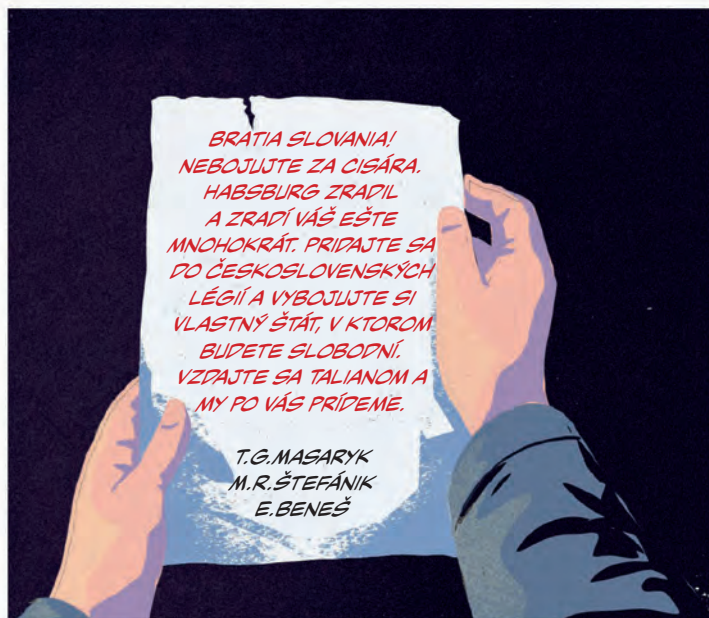
ON THE 31ST OF AUGUST, 1914, THE NAZDAR UNIT WAS CREATED WITHIN THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, BRINGING TOGETHER CZECH COMBATANTS. THE CZECH AND SLOVAK LEGIONNAIRES WERE SENT TO THE WESTERN FRONT. IN 1918, THE CZECHOSLOVAK BRIGADE WAS CREATED IN FRANCE WHICH THEN WENT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN SPRING 1919. IT INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY 9,600 SOLDIERS.

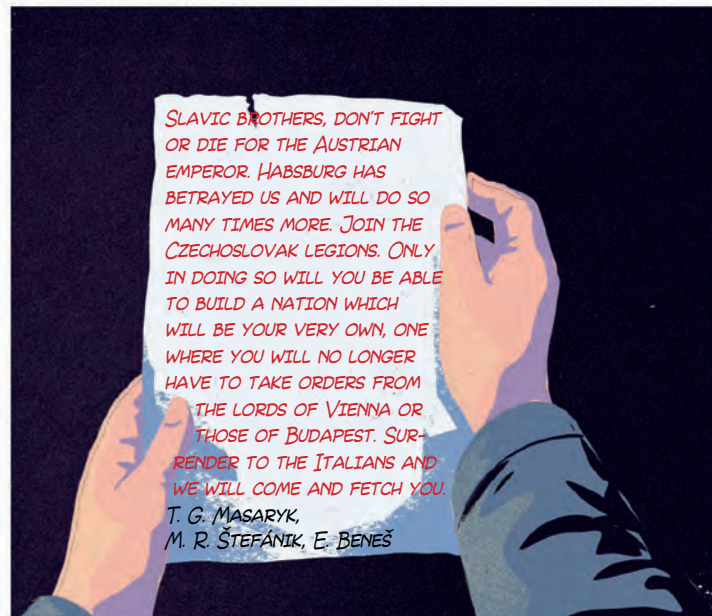
UNITS MADE UP OF CZECH AND SLOVAK VOLUNTEERS ALSO AROSE IN ITALY, AS EARLY AS 1917, AS SPY SECTIONS. NEARLY 20,000 SOLDIERS WERE PART OF THESE UNITS. FOLLOWING ARMISTICE, STILL MORE WERE CREATED UNDER THE NAME OF NATIONAL DEFENCE BATTALIONS. GROUPING TOGETHER PRISONERS OF WAR, THEY INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY 60,000 SOLDIERS.

THE HEROISM OF THE LEGIONS AND THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM HAVE BECOME LEGENDARY. ONE NAME ONLY BRINGS THEM TOGETHER IRRESPECTIVE OF THE CONTINENTS, THE NAME OF GENERAL MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK.









V ZAJATECKÝCH TÁBOROCH, OD PADOVY PO
SALERNO, MÁME NIEKOĽKO TISÍC NAŠICH MUŽOV.
TALIANSKO JE NA NAŠEJ STRANE.



TALIANSKY FRONT

V RUSKU BOJUJE NA STRANE CÁRA NIEKOĽKO TISÍC
NAŠINCOV. ČESI AJ SLOVÁCI TAM MAJÚ DOKONCA
VLASTNÉ REGIMENTY. KAŽDÝ TYŽDEŇ ICH STAVY
RASTÚ, PRETOŽE NAŠI K NIM PREBEHUJÚ OD RAKÚ-
ŠANOV.



NIEKDE V RUSKU

ČESKÍ A SLOVENSKÍ
ZAJATCI SA BUDÚ
PRESÚVAŤ POZDĽŽ
TEJTO TRATE.



AKO CHCEŠ PRE-
SVEDČIŤ RUSOV ABY
NÁM NAŠICH DOBRO-
VOLNE ODOVZDALI?



EDVARDE, ZA RUSMI PÔJDEM
AKO ZÁSTUPCA FRAN-
CÚZSKEJ ARMÁDY. HLAS
SILNÉHO SPOJENCA ZAVÁŽI
AZDA VIAC, AKO HOVORCU
PRIATEĽSKÉHO, NO NEEXIS-
TÚJÚCEHO ŠTÁTU.



IN ITALY, WHICH HAS ONLY RECENTLY JOINED THE WAR - IN MAY 1915 - WE HAVE SEVERAL THOUSAND MEN HELD IN CAMPS FROM PADOUA TO SALERNO, WHO ARE FIT FOR ARMY COMBAT.



PASSO VAL MAGGIORE
ITALIAN FRONT

IN RUSSIA, HUNDREDS EVEN THOUSANDS OF OUR MEN WHO HAD BEEN LIVING THERE BEFORE THE WAR, ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR THE TSAR. CZECHS AND SLOVAKS HAVE THEIR OWN REGIMENTS THERE, WITH NUMBERS GROWING DAILY AS THEIR COUNTRYMEN LEAVE THE RANKS OF THE AUSTRIANS.



SOMEWHERE IN RUSSIA

CZECH AND SLOVAK PRISONERS WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED ALONG THIS TRACK.



HOW DO YOU INTEND TO CONVINCE THE RUSSIANS TO RETURN OUR GUYS?



EDVARD, DON'T FORGET THAT I REPRESENT THE FRENCH ARMY. I THINK THAT THE SPOKESMAN OF A STRONG ALLY IS MORE LIKELY TO BE LISTENED TO THAN THAT OF A FRIENDLY BUT STILL NON-EXISTENT STATE.





VAŠE CISÁRSKE
VELITEĽSTVO

MIKULÁŠ II, ruský cár



VAŠI KRAJANIA
SA NÁM VÝBORNE
OSVEDČILI V BOJI
PROTI ARMÁDE
MÔJHO BRATRANCA.
POROZMÝŠĽAM
AKO NALOŽIŤ SO
ZAJATCAMI ABY BOLI
FRANCÚZI SPOKOJNÍ.

*nemecký cisár WILHELM II



...VYPILO SA VEĽA VODKY
A ZJEDLO EŠTE VIAC
BORŠČU

ALE NAKONIEC SA ZDÁ, ŽE SOM TÝCH
RUSOV PRE NÁŠ PLÁN ZÍSKAL. DOŠŤ
MI POMOHOĽ GENERÁL JANIN, VEDÚCI
FRANCÚZSKEJ VOJENSKEJ MISIE TU V
RUSKU. VOJACI Z ČESKEJ DRUŽINY SÚ
NAKLONENÍ K VSTUPU DO LÉGIÍ. ALE
POVIEM TI, BOLA TO FLÁŠKA. V TUNAJŠEJ
ČESKOSLOVENSKEJ NÁRODNEJ RADE
SA UŽ ANI NEHOVORILLO PO NAŠOM.
DURICH ŽIJE V PRESVEDČENÍ, ŽE RUSKO
NÁM MÔŽE NAJVIAC POMÔCŤ. JA O TOM
POCHYBUJEM. RUSI PREHRÁVAJÚ, SÚ
HLADNÍ A NESPOKOJNÍ. SCHÝĽUJE SA
TU K NIEČOMU VEĽKÉMU. BUDE EŠTE
HORÚCO.

MILAN



ČESKOSLOVENSKO AKO
RUSKÁ GUBERNIA?
SAMODERŽAVIE? ČO SA VÁM
MÁLILO TÝCH NIEKOĽKO STO-
ROČÍ POD VIEDŇOU A PEŠŤOU?

NEBOLI TO NÁHODOU TÍ VAŠI LUTE-
RÁNSKI NÁRODOVCI, ČO SA SVOJHO
ČASU CHCELI PRIMKÝNAŤ
K VEĽKÉMU DUBISKU



YOUR RADIANCE

RUSSIAN TSAR

NICOLAS II



YOUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE BEEN ADMIRABLE IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST MY COUSIN.* AS TO THE PRISONERS... I'LL TRY TO THINK OF A WAY TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF OUR FRENCH FRIENDS.

GERMAN EMPEROR

* WILHELM II



... WE HAVE DRUNK A LOT OF VODKA AND EATEN INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF BORSCHT...

BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I HAVE MANAGED TO RALLY THE RUSSIANS TO OUR CAUSE. GENERAL JANIN, LEADER OF THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION HERE IN RUSSIA, HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP. SOLDIERS FROM THE CZECH REGIMENTS WILL JOIN THE LEGIONS, BUT IT'S BEEN A NIGHTMARE CONVINCING THEM TO STOP LISTENING TO DÜRICH. OUR OWN LANGUAGE WASN'T EVEN USED AT THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH HE HAD FOUNDED HERE. HE IS CONVINCED THAT IT IS RUSSIA WHO WILL HELP US THE MOST. I DOUBT IT; SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN HERE.

MILAN



CZECHOSLOVAKIA, A PROVINCE OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE? AN AUTOCRACY? HAVEN'T ALL THOSE CENTURIES SPENT UNDER VIENNESE RULE BEEN ENOUGH FOR YOU?

WASN'T IT YOUR OWN ŠTŮR HIMSELF, TOGETHER WITH HIS COMPANIONS, WHO WANTED TO FIND SHELTER BY THE "GREAT RUSSIAN OAK"?





THE KINGDOM OF ROMANIA WENT TO WAR AGAINST AUSTRIA AND GERMANY AND MY FRENCH CHIEF OF STAFF SENT ME TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THEIR ARMY. I WAS TO SET UP A WEATHER STATION FOR THEM. BESIDES, I WAS ALSO AWARE THAT SOME THOUSANDS OF CZECH AND FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE HELD CAPTIVE TOGETHER THERE.



I AM CONVINCED THAT THE RUSSIANS KEEP TRACK OF MY EVERY MOVEMENT.



GENERAL BERTHELOT, HE WHO KNOWS THE WEATHER FORECAST HAS ACCESS TO VERY VALUABLE INFORMATION. AND IN THIS WAR AS WELL IN ALL THOSE TO COME, INFORMATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL WEAPONS.



NEWS FROM THESSALONIKI AND BELGRADE WILL GET HERE FASTER THAN ANY MACHINE FROM THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.



GENERAL, IT IS MORE THAN TIME FOR ME TO START ON THE SECOND PART OF MY MISSION; INSPECTION OF THE CAMPS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PRISONERS WHO ARE HELD THERE.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT LIEUTENANT, JUST SHOW THE LADS HOW TO USE YOUR METEOTHINGY AND THEN WE'LL GET ON WITH IT.









KÝM MASARYK VYRAZIL DO RUSKA, JA SOM SA VYPAL OPAČNÝM SMEROM - DO SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOV AMERICKÝCH. TÁTO FEDERÁCIA ŠTÁTOV BOLA PRÍLIŠ VZDIALENÁ - GEOGRAFICKY AJ MENTÁLNE - OD BOJOV V EURÓPE. BITKY NA SOMME, ČI NA PIAVE TU ZAUJÍMALI LEN ZOPÁR VRCHOLOVÝCH POLITIKOV.



V USA ŽILO UŽ 400 TISÍC SLOVÁKOV A ĎALŠÍCH 200 TISÍC ČECHOV. V CLEVELANDE SA HNEĎ PO ANGLIČTINE HOVORILO SLOVENSKY.



VECÍ NEŠLI CELKOM PODĽA PLÁNU. NAPRIEK TOMU, ŽE SOM V NOVOM YORKE ZRIADIL NÁBOROVÚ KANCELÁRIU, V CONNECTICUTE VÝCVIKOVÝ TÁBOR A USPORIADAL STRETNUTIE KRAJANOV V CHICAGU, NAŠINCI SA DO VOJNY V EURÓPE NIJAKO NEHRNULI. HOČI USA NEBOLI VO VOJNE, NA NEMECKO SA POZERALO PODOZRIEVAVO.



V ROKU 1915 POTOPILA NEMECKÁ PONORKA ZAOCEÁNSKY PARNÍK RMS LUSITANIA - SESTERKÚ LOĎ SLÁVNEHO TITANICU. ZOMRELO 1200 LUDÍ. ZVÄČŠA CIVILISTOV. NA TEN DEŇ SI AMERIČANIA PAMÄTALI. ÚTOKY NEMECKÝCH PONORIEK V ATLANTIKU ALE NEUTÍCHALI. AMERIČANIA MUSELI NIEČO PODNIKNUŤ.



A TÝMTO Z MOCI MI ZVERENEJ VYHLASUJEM VOJNU NEMECKÉMU CÍSÁRSTVU.



WOODROW WILSON, prezident USA

WHILE MASARYK WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO RUSSIA, I HEADED FOR THE UNITED STATES. THIS FREE COUNTRY WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING THAT WAS GOING ON IN SOMME OR IN GORIZIA FOR THEM TO BE IN THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN THE WAR IN EUROPE.



BUT APPROXIMATELY 400,000 SLOVAKS AND 200,000 CZECHS WERE ALREADY LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. IN CLEVELAND, SLOVAK WAS THE SECOND MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGE, RIGHT AFTER ENGLISH.



THINGS DIDN'T EXACTLY GO AS PLANNED. ALTHOUGH I HAD SET UP A RECRUITMENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK, A TRAINING CAMP IN CONNECTICUT AND ORGANIZED A REUNION OF MY COUNTRYMEN IN CHICAGO, PEOPLE HERE DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO RISK THEIR LIVES IN FAR-AWAY EUROPE. EVEN THOUGH THE UNITED STATES WASN'T AT WAR, THEY WERE NOT FAVOURABLE TO GERMANY.



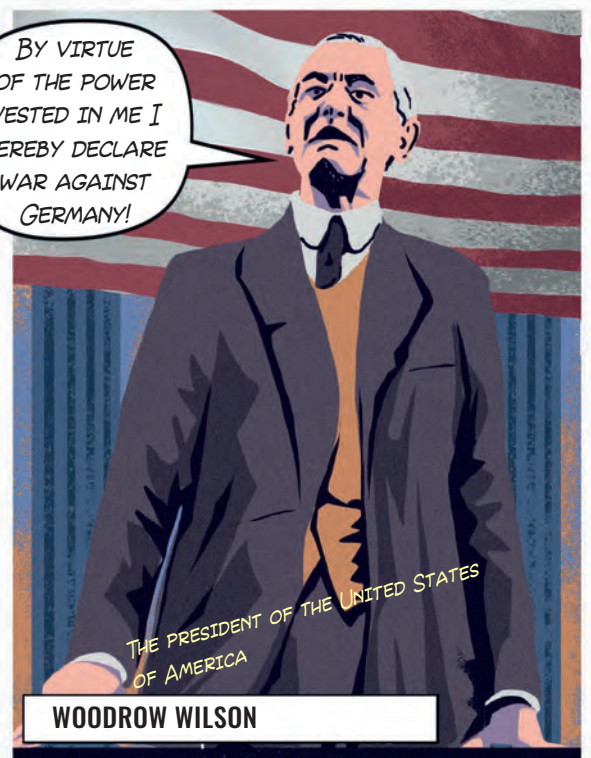
IN 1915, A GERMAN SUBMARINE TORPEDOED THE CRUISE LINER LUSITANIA RESULTING IN 1,200 VICTIMS, MOST OF WHOM WERE CIVILIANS. THE AMERICANS VIVIDLY REMEMBERED THIS TERRIFYING DAY, ESPECIALLY SINCE EVERY DAY THEY WOULD READ ABOUT OTHER BOATS BEING SUNK BY GERMANS IN THE ATLANTIC.



BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME I HEREBY DECLARE WAR AGAINST GERMANY!

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WOODROW WILSON



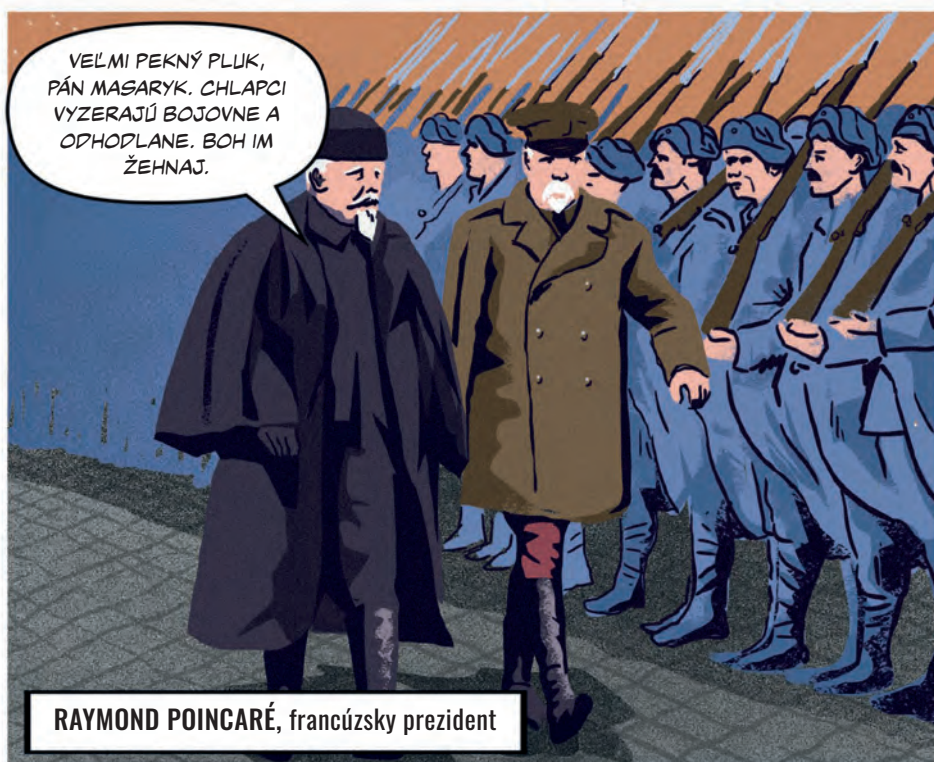
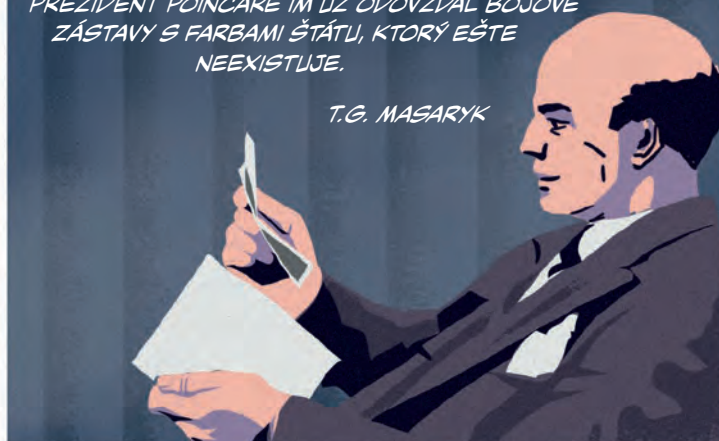


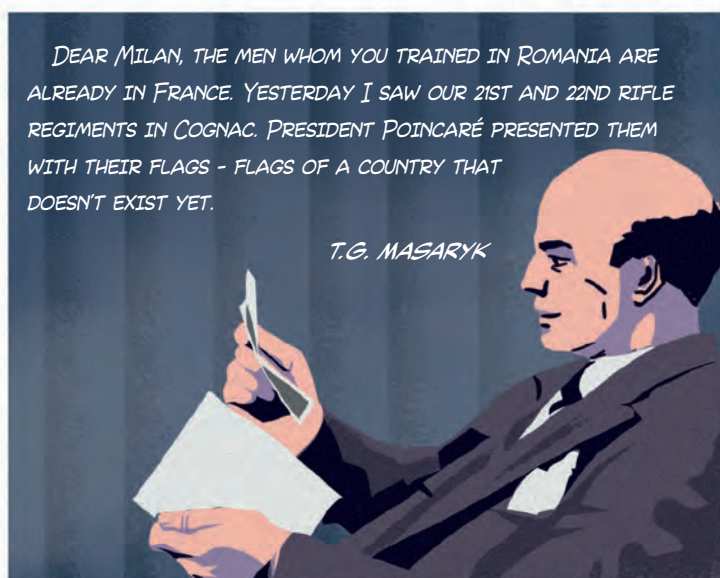
V AMERICKEJ ARMÁDE DO ROKU 1918 SLÚŽILO AŽ 30 TÍSÍC KRAJANOV S AMERICKÝM OBCĽANSTVOM. PRE LÉGIE SOM MOHOL POČÍTAŤ LEN S DOBROVOĽNÍKMI ALEBO ZAJATCAMI. SRBI NÁM DO FRANCÚZSKA VYPRAVILI 4 TÍSÍC NAŠINCOV.



DRAHÝ MILAN, MUŽI, KTORÝCH SI V RUMUNSKU OSLOBODIL SÚ UŽ VO FRANCII. VČERA SOM V MESTE COGNAC VIDEL PREHLIADKU NAŠEHO 21. A 22. STRELECKÉHO PLUKU. PREZIDENT POINCARÉ IM UŽ ODOVZDAL BOJOVÉ ZÁSTAVY S FARBAMI ŠTÁTU, KTORÝ EŠTE NEEEXISTUJE.

T.G. MASARYK







EŠTE KONCOM ROKA 1917 SOM V RÍME VYJEDNAL TO, ČO V RUSKU, RUMUNSKU AJ FRANCÚZSKU. ZO ZAJATCOV SA STÁVALI LEGIONÁRI. NA JAR SA PO KONGRESE UTLÁČANÝCH NÁRODOV PREDVIEDLI NAŠI V PLNEJ PARÁDE. MUŽI POCHODOVALI ULICAMI RÍME. RIMANIA IM MÁVALI A ŽELALI „BUONA FORTUNA“. BOLO TO DOJEMNÉ. NAŠI SÚ SÍCE SÚČASŤOU TALIANskej ARMÁDY, ALE VELÍM IM JA.



V TEJ DOBE SOM BOL PREMIÉROM ŠTÁTU S 36 MILIÓNMI OBYVATEĽMI. ŠTEFÁNIK BOL PRE MŇA UČENEC, TULÁK BEZ DOMOVA, NO VYŽAROVAL TAK VEĽKÚ DUŠEVNÚ SILU, ŽE SOM SA PRED NÍM MUSEL SKLONIŤ.

VITTORIO ORLANDO, taliansky premiér



24. máj 1918

A NA VÝCHODE SA ZATIAĽ SITUÁCIA VÝRAZNE ZMENILA. OD FEBRUÁRA 1917 TAM RÁSTLO NAPÄTIE. BEŽNÍ RUSI UŽ ANI NETUŠILI PREČO VLASTNE BOJUJÚ.

BÚRILI SA A USTUPOVALI Z POZÍCIÍ. KRAJINA SA ROZDELILA. BOLŠEVICI, FRAKCIA MARXISTOV ANARCHISTOV, RÁSTLA NA SILE. CÁRISTOV UBÚDALO. NAŠICH BOLO V RUSKU AŽ 80 TISÍC. NA ZÁPADE BOLI KOMUNISTI A NA VÝCHODE LEN NEKONEČNÉ RUSKÉ ROVINY S LESMI A MOČIARMÍ. JEDINÁ CESTA DOMOV VIEDLA PO ŽELEZNICI AŽ K POBREŽIU TICHÉHO OCEÁNU, DO MESTA VLADIVOSTOK.



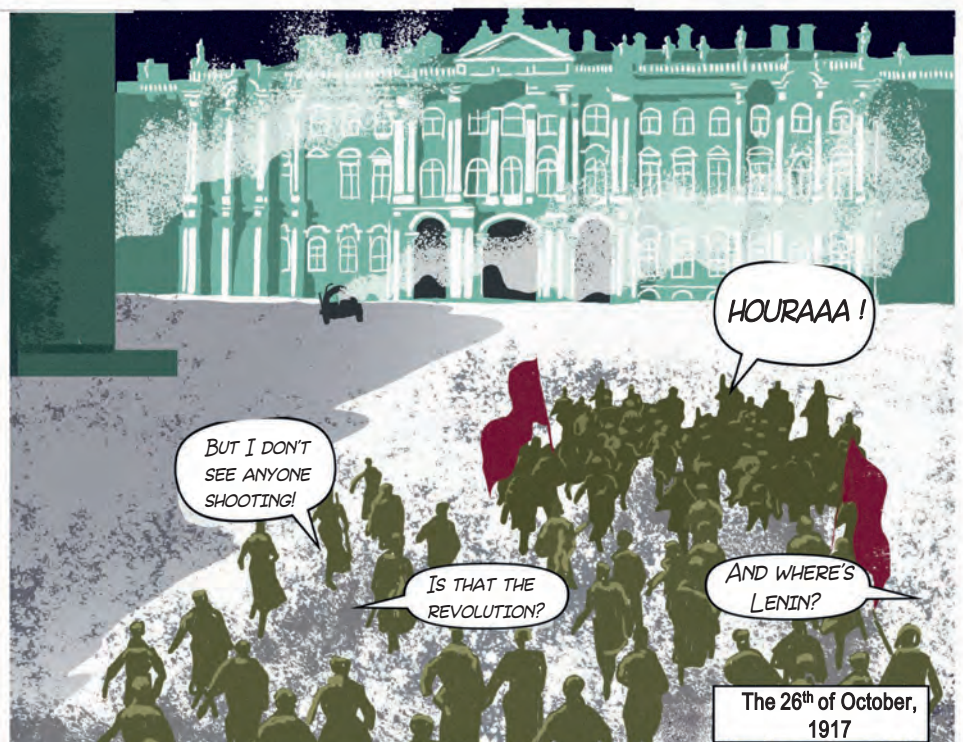
26. október 1917



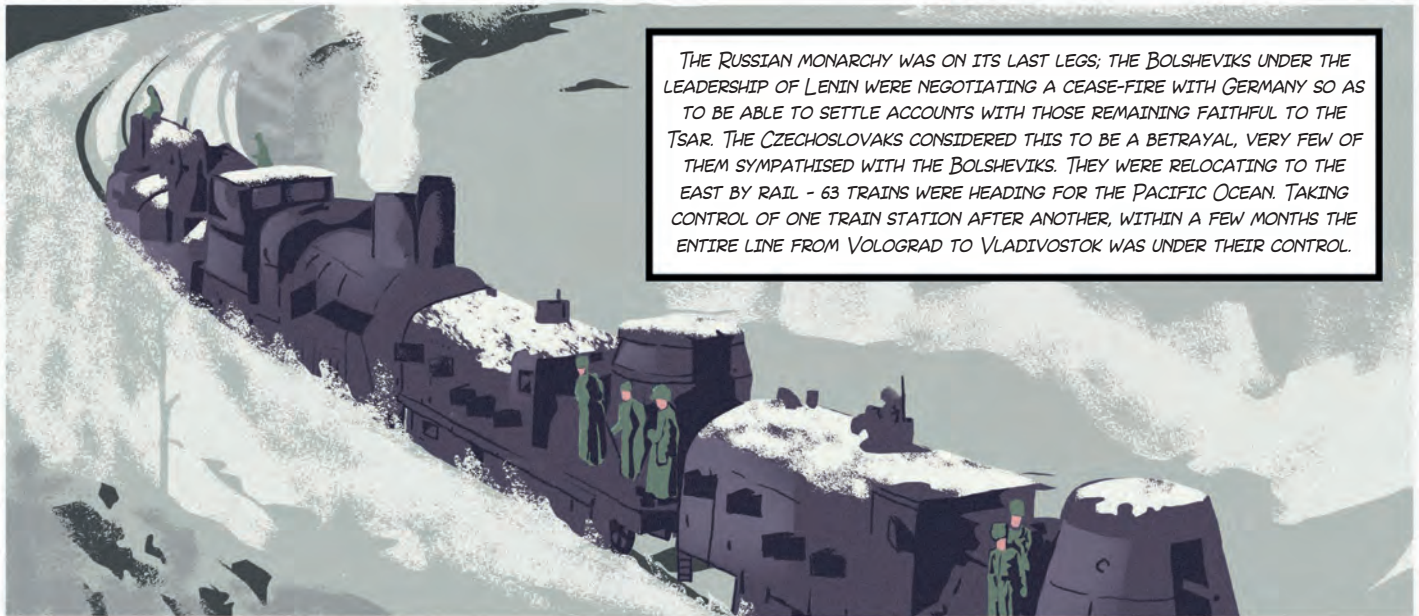
AND AGAIN, END OF 1917, I NEGOTIATED IN ROME THE SAME AS I HAD DONE BEFORE IN ROMANIA, RUSSIA AND FRANCE, IN OTHER WORDS THE CREATION OF BATTALIONS WITH CZECH AND SLOVAK PRISONERS OF WAR. AND IT WORKED. IN SPRING, FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS OF OPPRESSED NATIONS, OUR MEN PROUDLY PARADED THROUGH THE STREETS OF ROME. NOW, THEY ARE PART OF THE ITALIAN ARMY, BUT UNDER MY COMMAND.



FROM FEBRUARY 1917 ONWARDS, THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA WAS GETTING RAPIDLY WORSE. THE RUSSIAN MEN NO LONGER EVEN KNEW WHY THEY WERE FIGHTING. THEY REBELLED AND RETREATED FROM THEIR POSITIONS. THE COUNTRY WAS DIVIDED. THE BOLSHEVIKS PUT TOGETHER THEIR RED ARMY MADE UP OF WORKMEN, DESERTERS AND THE POOR. TO THE WEST, THEY FACED THE COMMUNISTS, TO THE EAST THERE WAS ONLY UNENDING SIBERIAN STEPPES. THE ONLY WAY TO GO HOME WAS TO GO TO VLADIVOSTOK BY RAIL.





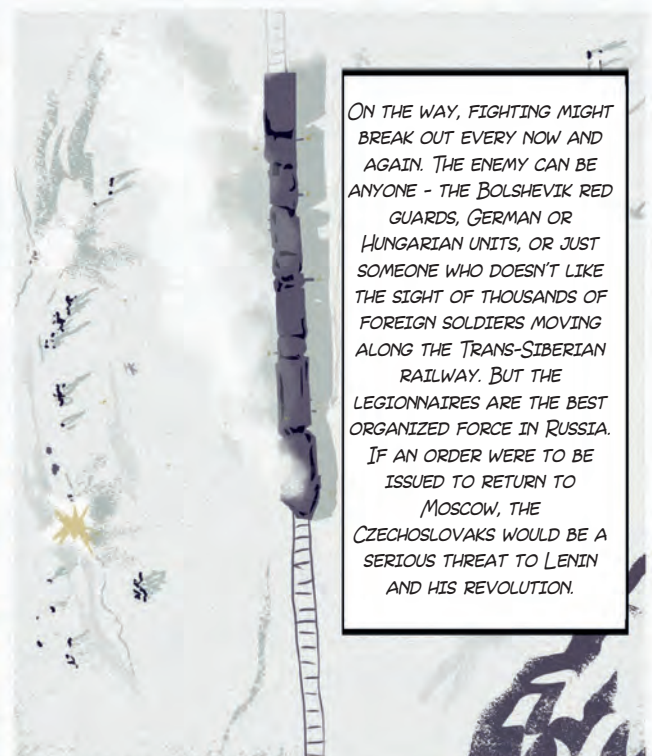


THE RUSSIAN MONARCHY WAS ON ITS LAST LEGS; THE BOLSHEVIKS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LENIN WERE NEGOTIATING A CEASE-FIRE WITH GERMANY SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THOSE REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE TSAR. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS CONSIDERED THIS TO BE A BETRAYAL, VERY FEW OF THEM SYMPATHISED WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS. THEY WERE RELOCATING TO THE EAST BY RAIL - 63 TRAINS WERE HEADING FOR THE PACIFIC OCEAN. TAKING CONTROL OF ONE TRAIN STATION AFTER ANOTHER, WITHIN A FEW MONTHS THE ENTIRE LINE FROM VOLOGRAD TO VLADIVOSTOK WAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL.



MMMM... THESE PLAINS GO ON FOREVER...

YES, WE'RE AT LEAST A MILLION MILES AWAY FROM YOUR CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS.



ON THE WAY, FIGHTING MIGHT BREAK OUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN. THE ENEMY CAN BE ANYONE - THE BOLSHEVIK RED GUARDS, GERMAN OR HUNGARIAN UNITS, OR JUST SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE SIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN SOLDIERS MOVING ALONG THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY. BUT THE LEGIONNAIRES ARE THE BEST ORGANIZED FORCE IN RUSSIA. IF AN ORDER WERE TO BE ISSUED TO RETURN TO MOSCOW, THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO LENIN AND HIS REVOLUTION.



HLÁSIM DVOCH
ĽAHKO ZRANE-
NÝCH, PANE.

DOBRE. VIETE, KTO
PO NÁS STRIELAL?



HMMM

NIE PANE. V TÝCH
ZÁVEJOCH ICH
NEBOLO TAKMER
VÔBEC VIDIEŤ.



"ČERVENÍ"

ĽUDOVÝM KOMISÁROM BOLŠE-
VICKEJ ARMÁDY SA STAL
LEV TROCKIJ. PO ÚSPEŠNEJ
NEMECKEJ OFENZÍVE ZAČAL
FORMOVAŤ MILIÓNOVÚ ČERVENÚ
ARMÁDU TRÉNOVANÚ BÝVALÝMI
CÁRSKYMÍ DÔSTOJNÍKMI. TROC-
KIJ BOL V ROKU 1940 ZAVRAŽ-
DENÝ V MEXIKU NA PRÍKAZ
SVOJHO BÝVALÉHO KOLEGU
I.V.STALINA.



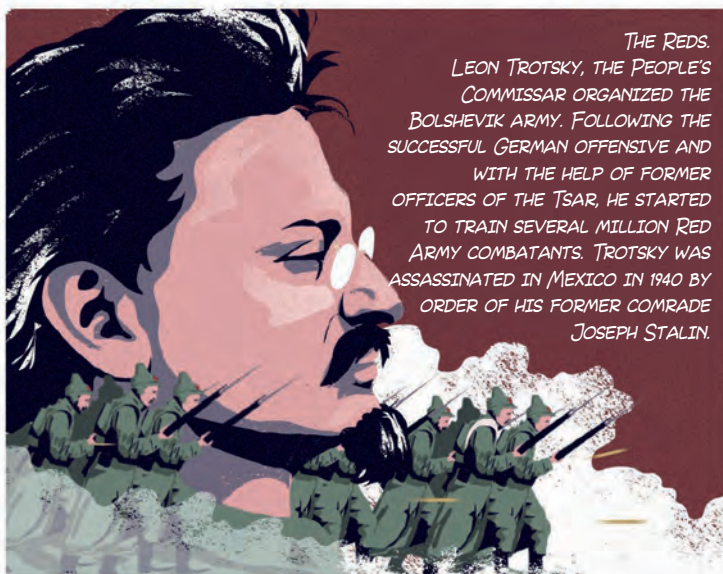
"BIELI"

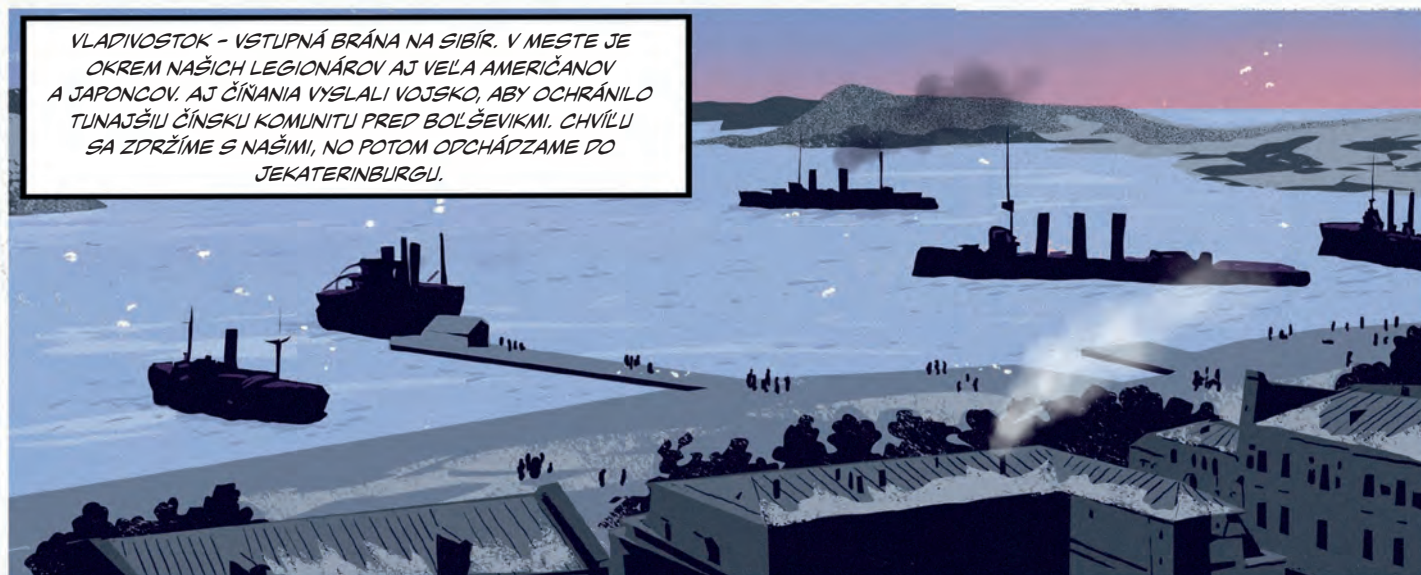
V POPREDÍ CÁRSKEJ ARMÁDY
SA OBJAVIL ADMIRÁL
ALEXANDER KOLČAK. ZA
FINANČNEJ PODPORY BRITÁNIE
ZRIADIL NA SIBÍRI PROVIZORNÚ
VLÁDU A ARMÁDU DOBRO-
VOĽNÍKOV. SPOLUPRACOVAL S
LEGIONÁRMÍ, NO DO KOCA VOJNY
PRIŠIEL O TAKMER VŠETKÝCH
ZÁPADNÝCH SPOJENCOV.
BOLŠEVICI HO POPRAVILI
V ROKU 1920.



A JA SOM ZNOVU NA CESTE DO RUSKA. TENTOKRÁT Z OPAČNEJ
STRANY, OD TICHÉHO OCEÁNU. Z GENERÁLOM JANINOM SME MUSELI
PRECESTOVAŤ SPOJENÉ ŠTÁTY Z VÝCHODU NA ZÁPAD
A POTOM LOŽOU ZO SAN FRANCISCA DO TOKIA. V JAPONSKU SA ALE
PRIHLÁSILO MOJE ZPRAVIE, RESP. JEHO NEĎOSTATOK V PODOBE
CHRONICKEJ BOLESTI ŽALÚDKA. A TAK SME V TEJTO ZAUJÍMAVEJ
KRAJINE OSTALI O NIEČO DLHŠIE NEŽ SME PLÁNOVALI. ALE ASPOŇ
SOM SA STRETOL S JAPONSKÝM CÍSAŘOM.

SÁM SI TO VIDEL
GENERÁL. JEDIA
SUROVÉ RYBY A DOŽÍ-
VAJÚ SA 130 ROKOV.







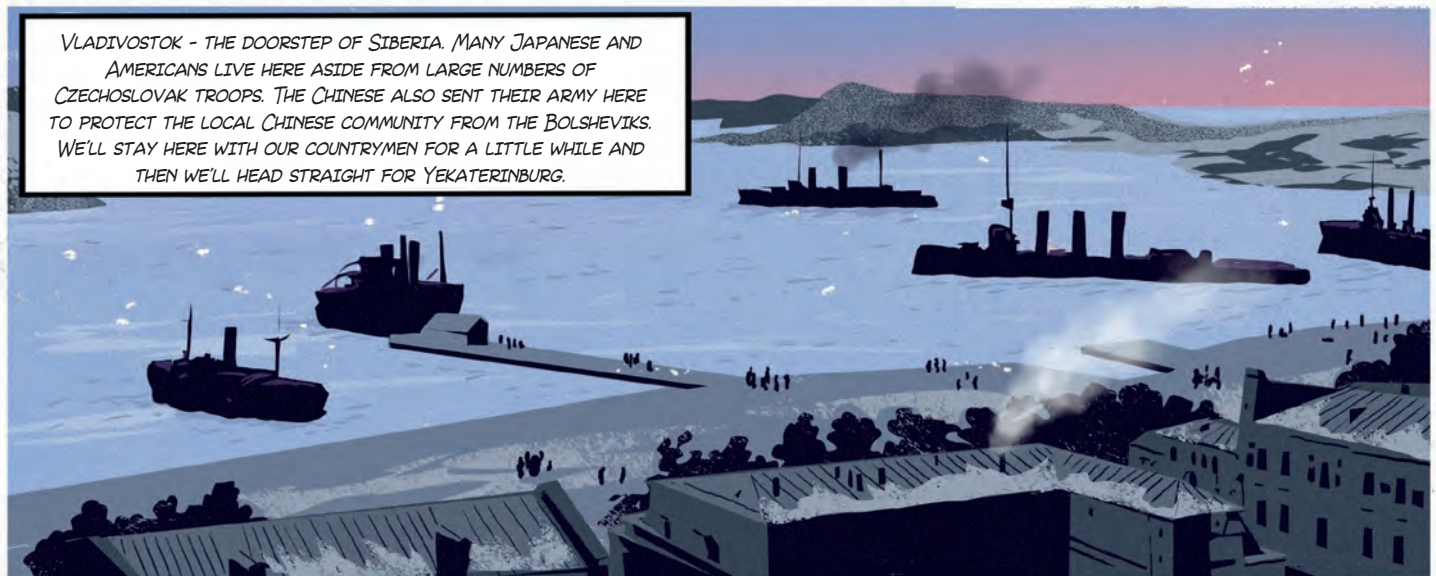
ON THE NIGHT OF THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER, 1918, WE REACHED THE RUSSIAN COAST ON A JAPANESE SHIP CALLED THE TAICHU MARU. OVER THERE, AT THE OTHER END OF THE WORLD, WE WERE GREETED BY THE CHEERFUL SONGS OF THE LEGIONNAIRES WHO HAD COME TO MEET US.

"KOLÍN, KOLÍN, ON A BEAUTIFUL PLAIN..."*

*WELL KNOWN CZECH MARCHING SONG



HELLO THERE!
WELCOME TO
VLADIVOSTOK!



VLADIVOSTOK - THE DOORSTEP OF SIBERIA. MANY JAPANESE AND AMERICANS LIVE HERE ASIDE FROM LARGE NUMBERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK TROOPS. THE CHINESE ALSO SENT THEIR ARMY HERE TO PROTECT THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY FROM THE BOLSHIEVICS. WE'LL STAY HERE WITH OUR COUNTRYMEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN WE'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR YEKATERINBURG.



ON ARRIVAL AT THE STATION, I REVIEWED THE LEGIONNAIRES TRYING TO HIDE MY PAIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. I HAD ONE OF THE OFFICERS READ THE SPEECH... AS FOR MYSELF, I WAS CONTENT TO SALUTE EACH ONE OF THE MEN.



PARALYZED WITH PAIN, I RETURNED TO A CABIN SO AS TO BE HIDDEN FROM VIEW. I CAME HERE TO GIVE THEM COURAGE, NOT TO DIE IN FRONT OF THEM AND IF I HAD PROBLEMS WITH MY STOMACH, THEY WERE NOT FARING MUCH BETTER. I COULD SEE IT IN THEIR EYES - A LASSITUDE, A VERY GREAT LASSITUDE OF THIS WAR WHICH WAS NEVER-ENDING.





NEZÁVISLOSŤ ČESKOSLOVENSKA BOLA VYHLÁSENÁ 28. OKTÓBRA 1918. DO KONCA PRVEJ SVETOVEJ VOJNY OSTÁVAJÚ EŠTE DVA TÝŽDNE. T.G. MASARYK - HLAVA NOVÉHO ŠTÁTU, PRICESTOVAL DO PRAHY AŽ PRED VIANOCAMI 1918. SO ŠTEFÁNIKOM SA POČÍTALO AKO S NOVÝM MINISTROM VOJNY.



TO MINISTERSKÉ MIESTO NÁM ZMIETNE ZO STOLA.

OŽENÍ SA ALEBO SA VRÁTI K SVOJIM HVIEZDAM.



NAŠI TAM DOMA PLETÚ TALIANOM A FRANCÚZOM HLAVY. MUSÍM SA VRÁTIŤ.

RADŠEJ BY SOM ŤA MALA TU V RÍME.



GIULIANA BENZONI

V ŠTEFÁNIKOVEJ PRÍTOMNOSTI STRÁVILA LEN 15 DNÍ, NO AJ TAK SA MALA, TÁTO O 15 ROKOV MLADŠIA DÁMA, STAŤ GENERÁLOVOU MANŽELKOU. VÝZNAMENALA SA V BOJI PROTI FAŠISTICKÉMU REŽIMU B. MUSSOLINIHO. V ROKU 1968 MOHLA NAVŠTÍVIŤ ŠTEFÁNIKOVU MOHYLU NA BRADLE.



PREDRAHÁ PRIATEĽKA!

ZBOHOM! ACH, AKÉ HROZNÉ SLOVO, ROZDEĽUJÚCE NÁŠ ŽIVOT! ČASOM REPTÁM NA OSUD, KTORÝ PODROBUJE SKÚŠKE NAŠU LÁSKU, DOSIAŤ STATOČNÚ A ČESTNÚ. ZBOHOM! NO VRÁTIM SA. VRÁTIM SA, ABY SOM ZOSTAL. DÚFAM V TO, MOJA VREMLILOVANÁ. MOTOR HUČÍ. JE TREBA ÍŠŤ. ÍŠŤ, USTAVIČNE ÍŠŤ...ZBOHOM! PRED OČAMI SA MI ROBIA KRUHY, MOJE SRDCE JE ZNEPOKOJENÉ, JEDNAKO MU ODPÚŠŤAM TENTORAZ KREHKOSŤ, CELKOM ĽUDSKÚ: NESMIEM SA OD TEBA, GIULIANA, VZDIALIŤ A NEVYHLADAŤ PO ROKOCH MOJU RODINU, MOJU VLAST? UVIDÍM ZNOVU MOJU VLAST. MÁM VLAST. AKÁ RADOSŤ, AKÁ TESKNOTA. LIETADLO MA VOLÁ. ZBOHOM GIULIANA! ZBOHOM, NEBUĎ VŠAK ZARMÚTENÁ. V OKAMŽIKU VYSOKO NAD VRCHOLMI HÔR A MRAČNAMI, ZA BOZKOV PANENSKÝCH LÚČOV, ZA LAŠKOVANIA V LÍN AZÚRU, MOJA DUŠA OPÄŤ NÁJDE POKOJ A MOJE PERY TI BUDÚ S VERNOSŤOU ZNOVA ŠEPKAŤ: DO VIDENIA GIULIANA, DO VIDENIA MOJA MILOVANÁ ŽENA!



CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INDEPENDENCE WAS DECLARED ON THE 28TH OF OCTOBER, 1918, TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR. TOMÁŠ GARRIGUE MASARYK WAS CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT. ŠTEFÁNIK WAS "ONLY" APPOINTED MINISTER OF DEFENCE.



IN ANY CASE, VERY SOON WE'LL HAVE NO NEED OF A MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

HE'S GOING TO GET MARRIED, SETTLE DOWN AND RETURN TO HIS STARS.



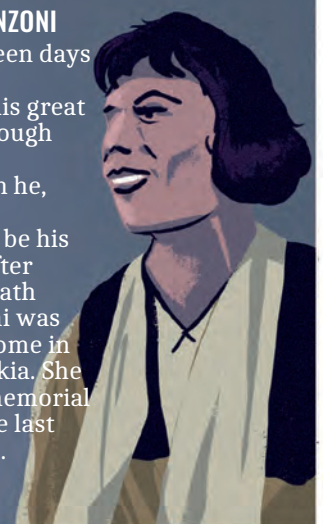
OUR MEN ARE CAUSING HAVOC BETWEEN THE ITALIANS AND THE FRENCH. I HAVE TO GO THERE IMMEDIATELY.

I WOULD RATHER HAVE YOU HERE IN ROME.



GIULIANA BENZONI

only had fifteen days in Štefánik's company. This great woman, although fifteen years younger than he, was no less deserving to be his wife. Even after Štefánik's death Lady Benzoni was always welcome in Czechoslovakia. She visited the memorial in Bradlo one last time in 1968.

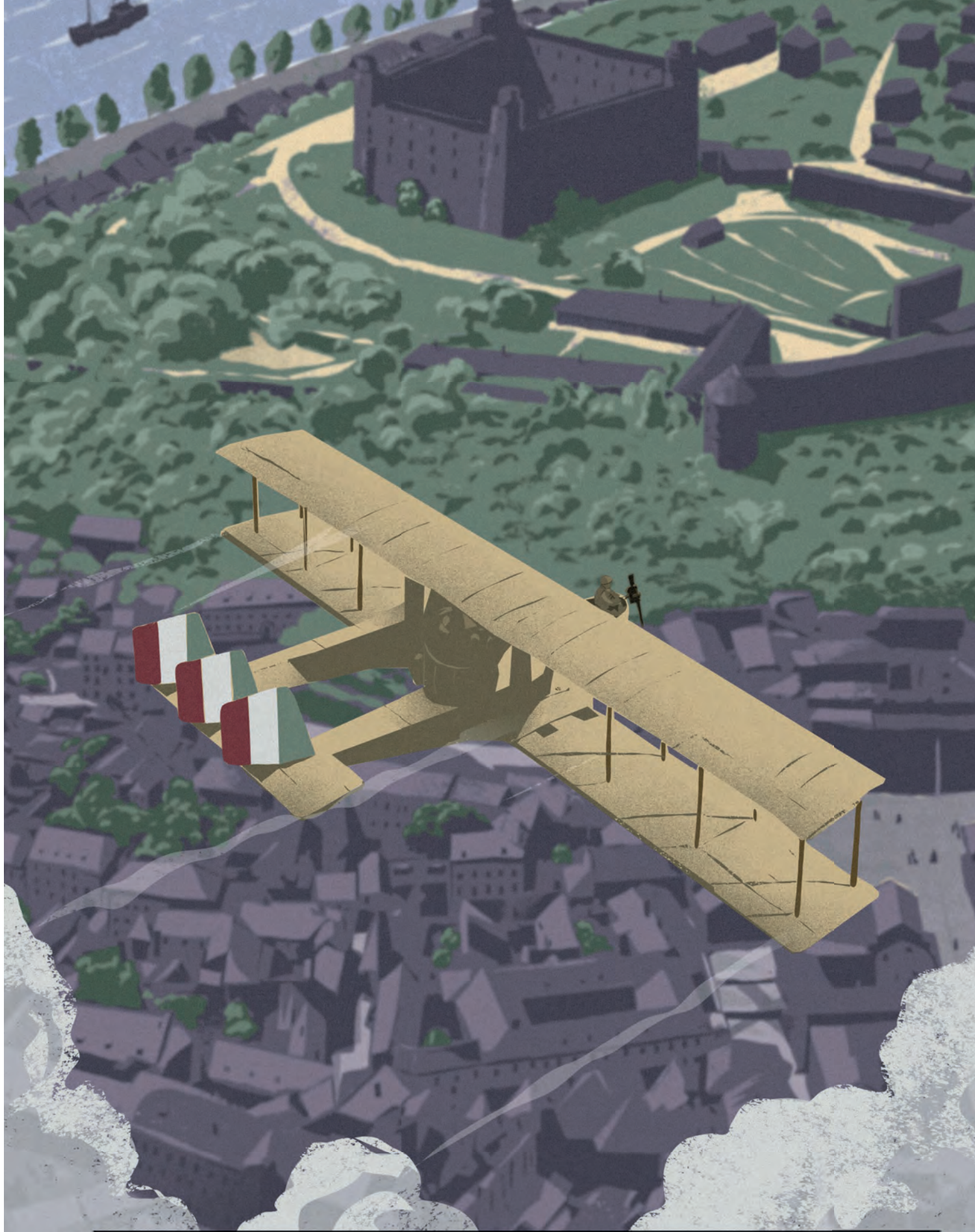


MY DEAR, MY DEAREST! FAREWELL! OH, WHAT A DREADFUL WORD, TEARING US APART! THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I COME TO CURSE DESTINY, WHICH TIRELESSLY PUTS OUR LOVE TO TEST, OUR LOVE WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN BOTH LOYAL AND HONEST. FAREWELL! BUT, I WILL BE BACK. I'LL COME BACK TO STAY - I HOPE, - AND FROM THEN ON WILL REMAIN AT YOUR SIDE, MY DEAREST LOVE. THE ENGINE IS HUMMING. WE MUST LEAVE. LEAVE, ALWAYS LEAVE... FAREWELL! MY VISION IS BECOMING BLURRED, MY HEART IS WORRIED, BUT FOR THIS ONCE I'LL FORGIVE IT THIS ALL TOO HUMAN WEAKNESS. AM I NO LONGER ABLE TO MOVE AWAY FROM YOU, GIULIANA, TO SEE MY FAMILY AND MY NATION AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS? I'LL SEE MY NATION AGAIN. I HAVE ONE. WHAT HAPPINESS, WHAT NOSTALGIA. THE PLANE IS CALLING FOR MY ATTENTION. FAREWELL GIULIANA! FAREWELL, BUT DON'T BE SAD. VERY SOON, WAY ABOVE MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND CLOUDS, KISSED BY VIRGIN RAYS OF SUN AMONGST MISCHIEVOUS WAVES OF BLUE, MY SOUL WILL FIND PEACE AGAIN AND MY LIPS WILL AGAIN LOYALLY WHISPER TO YOU: GOODBYE GIULIANA! SEE YOU SOON, MY BELOVED! MILAN

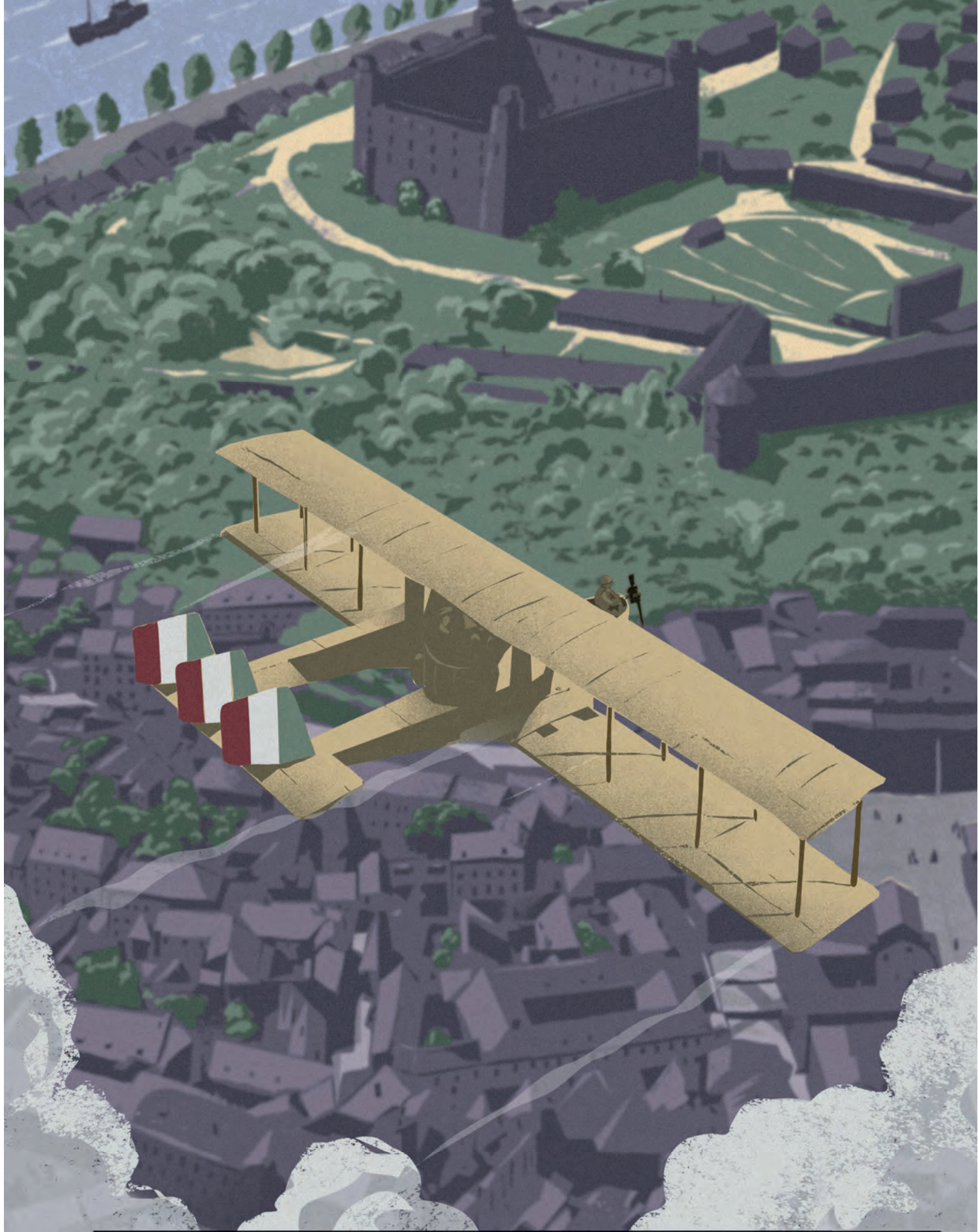
LAST LETTER TO GIULIANA BEFORE THE FATAL FLIGHT TO BRATISLAVA:



THE 4TH OF MAY, 1919, CAMPOFORMIDO AIRPORT



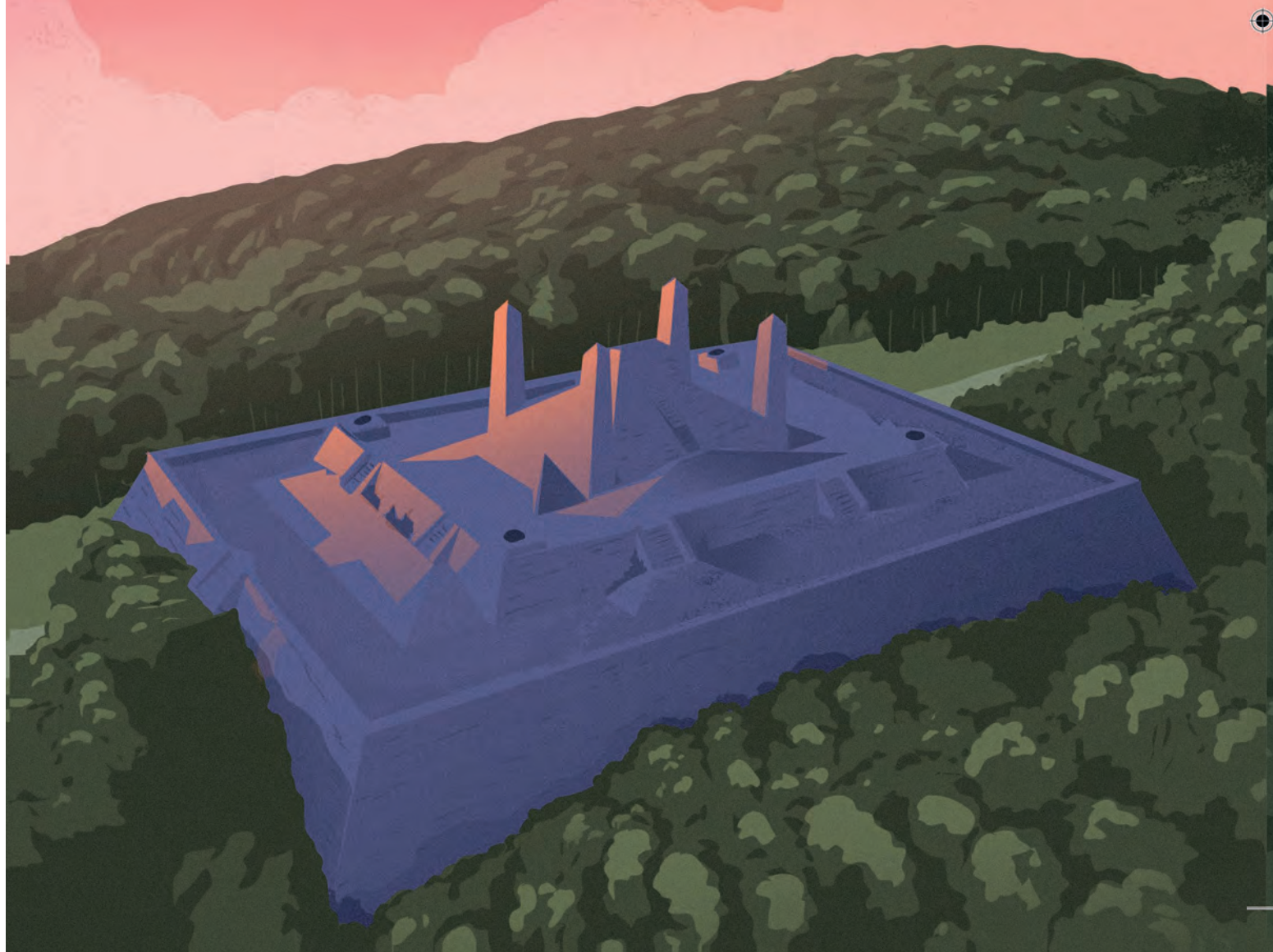
ŠTEFÁNIK NAVIGOVAL LIETADLO - BOMBARDÉR CAPRONI 450 - ZO STRELECKEJ POZÍCIE VPREDU. ZA NÍM RIADILI LIETADLO DVAJA TALIANSKI PILOTI, PORUČÍK GIOTTO MANCINELLI-SCOTTI, SERŽANT UMBERTO MERLINI A VZADU SEDEL MECHANIK GABRIELE AUGGIUSTI. POSLEDNÝCH PÁR DNÍ VLÁDLO UPRŠANÉ POČASIE A TAK V BRATISLAVE OČAKÁVAL ŠTEFÁNIKOV PRÍCHOD LEN MÁLOKTO. PRE OHLUŠUJÚCI REV MOTOROV SA POSÁDKA NEMOHLA DOBRE POČUŤ. KOMUNIKOVALI ODKAZMI, KTORÉ SI PÍSALI NA PAPIER, ALEBO KRIEDOU NA DOSKY. POSLEDNÚ LETOVÚ POZNÁMKU PÍŠAL SÁM ŠTEFÁNIK:
„ATTENZIONE SIGNORE! LETÍME NAD BRATISLAVOU. O PÁR MINÚT PRISTÁVAME.“



ŠTEFÁNIK STEERED THE PLANE FROM THE FIRING POSITION. THE ENGINE MADE SO MUCH NOISE THAT THEY COULDN'T HEAR EACH OTHER AND HAD TO COMMUNICATE BY WRITING DOWN WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ON PIECES OF PAPER. THE LAST OF THESE NOTES HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY ŠTEFÁNIK HIMSELF: "ATTENZIONE SIGNORE! WE'RE FLYING OVER BRATISLAVA. WE WILL BE LANDING IN A FEW MINUTES."

Štefánikova posledná cesta domov sa však skončila tragicky.
Poryv vetra znemožnil posádke pristáť. Haváriu nik neprežil.
Pozostalí pamätali na jeho pranie: "Ak už mám padnúť, tak nech som
v slovenskej zemi pochovaný." Milan Rastislav Štefánik bol pochovaný so
všetkými poctami na Slovensku.

Na vybudovanie pamätníka bola vyhlásená národná zbierka, v ktorej sa
vyzbieralo dva milióny korún. Mohyly slávnostne odhalili 23. septembra
1928.



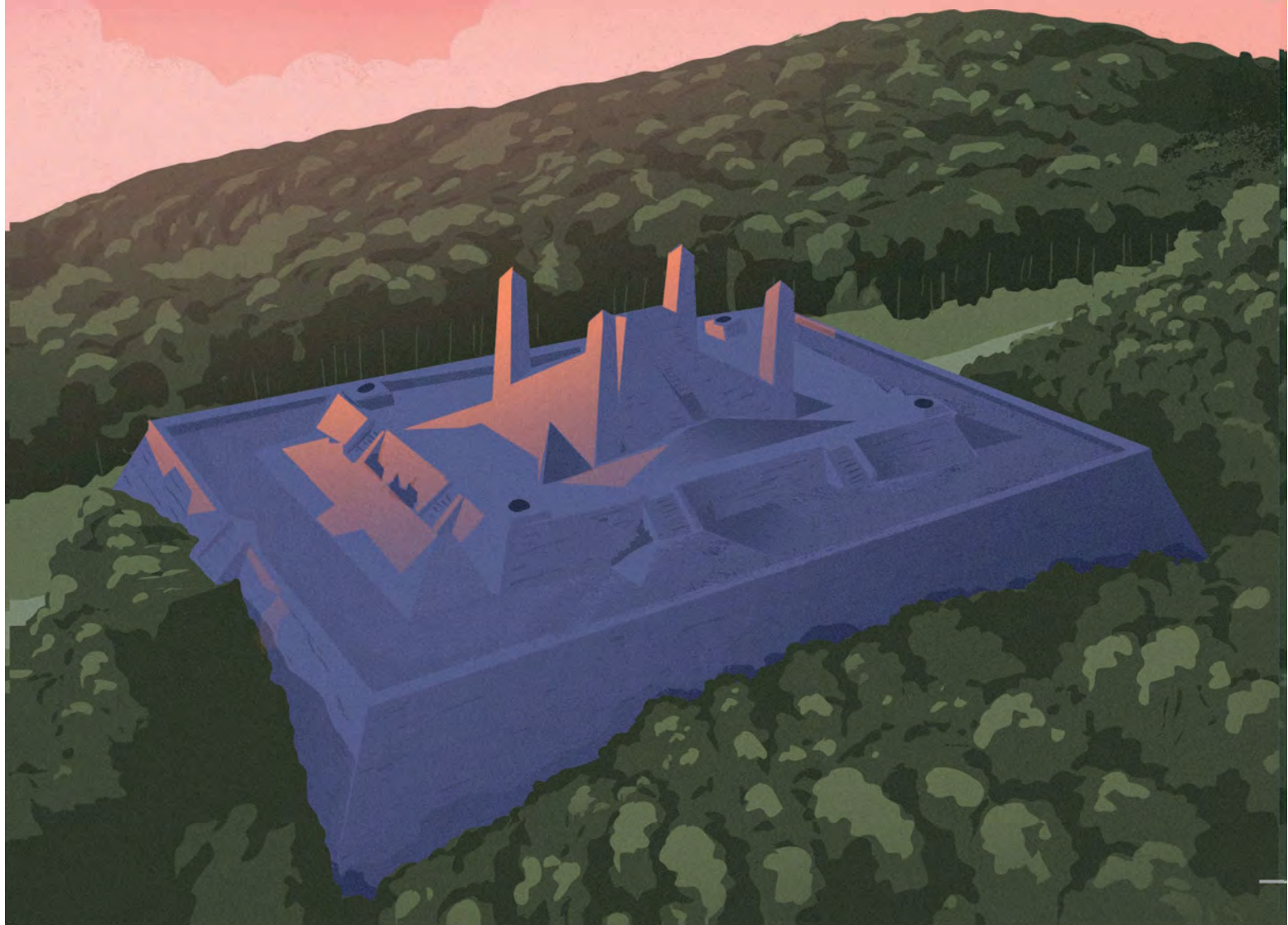
BUT ŠTEFÁNIK'S LAST TRIP TO HIS COUNTRY ENDED IN TRAGEDY. A SUDDEN BURST OF WIND CAUSED THE PLANE TO CRASH. THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS.

HIS LOVED ONES REMEMBERED HIS LAST WISHES "WERE I TO DIE, I WOULD LIKE TO BE LAID TO REST IN SLOVAK TERRITORY".

MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK WAS BURIED IN SLOVAKIA WITH GREAT POMP AND CEREMONY.

TO FINANCE THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT A NATIONWIDE CROWDFUNDING WAS ANNOUNCED. TWO MILLION CROWNS* WERE RAISED. THE MEMORIAL WAS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED ON THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER, 1928.

*THE CURRENCY AT THE TIME



Annexes

Here are some of Štefánik's ideas and views, which were never put in practice or which were never truly understood by his contemporaries. He was a man of many talents but several of his opinions were not accepted by the politicians of the time.

NA TROSKÁCH RAKÚSKO-
UHORSKA VZNIKÁ NIEKOĽKO
NOVÝCH NÁRODNÝCH ŠTÁTOV.
PODĽA MASARYKA JE NAJ-
LEPŠOU FORMOU ZRIADENIA
REPUBLIKA.

NEMECKÁ
RÍŠA

PRÁHA

POĽSKO

ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ
MONARCHIA

RAKÚSKO

MAĎARSKÁ
REPUBLIKA RÁD

RUMUNSKO

KRÁLOVSTVO
SLOVENCOV
CHORVATOV

PODĽA MOJICH POZORO-
VANÍ JE TO PRÁVE NAJ-
MENEJ STABILNÝ ŠTÁTNY
ÚTVAR.

O ŽENÁCH A MONARCHII

POZRITE SA LEN NA MOJE MILOVANÉ FRANCÚZSKO. VLÁDA TAM
PADALA KAŽDÝCH PÁR ROKOV. NEPOKOJE, STREĽBA, STOVKY
MŔTVÝCH V ULICIACH.

NECH ŽIJE
REPUBLIKA!
ĎALŠIA.

AK CHCE MALÁ
KRAJINA PRE-
ŽIŤ, POTREBUJE
MONARCHU!
PREPOJE-
NÉHO S INÝMI
KRÁĽOVSKÝMI
DVORMI EURÓPY.

KRÁĽ

SÚDRŽNÁ KRÁĽOVSKÁ RODINA ZAISTÍ
ČESKOSLOVENSKÚ MEDZINÁRODNÚ
PRESTÍŽ. CESTA K PLNEJ LIBERÁLNEJ
DEMOKRACII ALE POTRVÁ EŠTE VEĽMI
DLHO. ĽUD K NEJ MUSÍME NEUSTÁLE
VZDEĽÁVAŤ.

VZDELANCI

MANY NEW STATES WERE FORMED FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE AUSTRIA-HUNGARIAN MONARCHY. ACCORDING TO MASARYK AND BENEŠ, A REPUBLIC IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE POLITICAL MODEL.

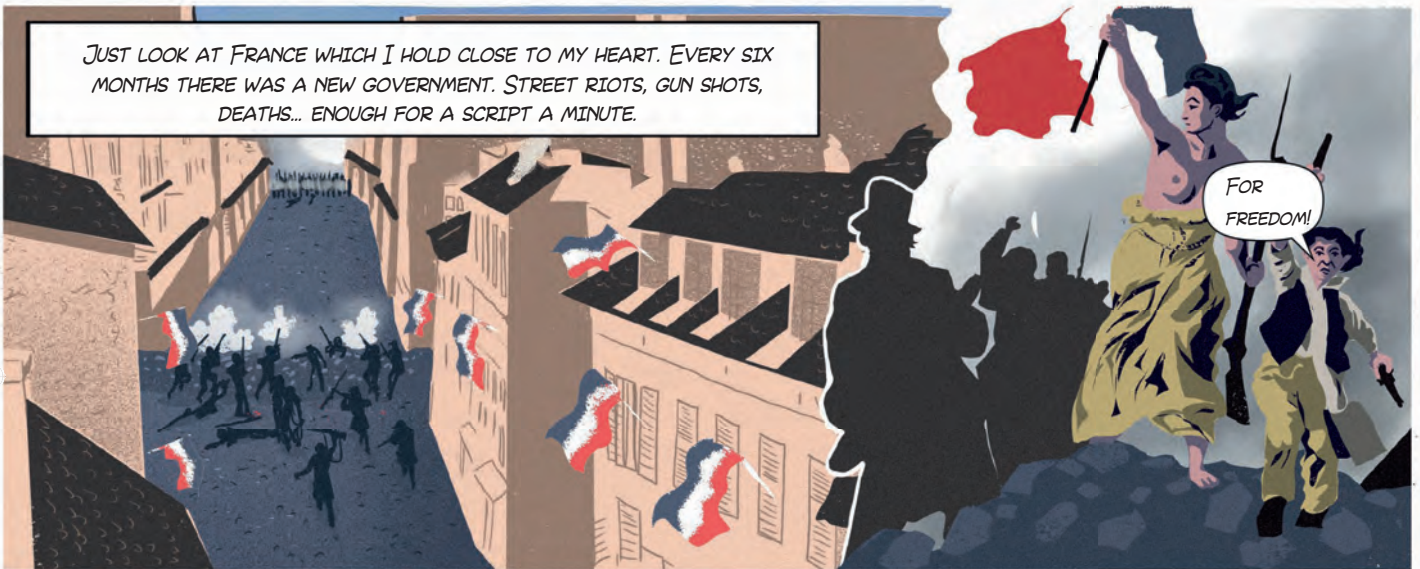


MY EXPERIENCE ABROAD, HAS TAUGHT ME THAT IT IS ALSO THE MOST UNSTABLE...



WOMEN AND MONARCHY

JUST LOOK AT FRANCE WHICH I HOLD CLOSE TO MY HEART. EVERY SIX MONTHS THERE WAS A NEW GOVERNMENT. STREET RIOTS, GUN SHOTS, DEATHS... ENOUGH FOR A SCRIPT A MINUTE.

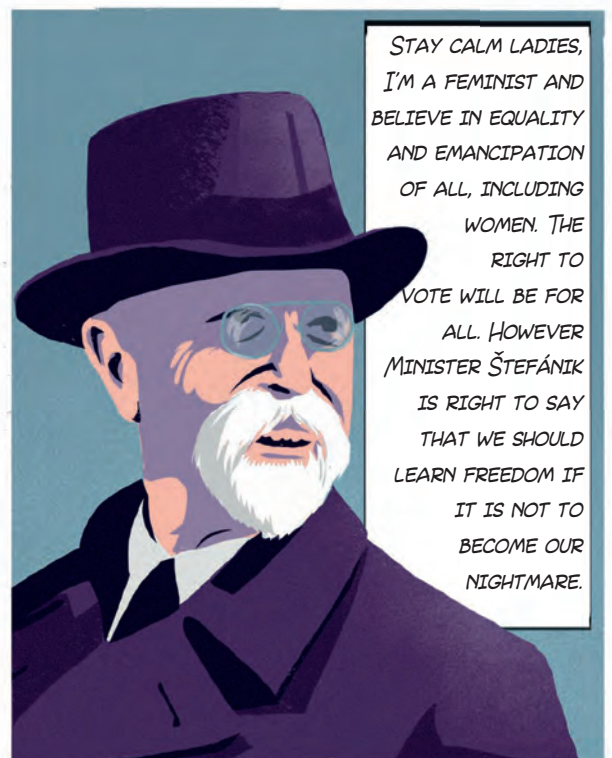


TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE, A SMALL AND YOUNG COUNTRY NEEDS A KING! NOT ANYBODY, BUT A TRUE MONARCH WHO WOULD BE RESPECTED ACROSS EUROPE.



A UNITED ROYAL FAMILY WOULD ENSURE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE HAVE A LIBERAL DEMOCRACY. TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE MUST EDUCATE THE PEOPLE.







ŠTEFÁNIK BOL PRESVEDČENÝ, ŽE DEMOKRACIA, KTORÚ TAK BRÁNIL, SA PRESADZUJE NIE REČAMI, ALE RIEŠENÍM PROBLÉMOV. KONKRÉTNE TÝM, ŽE UDRŽÍME NA UZDE SVOJE VÁŠNE. PRETO MUSÍME ZACHOVÁVAŤ EURÓPSKU PAMÄŤ. ŠTEFÁNIKOVE MYŠLIENKY A NÁZORY SÚ ÚPLNÝM OPAKOM TOHO, ČO PRESADZUJÚ POPULISTI A EXTRÉMISTI, KTORÍ VYVOLÁVAJÚ NEGATÍVNE A ROZVRATNÉ VÁŠNE A SNAŽIA SA LEN ZNEUŽIŤ JEHO PAMIATKU.

CHRISTOPHE LÉONZI
BÝVALÝ FRANCÚZSKY VEĽVYSLANEC



“Štefánik was convinced that democracy, which he defended so vigorously, could not be enforced ‘with words but by finding solutions to problems’, and in particular by ‘keeping our passions in check’. We are indebted to European history. It is our duty to maintain and develop our democracy. Although they try to use his name, Štefánik was completely opposed to the speeches of the populists and extremists who only spread hostility and discord”.

(Christophe Léonzi, former French ambassador in Slovakia)



The Adventures of Milan Rastislav Štefánik

Author © Tomáš Kriššák

Illustrations © Eniac (Tomáš Cíger), Frenky (František Hříbal)

Translation © Krištof Klestil and Dominique Noël

ISBN 978-80-99902-91-7

Publisher: ESPERO (www.espero.sk) for NGO "E@I" (www.ikso.net) Partizánske, Slovakia

The second English publication.

Year of publishing: 2025

Printshop: BOOKS FACTORY Sp. z o.o. (Poland)

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

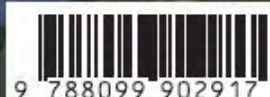
THE ADVENTURES OF MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK

HE WAS A SCIENTIST, A SOLDIER AND A DREAMER. BORN IN 1880 IN A SMALL SLOVAKIAN VILLAGE, MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFÁNIK GREW UP WITH A CONSUMING PASSION TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES OF THE SKY. HE BECAME AN ASTRONOMER, TRAVELLING THE WORLD TO OBSERVE ECLIPSES AND COLLABORATING WITH SOME OF THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS IN PARIS. HE WAS CONSTANTLY PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE.

HOWEVER, IN 1914, EUROPE WAS ENGULFED IN WAR. A PATRIOT AT HEART, ŠTEFÁNIK DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION. ENLISTING IN THE FRENCH ARMY, HE BECAME A GENERAL AND USED HIS DIPLOMATIC GENIUS TO CONVINCE THE ALLIES TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS. TOGETHER WITH MASARYK AND BENEŠ, HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN ESTABLISHING CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A FREE AND UNITED STATE IN 1918.

A FEARLESS PILOT AND DARING STRATEGIST, HE EMBODIED THE HOPES OF A GENERATION SEEKING FREEDOM. HIS TRAGIC DEATH IN A PLANE CRASH IN 1919 ONLY SERVED TO REINFORCE HIS LEGEND AS A MAN WHO DARED TO BELIEVE IN A BETTER WORLD AND FOUGHT TO BUILD IT.

THIS IS THE TRUE STORY OF A HERO WHO LEFT HIS MARK ON HISTORY.



9 788099 902917