

Chapter 5

1946-1947

1946

The New Year started with dances, one after another. The first was organized by the People's Party in the large room at Chalupa's tavern. It was lovely to see people of all political persuasions taking part together, not like before the war when those supporting the People's Party would not go to dances organized by the Socialists and vice versa. And how just it was that people who had been united by the pain and suffering of war could now continue to be united in pleasure.

February 3. A commission was elected, to have the duty of putting down in a record book everything of importance that had happened in the community. Those chosen were Mr Hanousek the teacher from No. 295 as chronicler, and as fellow-workers the Rev. Ant. Florian the priest, council chairman Leopold Vahala from No. 98, and myself, Al. Rychlíková from No. 105.

February 4. At a meeting of the village council, an alteration to the egg quota was announced. The previous quota of 65 eggs per laying hen was altered to 55 eggs per hectare (1 ha = 5 measures). At the same time the restrictions on the keeping of hens were withdrawn, and everyone was allowed to keep as many as he wished.

The winter this year was so mild that building work could take place almost continuously. People were putting up rafters, erecting gables, repairing roofs, fitting new windows, in short blotting out the traces of war. The secondary school, which had been severely damaged, was also repaired. All the windows had to be renewed, and on February 15 it received new rafters.

On the last day of February, a commission was here to draw up a plan for our village to determine where building could take place in future. This plan would cost 240,000 crowns. According to it, some houses which had been destroyed in the war were not allowed to be rebuilt, and some had in due course to be moved, for example house No. 198 of Frant. Vahala, which jutted out into the street. Similarly, the flats for estate workers at No. 132, which had been shattered during the passage of the front line, were not allowed to be further repaired, but had to be demolished to allow the road to be widened. Houses which were now being built in place of those which were ruined and burnt out had to be constructed in accordance with this plan. Many were built with attic rooms.

February had been very mild, almost without snow, with perhaps only fourteen days of frost in all and none of them too severe.

March 5. A branch of the fourth political party recognized by the state, the "Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party", was founded in Těšany, and claimed representation on the village council. Chairman Leopold Vahala called together delegates from all the parties, and they decided that each of the three existing parties should relinquish one seat to the benefit of the new party. The council now consisted of five members of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party, five members of the People's Party, five members of the Communist Party, and three members of the Social Democratic Party. Šimon Menšík of No. 301, National Socialist Party, Jaromír Rychlík of No. 100, People's Party, and Filip Svoboda of No. 232, Communist Party, stood down, and their places were taken on behalf of the Social Democratic Party by Tobiáš Štěpánek of No. 195, Josef Král of No. 52, and Alois Štěpánek of No. 195.

March 11. After several warm days, sowing started.

Between March 9 and March 11, the police station was moved to the manor house, now repaired. (The police were now called the "National Security Corps".)

March 22. The repairs to the electricity network were completed, and for the first time in seven years the street lighting was switched on.

The weather in March was fine but dry. As a consequence of the dry frosts, winter wheat was doing poorly, and some was even frostbitten and had to be ploughed back.

April 3. Poplar trees were planted by the little brook. [This appears to be a reference to a third brook, not on the sketch map of the Těšany watercourses because it does not flow through Těšany itself, which rises in the hills to the south of the village, flows north-west, and joins the original brook to the west of the village. It would appear that the poplar trees already there had been smashed in the battle, and that their prompt replacement was a matter of local pride. The adjacent sector was named after them.]

April 5. The apricot trees were in full bloom.

April 11. The local carpenter, Frant Nehyba at No. 95, sliced off four fingers of his right hand while working at his machine. He was left with just a thumb and half a little finger.

Monday April 22. Těšany celebrated the first anniversary of its liberation. There was a festival service in the church, and then a procession to the memorial of President Masaryk where Stanislav Pavlíček, director of the secondary school and a former political prisoner, gave an address.

The planting of potatoes was completed by the end of April, likewise maize and gherkins, but there was no rain during the whole month and the corn was turning yellow at the roots.

On May 5 and May 7 there were thunderstorms with substantial rain, which arrived in the nick of time. A result of the dry spell was a proliferation of black caterpillars which ate all the first sowing of beet, so the ravaged plants were ploughed back and a second planting was made.

During this month, the war damage to the church was repaired.

May 11. There was the first call-up of recruits by our liberated country. There were twelve from the class born in 1924. On the day before their departure, they laid a communal wreath on the graves of two fallen comrades who would have been in their year, Stanislav Drtil and František Hnilica.

By the war memorial, a triumphal arch was built, and on it the legend "We will defend the freedom wrested by you". Beside it was a pole from which was flown the national flag. After the departure of the recruits for Klobouky, a boy and girl in national costume stood by the memorial and flag as a ceremonial guard. After the call-up, the soldiers came from Klobouky, and according to old custom they went along our street and through the village to Chalupa's tavern, then all twelve new recruits marched to the war memorial and laid a wreath. The teacher, Mr Liška of No. 41, addressed the soldiers standing in front of the memorial, then they took the oath of loyalty, and the band played the national anthem. Then the citizens went with the soldiers to the cemetery, where the band played "Fare thee well" in honour of the fallen comrades.

Thus went the first call-up after the war.

May 15. The first cherries were already ripe.

The supply of foodstuffs had greatly improved thanks to the international organization "Unra" [almost certainly UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration], which people were calling "Auntie Unra from America". The shops were full of meat, orange and lemon juice, cheeses, milk, green vegetables, and sardines, all in metal tins. In addition, Unra brought in clothing, footwear, cars, machines, horses, cows, medicines, and ambulances, and many hospitals received various items of the very latest equipment.

May 26. After eleven years, there were elections to the assembly. The Communist Party candidate received 173 votes, the People's Party 375 votes, the Social Democrats 24, and the National Socialists 218. Four papers were blank, and two envelopes were empty. Voters from 18 years upwards took part.

May had again been dry. The two storms at the start of the month had not helped much, and there was no more rain until May 27. There was little wheat or rye, hay was doing very badly, and beet was being planted for the third time. The second planting of beet had been ravaged by beetles.

This year, the council's call for a field watchman produced no response. The last field watchman had been Stanislav Sedláček of No. 175 last year.

June 5. The post office started to function in newly refurbished rooms in the estate villa. Hitherto, it had been in No. 220, belonging to the manor estate. [According to the second Těšany record book, the "estate villa" was a building put up in 1927. A photograph reproduced by Vermouzek shows it to have three stories.]

On the same day, rationing of spirits ceased, and everybody could buy as much as he liked.

June 13. After 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a thunderstorm came over from Šitbořice, with a tornado which did great damage. It shattered roofs, demolished walls and gables, and uprooted many strong trees. The high winds lasted for perhaps half an hour, but there was not a great deal of rain.

June 19. Filip Turek of No. 282 went for the fourth time to plough back and replant his beet.

June 30. There was a ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of a Lady Chapel which the local political prisoners had resolved to build in thanks for their safe return from the concentration camps. It was a beautiful day. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, a procession went from the church with music, and people from all the neighbouring villages took part. [This chapel is not marked on the 1:50,000 map, but appears to have been on the small hill a kilometre or so to the east of the village which is later

referred to as “Vahala’s hill” (see the entry for 18 September 1947). Vermouzek has a photograph. The route of the procession is described with reference to certain points in and around the village, and there is an interpolation “The number of participants exceeded 7,000” in the writer’s handwriting as when much older.] The ceremonial address was given by the rector of Šitbořice, and then there was a formal tapping of the stone by the citizens. On the stone were engraved the names of the political prisoners who had built the chapel.

Karel Ardéli	No. 263
Josef Novotný	No. 261
Leopold Vahala	No. 98
Jakub Vahala	No. 108
Pavel Juříček	No. 126

July 2. The harvest started. The weather was very favourable, and by July 14 we already had all the corn under cover.

July 19. Some fields were battered by a thunderstorm with hailstones.

July 26. People had already reaped everything in the fields, and the harvest was finished.

This year, more gherkins had been planted, and the crop was such that the agricultural co-operative did not want to take any from smallholders. People had accumulated 10–15–20 cents of gherkins in their cellars, only to find that there was now no market for them. The official price for salad gherkins had been 5.20 crowns, and was now 2 crowns. The black market price had started at 14 crowns, and now anybody who wanted to could take a whole sackful for free because otherwise they would be used as animal feed.

August 1. Engineers measured Těšany with reference to the new village plan.

August 12. The community purchased the estate villa, with its grounds, from the manor estate for 250,000 crowns. The “National Security Corps” and the post office were accommodated there.

August 19. The maize harvest started. [This might seem inconsistent with the entry for July 26, but the same happens in later years, and it soon becomes clear that the July “harvest” refers specifically to the wheat crop.]

August 26. The drummer announced that the crushing of barley no longer needed a permit, and that people could crush and grind at whatever mill they chose. [It becomes clear in due course that “crushing” is for animal feed and “grinding” for flour.]

September 16. It was announced with the drum that the grapes could be collected. There was a rich harvest of grapes as never here before, the corn had recovered after the June rains and had given a good yield, potatoes and maize were good, and only the beet had suffered. They were sparse but large, and even those from the third and fourth plantings had grown.

October 20. Our neighbour Alois Dostál at No. 104 died. He was our first mayor after the first world war, and was the first mayor to have been merely a householder. Previously, only those who held a tract or half-tract of land could become mayor.

This year, we celebrated October 28 not only as a national festival but as the day on which the last Germans were expelled from our republic. Thus was our country finally rid of the German leeches.

During the first fourteen days of November, all citizens who had property, or money in savings accounts, had to fill in a form. These forms were presented at the district office, where an official from the district (Hustopeče) took them away. On the form, everybody had to acknowledge his property in fields, houses, money, cars, in short everything he had, and in which year he had bought or acquired it. This census was done in order to assess taxes on property.

Friday 29 November. Official permission came to build a new secondary school. It was to be built on land from the estate. The previous school was no longer sufficient, so a new secondary school was to be built, and the previous secondary school would become the primary school. And even before the secondary school itself was built, a block of flats had to be built for the teachers. In preparation for the building, which would take place next year, we brought bricks from the circular brick kiln of Jos Konečný at Šitbořice, sand for concrete from ... [gap left and never filled in], and sand for mortar from the gravel pit of Štěpán Novotný of No. 47.

For Christmas, we women received an allowance of 30 cigarettes for each woman of 18 or above. Additionally, we received an allowance of 20 dkg of fish per person, and also 5 dkg of raisins and ½kg of oranges per person.

From December 12 it started to freeze and from December 15 it froze hard, but it remained dry and there was no snow.

Prices of farm produce

Item		Price (crowns)
Wheat	1 cent	360
Rye	"	360
Barley	"	320
Beet	"	60
Fattened geese and ducks	1kg	70–90
Sucking pigs	"	70–80–90
Cattle for slaughter	1kg live weight	16–18–20
Pigs up to 110kg live weight	1kg	27
Pigs above 110kg live weight	"	29
Eggs	1kg	44.60

1947

January 1. A two-year plan which had been announced on the previous October 28 came into effect. According to this plan, all workers had to increase their efforts and produce more goods, and agricultural workers likewise had to grow more plant and animal products. (Would nature submit to being planned?)

Up to the middle of January, it was dry but freezing, and temperatures dropped to 20–25 degrees below zero. During the second half of the month it snowed.

The village introduced admission charges at weddings for those other than the wedding guests who came to watch or to take part in the dancing, five crowns for those who were married and ten crowns for those who were single. The first charges were levied at the wedding of Jos. Štěpánek of No. 2, and raised 1,700 crowns for the benefit of the community.

From February 10, deep snowdrifts halted all traffic on the road from Brno to Klobouky, and each house had to provide one member for snow clearing. Payment was 10 crowns per hour.

February 18. There was a further call for snow clearing, and 150 people took part.

February 19, Ash Wednesday, was a truly awful day, with such a blizzard that what had been cleared during the preceding days had to be swept again.

February 27. The winter remained bitter, and the bus service was again halted. The temperature continually dropped to more than 20 degrees below zero. This cruel winter greatly distressed the wildlife in the fields, particularly the birds. Almost 60 per cent of the partridges were lost.

February 28. Our aunt Marie Králová, whom we called Auntie Martnická, died. She was the sister of our grandfather, and had been born on 13 October 1850. When brother Tonda bought the mill at Žatčany, she went to live with him and looked after his children, and she stayed with him even after the children had grown up. She remained healthy and pretty active until the end of her life. She died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 97.

March 7. At the invitation of the education council, a concert was given here by a sixty-member choir of Moravian teachers. The conductor was Břetislav Bakala. After the conclusion of the concert, which consisted mainly of folk songs, a boy and girl in national costume presented the guests with a picture depicting "Maryša" which had been painted by self-taught local painter František Rotnágel of No. 27.

On March 15 there was a sudden thaw. The warmth and rain released the snow from the tracks, and water rushed down from the vineyards and flooded the land to the west. This became a lake, and other land around the village was also flooded. There were also great floods along the rivers. Large flocs accumulated, and even broke down bridges.

March 20 and 21. Lovely warm days. We collected the potatoes from the pits in the gardens, where they were in large part frozen. The ground was frozen to a depth of 80–100 centimetres.

March 26. The National Catholic Council approved an interchange of roles between houses No. 36 (hitherto the rectory) and No. 18 (the house given with a 45-measure field by Josef Buček and his wife Anna, where the Holy Sisters maintained a nursery school for children up to six years old). In future, No. 18, due to its nearness to the church, would be the rectory, and No. 36 the nursery school.

The former estate villa, which had been purchased by the village and was being used as the police station and post office, stood in a walled park. This wall now had to be knocked down to allow road widening. Forced labour was therefore introduced, and men up to 65 years old and women up to 55 had to give 24 hours of labour for the village without payment.

From March 28 there were new prices for farm produce.

Item		Old price (crowns)	New price
Wheat	100 kg	360	400
Rye	"	340	360
Barley, lowest quality	"	321	321
Barley, medium quality for malting	"	341	371
Barley, top quality for malting	"	360	410
Potatoes, white	"	67	85
Potatoes, yellow	"	77	100
Pigs up to 70kg live weight	1kg	23	23
Pigs up to 110kg live weight	"	26	29
Pigs over 110kg live weight	"	29	32

In March, Květoslav Ryva, the terror of the millers during the occupation, was sentenced to 20 years in jail. Five millers had been executed on his account and twenty imprisoned, among them our Tonda.

From April 1, the price of milk was reduced from 5.50 to 4.60 crowns per litre, and of butter from 94 to 80 crowns per kilogramme.

April 5, Holy Saturday. For the first time, some people were able to go out and sow. Some of the winter wheat had been affected by frost and had to be ploughed back.

April 17. The apricot trees, which had also been late this year, came into bloom.

April 28. We demolished and cleaned up the last remains of the old walls of our burnt-out house, and on April 30 we laid the foundations of our new one.

May 5. We started to build. Local architect Rudolf Juříček of No. 55 was in charge, and the building was done for us by bricklayers Josef Dosoudil of No. 218 and Jaroslav Vrba of No. 146. The building had to be done in accordance with the orders of the planning office in Brno, a house with attic, two rooms, and kitchen, inside bathroom and toilet, and in the yard agricultural buildings, pigsties, and a building for food storage and other purposes. The cost of the whole building was 273,026 crowns. On the foundations of the front wall facing the street, between the windows, a sheet of glass was let into the brickwork, with notes in which I briefly described what had happened during the war. I also deposited examples of the money we had had during the Austrian Empire, during the first republic, and during the protectorate of 1939-45, and the money and stamps we had had since 1945.

Spring was fine but dry. Barley was germinating poorly, and rye and wheat were also doing badly.

Building activity in the village was in full swing. Besides ourselves, Ludvík Rychlík of No. 169, Josef Drtil of No. 60, and Alois Dudek of No. 121 were all building. These three had all been burnt out during the battle, but the village plan did not allow them to rebuild on their old sites. They had to build on the street where the two burnt-out barns of Eduard Langášek of No. 33 had stood, and on the building plot of Jos. Chalupa at No. 23. Josef Rotnágl at No. 151 and Matěj Chalupa at No. 44 were also building, and our Franta the carpenter at No. 119 was building a barn.

May 15, Ascension Day. The carpenters put up our rafters, and we hung the tiles.

May 19. It was announced with the drum that the growing of tobacco in gardens for home consumption, as had been done in previous years, was forbidden.

May 27. Our Pavel started to rebuild the farm buildings which had been burnt out during the battle.

May 29. They started rebuilding house No. 18, which was to become the rectory.

May had been dry. As a result, the condition of the corn and root vegetables was very bad, and hay was estimated to be yielding only a third of its normal crop.

On Monday June 9 we started work on the farm buildings in the yard, and on June 13 we put on the rafters.

Likewise, on June 11 brother Antonín at Třebomyslice started to demolish the mill, and the following week he started to build a new mill which was significantly larger.

June had given very little rain. The field crop was poor, and there was no second cutting of hay. The gherkins in the fields had not germinated at all, and maize and beet only to 40 per cent.

July 5. There was a great festival at Velehrad [in the valley of the Morava, some fifty kilometres to the east], and at the same time a convention of political prisoners from Moravia and Silesia. Three carloads of participants went from Těšany.

July 7. The harvest started, a wretched one.

July 8. Josef Skříčka of No. 78 was buried by a fall while digging sand for mortar. He suffered internal injuries, and had a broken leg.

As a result of the prolonged drought, many cattle and pigs were suffering from softened or brittle bones. According to the veterinary surgeons, it would be possible to cure and save them only by giving them juicy fodder, which wasn't to be had, so they had to be sent for slaughter. On July 14, we ourselves had to let a cow with softened bones be slaughtered.

July 27. The harvest was already over. Corn yielded only two or three stooks per measure, and the plants had dreadfully few ears. When threshed, they produced 30–50–60kg. Those who had corn in the low-lying fields by the brooks had a yield of 100kg or at most 150kg per measure.

The government announced that those in the region who had been worst hit by the drought could cut and collect dried hay from border regions as far away as Šumava in Bohemia. It would be transported by rail to Sokolnice. A working party of forty men went from Těšany. [Šumava, which is a region rather than a specific place, lies on the Austrian border some 200–250 kilometres to the west of Těšany. These border regions were presumably still largely depopulated following the expulsion of the Germans in 1945-46.]

August 2. Work started on the block of flats associated with the new school, which had to be constructed during the first year of the two-year plan. Each inhabitant had to give 24 hours of labour without payment towards the digging of the cellars. On August 21, work started on laying the foundations and lining the cellars. The bricks for all the Těšany building work were transported from the brickyard of J. Konečný at Šitbořice at a price of 790 crowns per thousand.

The government made advance payments in respect of houses ruined in the battle according to the degree of damage as established by commissions from the local and regional offices. Furthermore, people who had lost various things, such as animals, waggons, clothing, linen, jewellery, and so on, or who had been bombarded by aircraft, received reparations. We, whose total loss was estimated at 167,000 crowns, received 50,000 for the house and 14,000 for its contents.

The government offered a mortgage guaranteed by the state to all who did not have enough money of their own to renew their ruined buildings in accordance with the prescribed regulations. This loan had to be sought from the building department of the ministry of social welfare in Prague through local and regional councils. The ministry wanted to review the applications before granting the loan, and everybody had to state how much of his own money he was putting in and how much he was borrowing apart from that which would be guaranteed by the state. We had borrowed 20,000 crowns from the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Society and were putting in 25,000 crowns from our own savings, and we were allowed a loan of 220,000 crowns. The ministry made this money available to us through the Hustopeče Mutual Benefit Society.

The building was estimated at 273,000 crowns excluding the garden in front of the house and the paving of the yard, and 330,000 crowns in all. However, it was obvious that the estimate would be significantly exceeded, because the price of all building material was markedly increasing. Wood for rafters had been 28,000 crowns, but when we collected ours from the local co-operative the price had increased to 34,000 crowns. Bricks increased in price from 790 crowns to 9.. and after a short time to 1,200 crowns, and after a month or so yet further to ... [gaps left and never filled in].

When we started to build, building material apart from bricks and cement was unrationed, but now everything was in short supply and all building material, wood, boards, metal sheets, iron, bricks, cement, and other things would be available only by voucher. Vouchers would be issued by the building department of the regional council.

Brother Josef at Dubňany likewise started to repair and rebuild his burnt-out mill.

August 22. The working party returned from Šumava. The men had cut and dried the hay, and had

taken it to railway wagons. Each member of the working party would have 22q of pressed hay, which would be taken by rail to Sokolnice.

During the second half of August, the road through the village to Nesvačilka was rolled.

August ended still without rain, and the result of the continuing drought showed itself in a shortage of drinking water in the wells. We in our street had enough water, but in some parts of the village they had to fetch water from Skalka [the main village water supply].

September 18. They started to build the chapel on Vahala's hill (which had formerly been the manor hill, but had passed into the ownership of Josef Vahala of No. 166 in the land reform of 1924). [It was also called "the hill above Hastrmánek", as witness one of the entries for November 1973.]

September 20. The maize harvest started. The yield was very bad, 30–40–60kg per measure and at most 100kg. Geese and ducks were slaughtered unfattened.

September 22. The gathering of grapes was announced. There was again a good crop, but even here the drought had its effect. The grapes were small, and many growers found themselves looking at withered fruit. There was no compulsory delivery quota, but those who wanted to sell could do so (from our region) only to the co-operative at Velké Pavlovice. The price was 12–13 crowns per 1kg for blue grapes and 14–15 crowns for white. In the market, they were being sold to consumers for 20–22 crowns per 1kg.

As a result of the drought, the supply situation became much worse. Many goods and foodstuffs which had become freely available were now back on the ration, such as potatoes, cheeses, soap powder, and many other things as for example textiles. Bedlinen, gloves, tea-cloths, and some children's things were again available only in return for vouchers, as were shoes with rubber soles.

By government order, suppliers received a supplement to the price received for corn.

Item		Price (crowns)	Supplement
Wheat	100 kg	400	200
Rye	"	360	150
Barley	"	320	200
Oats	"	287	–
Potatoes	"	100	50

Corn was in great demand, and those who could sell on the black market were being offered up to 2,000 crowns per 100kg.

Through the local council, people asked the region for an allowance of wheat for sowing. The wheat arrived at the agricultural co-operative and was divided according to the acreage that people wanted to sow. We received 100kg. People were delighted that those who worked on the land were being helped in this way. However, the rejoicing was premature. An order came that those who had taken wheat for sowing had to give a return quota of their own. We no longer had so much (we had cut 120kg), 30kg remained after grinding and 19kg after sowing. Now we surrendered 49kg of wheat and 40kg of rye. This left us without a single grain of hard corn, and we had to get by on scraps.

October 12. There was a ceremonial opening and consecration of the new rectory, No. 18, which had been converted at a cost of half a million crowns.

October 25. The beet harvest was almost complete. Some fields yielded nothing at all, and even where the beet had gained a foothold the yield was 10–20 and at most 30 cents per measure. The potato crop was also poor, but it still had to be handed over. The producer's allowance was 50kg per person for the whole year, that is until June of the next year.

In consequence of the great shortage of animal feed, people were selling off cattle and pigs, to such an extent that the co-operative could not take all of them.

November 4. Zdeněk Horák of No. 150 completed his studies and graduated as Engineer. Now among our natives we had a Doctor of Medicine, Frant Dosoudil [no number given], a Doctor of Law, Frant Chalupa of No. 23, and the aforementioned Engineer Zdeněk Horák.

November 15. We moved from the sitting-room in the barn, which we had made after the battle, to our new house. Since April 1945 we had experienced self-denial, hardship, and drudgery beyond measure, but now we could look forward to spending the rest of our lives in a lovely healthy new house.

The following houses were built during 1947:

Josef Rotnágel	No. 151 (tavern)	Josef Pacas	No. 43
Frant. Rychlík	No. 105	Josef Janoušek	[no number given]
Ludvík Rychlík	No. 169	Matěj Chalupa	No. 44
Alois Dudek	No. 121	Alois Krupička	No. 157
Josef Drtil	No. 60	Rectory	No. 18
Frant. Pacas	No. 88	Flats for teachers	[no number given]
Jan Konečný	No. 85	Lady Chapel	on the hill above Hastrmánek

and the following, started the previous year, were completed:

Josef Dostal	No. 86	Josef Sýkora	No. 202
Jan Čermák	No. 87	Josef Mandelik	No. 284
Barnabáš Ledba	No. 91	Jan Chalupka	No. 193
Pavel Buček	No. 42		

November 30. Our village was honoured by a visit from the writers Antonín Šrámek, Josef Ošmera, and Antonín Kolek. There was an exhibition of books in the afternoon, followed by a "literary evening" in which the writers in turn spoke and read extracts from their books. This meeting was held at Chalupa's tavern at No. 23.

A consequence of the drought was a reduction in the ration of certain provisions. In November, the sugar ration was reduced from 1.50kg to 1.20kg. Milk was restricted to children and the sick.

And the black market, which the previous year had almost died out, was now flourishing again.

Item		Black market price (crowns)	Official price
Wheat	100kg	1500–2000	
Barley	"	1000–1200	
Maize	"	1500–1800	
Potatoes	"	200	
Beet	"	200	60
Butter	1kg	200	80
Flour	"	20	8
Lard	"	250–300	74
Slaughtered goose and duck	"	120–150	80
Sugar	"	50–60	15
Onions	"	20–25	9
Garlic	"	250–300	80

Vegetables of all kinds were also in very short supply. Cabbage heads were selling at 10 crowns for 1kg, celery 12 crowns, carrots 10 crowns. Eggs were 6 crowns, rising to 10 crowns in the winter, against an official price of 44.20 crowns for 1kg.

The supply of textiles was very bad, worse than during the occupation.

An agricultural worker received 11 crowns per hour, a bricklayer 13.20 crowns, a factory worker 15 crowns, a qualified tradesman 15–25 crowns.

Brother Tonda at Žatčany had finished rebuilding the mill. The machinery was almost completely new, and the mill was back in operation.

1947 had been a very bad year for agriculture, dry and unproductive, but the quotas of corn and potatoes were still demanded. The government was paying supplements for corn, but what good was that when people had no corn to sell? Many smallholders with 15–20 measures of land had harvested only enough for seed corn and to feed themselves for three months, after which they would be thrown back on the rationed supply. The slaughtered pigs were very lean due to the shortage of fodder.

The government paid people affected by the drought at a rate of 300 crowns for 1ha. We received 700 crowns.