



Socialism Realised

Life in Communist Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989

Almost Hopeless

Srpen 68 (r. Jan Svoboda, 2003)/

August 68 (dir. Jan Svoboda, 2003)

Eyewitness testimony: I ran to the buildings of the Radio and there wasn't anyone there, and the Television. There wasn't anyone there either. Then I ran to the Old Town Square. People started gathering there. There we decided to wake Prague up to action. We created a procession. All these young people put their arms around their shoulders and went through Celetna street shouting "The Russians are here!" Then we arrived to the Central Committee and there we saw the first Russian tanks and soldiers. The people ran there, surrounded the tank and started to shake it. The soldiers had no idea what was going on. One of them backed and ran over a girl's feet. Shortly after that, some guys were arguing... or discussing with one of the soldiers and he just shot one of them in the head. It was a 16-year-old boy. He was then taken to the hospital. People held the national flags there covered in blood. These flags were then carried through Prague on trucks. From the hospital they drove through Prague on trucks.