

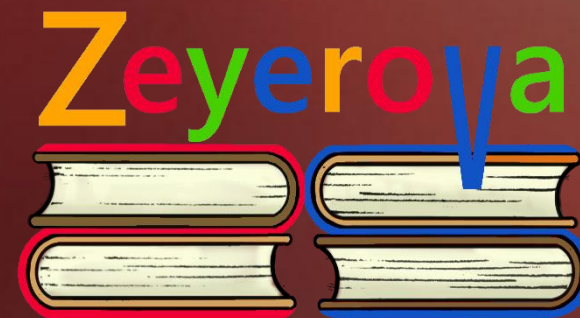
# THE BRIDGE AT REMAGEN

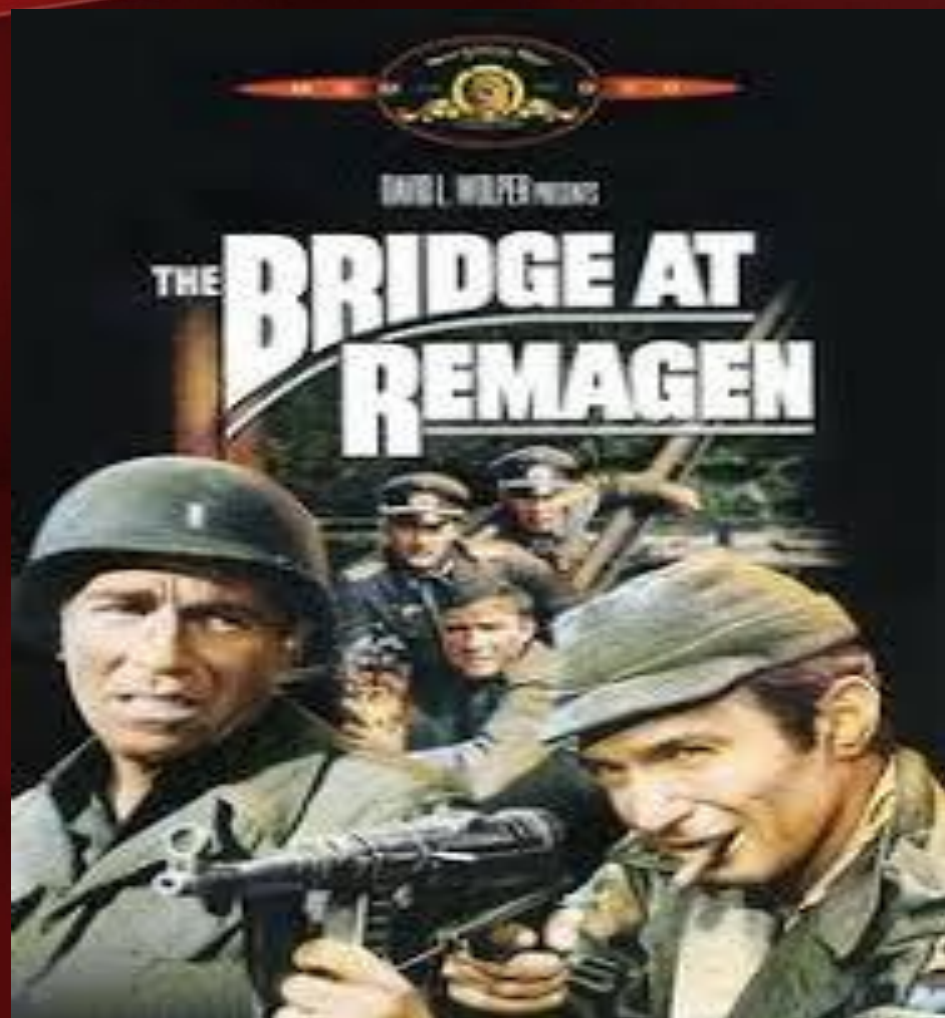


Erasmus+

through Czech eyes

**This presentation was created for Erasmus+ project World War II- our history and its legacy by students at Zeyerova school, Olomouc. The aim was to make other people and students aware of the history by different means... f.ex. by watching war movies.....**





# THE BRIDGE AT REMAGEN

- American war film released in 1969
- Based on actual events
- Set in the days of WORLD WAR II as U.S. forces race to capture a strategic bridge at Remagen, Germany



# CAST

- **Lt Phil Hartman** George Segal
- **Maj Paul Kreuger** Robert Vaughn
- **Sgt Angelo** Ben Gazzara
- **Maj Barnes** Bradford Dillman
- **Brig Gen Shinner** EG Marshall



# MOVIE SUMMARY

- As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine - but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman.

## FILM

- The movie's plot focuses on the capture of a strategically important bridge across the Rhine River during the WW II where there had been tough battles between the Americans and the Germans
- Despite of these battles, the bridge was captured intact and was later used by the Allies

## REALITY

- In reality, the Ludendorff Bridge was captured on March 7, 1945, by soldiers of the 9th American Armored Division at the Battle of Remagen during Operation Lumberjack.
- The Germans made unsuccessful attempts to destroy the bridge. The Allied forces were able to use it for ten days before it finally collapsed at 15:00 on March 17, 1945.

# CZECH TRACES IN THE MOVIE





# SITUATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- From January 5 to August 21, 1968, a period of liberalization took place in Czechoslovakia called the Prague Spring. The first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Alexander Dubček, initiated a series of reforms aimed at expanding the rights of citizens and decentralizing power in the country. He carried out work on substantial democratization and liberalization of the existing state régime.
- The American film crew that worked on the movie *The Bridge at Remagen* decided to use the political situation in the country to shoot their film there.

# LOCATIONS ON THE MAP



**Davle**

# WHY CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

- Western European officials would not allow a film to be made on the Rhine River in Germany. So instead, those scenes in the film which needed a bridge were shot at a small town called Davle. It was chosen because its bridge was similar to the one in Remagen.



# THE BRIDGE AT REMAGEN





# COMPARED TO THE BRIDGE AT DAVLE



# MEMORIES OF EYE WITNESS

- In 1968, Davle was turned into a film set. American and German tanks drove around the city, and the locals saw Hollywood stars dressed in American and German uniforms. Scenery was set up to reproduce the streets and houses of Remagen, and fake railway tunnel and towers were built
- **Local resident and pensioner, Antonin Dvorak, recalled, “Near our house there was a pile of dead soldier mannequins that the filmmakers would distribute here and there during filming.”**

# MEMORIES OF AN AMERICAN ACTOR

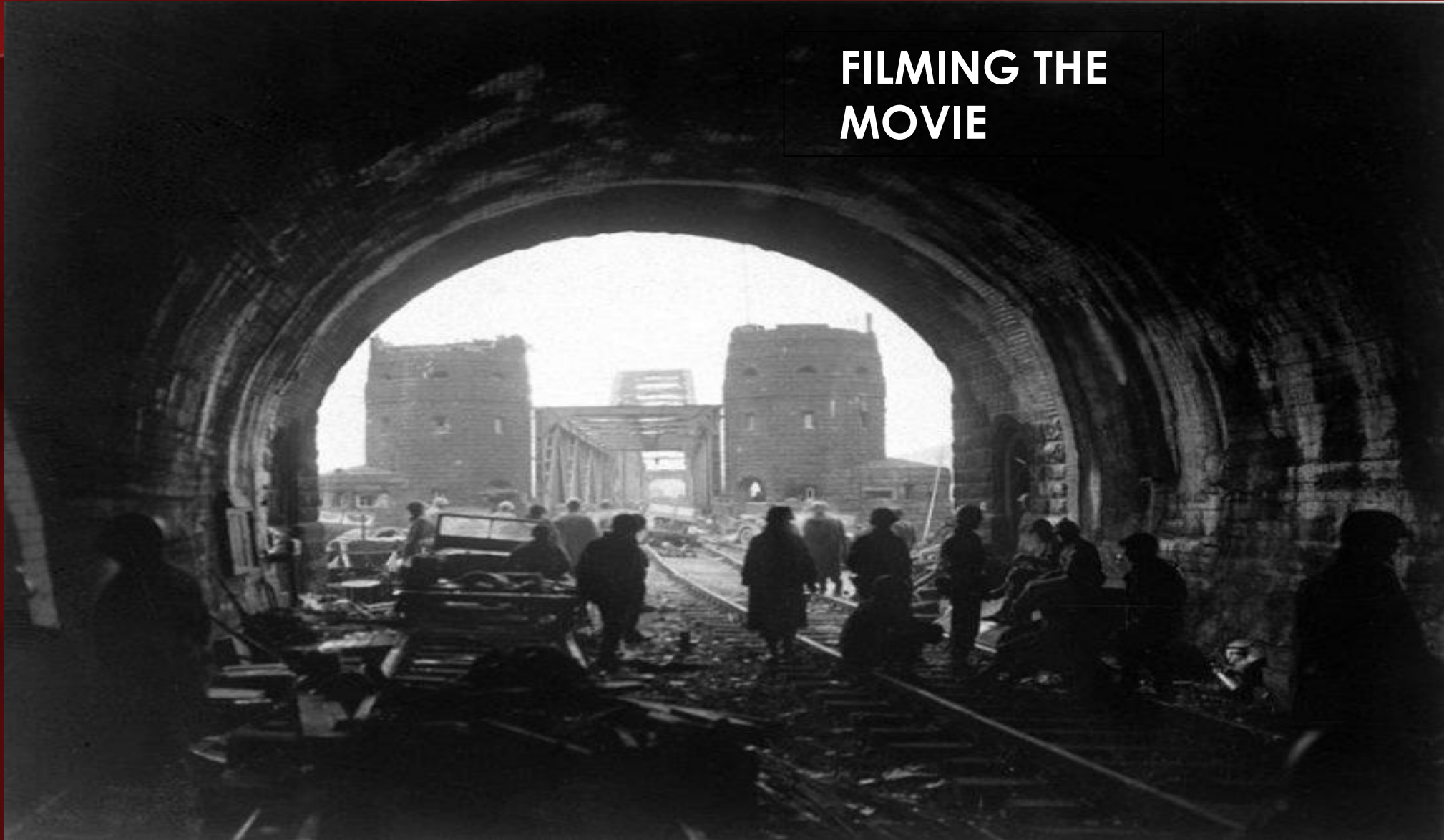
- **Actor Ben Gazzara talks later about the invasion :**
- “I started hearing strange rumblings, then jet planes zooming overhead. I looked out the window and saw tanks – lots of them – moving into position below us... I called the front desk to ask what was going on. The kindly telephone operator told me. ‘It’s the Russians. They’ve come like the Germans in 1939. They’ve come to kill our freedom.’ She was crying. ‘Poor Czechoslovakia,’ she said.”

# THE END OF FILMING?

- After the invasion, filming was immediately stopped, and the entire film crew was forced to leave for the West.
- It was only in the spring of 1968 that members of the film crew were given permission to return to Davle to shoot several final scenes.
- The film was completed in West Germany and on a replica bridge built near Rome.



**FILMING THE  
MOVIE**



# INTERESTING FACTS

- The bridge at Davle was almost destroyed during the filming the movie. The Soviet soldiers arriving at Davle started shooting at their alleged American „enemies“



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION !!!**