

Božidar Godec, a mining engineer from Celje, was deeply involved in the anti-fascist resistance during World War II. He joined the Liberation Front in the summer of 1941 and contributed to collecting weapons and supplies for partisan units. In the summer of 1942, he was betrayed, arrested, and imprisoned for several months in the Celje prison Stari Pisker. In January 1943, he was interned in the Dachau concentration camp, where he remained until the liberation. After the war, Godec held several significant technical positions across Yugoslavia. For his contribution to the national liberation struggle, he was awarded the Medal for Merits to the People in 1962. He described his harrowing experiences in the concentration camp a decade after his return.

*"The relationship between a prisoner and a uniformed man is fixed and depends entirely on the authority of his unrestricted will. The death's head on his cap symbolizes their initiative – the prisoner must blindly obey. The prisoner is like a bound ox, dependent on the butcher's brutality. Many times, I recalled an image from my shepherding childhood: the prisoner is like a gadfly, into whose body children stick a blade of grass, and then, to their great delight, release it into the air for its final flight. Yes – that was Dachau in the 20th century.*

*Mass murder, starvation, brutality, a deathly dance – and more: the systematic destruction of the soul of the imprisoned man. And that was the greatest crime of German racial culture. Brutality can, with time, be forgotten, even overcome. But when someone desecrates your soul, humiliates your intellect – that causes a lifelong, undying hatred."*

*(Božidar Godec, Memoirs of a Hunter in the Death Camp {Spomini lovca na taborišče smrti}, unpublished manuscript, Celje, 1955)*