

SUMMARY

The gymnasium of Laukuva in 1943–1944

/LAUKUVA I

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The activities of high schools in Laukuva and Šilalė during 1943–1944 school years are important historical facts of the Lithuanian nazi occupation period. They show that the Samogition country intelligentsia and progressive farmers even overloaded with difficulties and lacks during the nazi period could reach the situation that the youth of these and the surrounding „valsčiai“ could acquire high education nearer to their home. When the gymnasium began existing in Laukuva, the local society supported it as much as it could, it assisted the teachers who couldn't exist on their low salaries during the nazi years, helped the poorer gymnasists. The conclusion can be made that even under those unfavourable conditions the people of Laukuva and Laukuva „valsčius“ villages thought about the future of the whole Lithuania, about its need for educated and cultural citizens. Besides, the gymnasium of Laukuva as well as other Lithuanian high schools carried out an important role in the anti-nazi resistance movement: it acted the nazi efforts to restrict the Lithuanian students possibilities to reach high education, its teachers and students took part in the anti-nazi underground activities by spreading the illegal press, helping to avoid dangerous for the local people nazi measures or decreasing their damaging results.

The establishment of Laukuva gymnasium in 1943 (under rivalry conditions with Šilalė) was an outstanding phenomenon in Lithuania. And the activities of the gymnasium itself in 1943–1944 school year can be estimated as a part of the whole Lithuanian society's efforts to protect and develop the net of high schools even under the nazi occupation when the people had often to struggle for the physical survival of the nation and individual people. The gymnasia and progymnasia in 1943–1944 not only taught and educated their students. Thanks to them and higher schools as well the Lithuanians could more successfully resist the nazi intents to use the Lithuanian youth for various military and labour services and educate them in the national-socialist spirit. The resistance against it was stronger in Lithuania than in many other countries occupied by Germany.