Jaroslav Hašek

Jaroslav Hašek, (born April 30, 1883; died January 3, 1923), was a Czech **writer** and **journalist** best known for his satirical and **anti-war** novel The Good **Soldier** Švejk.

Hašek worked in Prague as a bank clerk, although at 17 he was already writing satirical **articles** for Czech newspapers. Before World War I, he published a volume of poetry and wrote 16 volumes of **short stories** – the best known is Dobrý voják Švejk a jiné podivné historky (1912; *"The Good Soldier Švejk and Other Strange Stories"*). He was friends with Czech anarchists, he led a **bohemian** life. In 1915, Hašek was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian **army**. He was **captured** on the Russian front during World War I. While he was in Russia, he became a member of the Czechoslovak **Legion**. After returning to Prague, he started writing Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války (1921–23; *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk During the World War*). It starts with a famous opening line: "*And so they've killed our Ferdinand*,". It was intended to be a six-volume work, but only three were completed by the time of his death. The fourth volume was completed by Karel Vaněk.

The main character, Josef Švejk, is a **good-natured** man drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I. His goal is to survive the brutality and **pointlessness** of the war. And he does so in his own special way: either by being an idiot or pretending to be one. The book was translated into many languages. It was illustrated by Josef Lada. The most famous film version (1956) was directed by Karel Steklý, starring Rudolf Hrušínský.

(https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jaroslav-Hasek; altered)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Worksheet

Jaroslav Hašek

1) Answer the questions:

- Who was Jaroslav Hašek?

- What is his most famous book?

- Where was he captured?

- Who was the main character of his most famous book?

2) Draw Josef Švejk:

3) Match the words:

Jaroslav Hašek	Czechslovak legion
member of	by Karel Steklý
main character	Czech writer
most famous film version	Josef Švejk

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4) True / False?

"*And so they've killed our Ferdinand,*" is a line from his most famous book. True / False

Hašek robbed a bank. True / False

Hašek worked at a bank. True / False

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