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Ležáky

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Ležáky (German: *Ležak*, from 1939: *Lezaky*), a part of municipality of **Mířetice**, was a village in **Czechoslovakia**. During the **German occupation of Czechoslovakia** the village was completely razed to the ground by **Nazi** forces during the reprisals for the assassination of Reich Protector **Reinhard Heydrich** in the late spring of 1942.^[1]



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History [edit]

Ležáky was a settlement inhabited by poor stone-cutters and little cottagers. It was composed of eight houses concentrated near the mill; this mill had created the basis for the village named after the rivulet Ležák.

Since 24 September 1941, *SS-Obergruppenführer* and General of Police Reinhard Heydrich had been Acting *Reichsprotektor* of the Nazi *Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia*.^[2] This area of the former Czechoslovakia had been occupied by Nazi Germany since 5 April 1939.^[2]

In December 1941 several Allied paratroopers were dropped into the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia. Some of them were sent to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich in a planned action known as **Operation Anthropoid**, and another group was part of Operation Silver A. Several people from Ležáky helped this group, providing a hiding place for their radio set.^[3]

On the morning of 27 May 1942, Heydrich's car was attacked by the **Czech** and **Slovak** soldiers (on behalf of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile), **Jozef Gabčík** and **Jan Kubiš**.^[4] Heydrich died on 4 June 1942.

Massacre [edit]

After the assassination of Heydrich, the revenge of the Nazis started with martial law. Then on 10 June the village of **Lidice** was razed to the ground and its male inhabitants shot. The Nazi regime chose that village because its residents were suspected of harbouring local resistance partisans and were falsely associated with aiding *Operation Anthropoid* team members.^[5]

Thereafter, **Gestapo** agents found the radio transmitter in Ležáky which belonged to Operation Silver A.^[6] Alfréd Bartoš, the leader of resistance group Silver A, committed suicide in a hopeless situation. On 24 June, approximately 500 SS troops and policemen surrounded Ležáky, took away all the inhabitants and the village was reduced to "rubble". All 33 villagers (both men and women) were shot.^[6] Thirteen children were separated from their families. On 26 June a press release announced the event publicly. In mid-December 1943, the débris of Ležáky was pulled down by 65 men from Nazi work camps.^[7]

The sisters Jarmila and Marie Štullik were selected for the 'Aryanisation' programme (both were found and returned after the war). The remaining 11 children were sent to the **Chelmno extermination camp** and in summer 1942 gassed (together with one girl from Lidice).^[7]

Unlike Lidice, Ležáky was not rebuilt after the war, and only memorials exist today.



After the war the village was not rebuilt; on the locations of former houses were built memorials to the murdered families (as shown here for house No. 26, family: Hrdý)

See also [edit]

- Lidice
- Javoříčko
- German war crimes
- Collective punishment

References [edit]

- ↑ Gerwarth 2011, pp. 280, 285.
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Kaplan and Nosarzewska, *Prague: The Turbulent Century* p. 214
- ↑ Gerwarth 2011, pp. 280-285.
- ↑ Kaplan and Nosarzewska, *Prague: The Turbulent Century* p. 241
- ↑ Gerwarth 2011, p. 280.
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Gerwarth 2011, p. 285.
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} "The History of Ležáky Memorial 1942 - 1943". *Ležáky Memorial*.

Literature [edit]

- Jarmila Doležalová (one of the two children that survived the war), František Vašek: *Křižovatky času – Ležáky v datech (Crossroads of time - Ležáky in dates)*, 2007. History of the village since first written mention until today.
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- Vojtěch Kyncl: *Ležáky - Obyčejná vesnice, SILVER A a pardubické gestapo v zrcadle heydrichiády*, 2009, (cz PDF ) , ISBN 978-80-7415-009-8

External links [[edit](#)]

- **Official Website** [\[cz,en,de,ru\]](#)
- **Website dedicated to the village, photogallery** [\[cz, en, de\]](#)

VTE	Czechoslovakia in World War II	
Political representation	Czechoslovak government-in-exile	
Military units and formations	Czechoslovak legions RAF Squadrons: 310 311 312 313 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade Czechoslovak 11th Infantry Battalion First Czechoslovak Independent Field Battalion	
Resistance members	Adolf Opálka Jan Kubiš Jozef Gabčík Josef Mašín Jan Opletal Alois Eliáš František Moravec Karel Pavlík Josef Balabán Václav Morávek Abrahám Pressburger Josef Matoušek Jaroslav Čihák Otakar Jaroš Ján Golian Rudolf Pernický Bedřich Reicin Richard Tesařík Rudolf Viest Ludvík Svoboda Marie Ljalková	
Resistance groups	Out Distance Three Kings	
Resistance operations	Operation Anthropoid	
Royal Air Force	Josef František František Fajtl Karel Kuttelwascher Alois Vašátko František Peřina Otto Smík	
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