



The victims of Zákřov massacre (the archives of Antonín Glier)



The funeral train during the last mourning above the victims of the Zákřov tragedy (The Ethnological Museum Olomouc)



A church service at the original memorial (the archives of Antonín Glier)



A memorial ceremony at the place of the tragic death of Zákřov citizens (the archives of Antonín Glier)

12th May 1945. The remains were removed and buried in the common grave in the cemetery in Tršice. At the place of the tragedy the memorial was set up in 1949, reminding us of the cruel death of the men from Zákřov, Tršice, Velká Bystřice, Doloplaz, Bystrovany and Brno.

The inscription on the memorial states: "We gave our lives – you should give love!"

In 2014 a touristic route was opened which guides visitors along remarkable places connected with the victims from Tršice and Zákřov. Six citizens of Tršice were awarded an Israeli appreciation "The fair-minded among nations" for their help to the Wolfs family.

The photo on the front page: a pre-war photograph of Otto Wolf

More information: www.trstice.cz/zakrov,
www.pametnaroda.cz



TRŠICE
ZÁKŘOV



ZÁKŘOV

20th April 1945

The small village of Zákřov is one of the settlements brutally effected by the war. It is located only 20 kilometres to the east of Olomouc and just a few kilometres from the military district Libavá. Most of the inhabitants of Zákřov were Czechs but only a few kilometres to the north the majority of people were Germans.

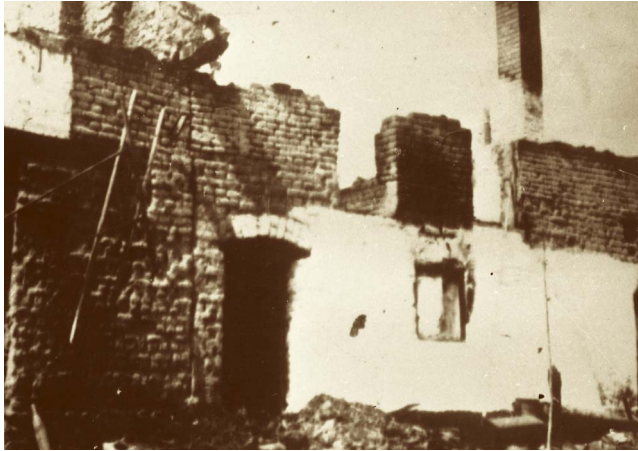


Evropský zemědělský fond pro rozvoj venkova: Evropa investuje do venkovských oblastí



PROGRAM ROZVOJE VENKOVA





A burnt down house of František Švarc
(Geographical Museum in Olomouc)

Like everywhere else, where the Nazis came, the Jews were also exposed to cruel persecutions in Olomouc. The family of Berthold Wolf was supposed to be transported from Olomouc to Terezín Ghetto on 26th June 1942. They all had set on the journey but none of them ever reached the transportation train. Berthold, his wife Růžena, daughter Felicitas and 15-year-old son Otto found a shelter in Tršice. Several local citizens knew about their whereabouts and the news spread even among the inhabitants of Zákřov. Otto Wolf was writing a diary, the content of which is being compared to Anne Frank diary because of its anti-Nazi and peaceful message. The family changed several hiding places and in spring 1945 their last shelter was the forest between Tršice and Zákřov. In 2002 the memorial was set up on this spot.

The most horrifying war was coming to its end. Soviet troops were pushing the Nazi army more and more to the west. While some parts of France had been already liberated, Czechoslovakia was still waiting for its eastern as well as western saviors. Before the troops reached Olomouc the Nazis were carrying out a big intimidating campaign during which they were killing both civilians and captives.

On Wednesday 18th April 1945 the Vlasovci Unit led by Gestapo started to search the surroundings of Tršice. They were looking for partisans who could attack them during their withdrawal. Nobody knows why they suspected Zákřov



The days of liberation by the Soviet Army
(Geographical museum in Olomouc)

of hiding some partisans. It was at about ten o'clock p.m. when they surrounded the village, set fire on the house of František Švarc and started shooting people who were putting the fire out. They were arresting men and boys from Zákřov until the morning. Being finishing her brother's diary Felicitas Wolfová made the following note about this day: "At six in the morning they asked everyone to show their IDs and the first one to do so was our Otto, who didn't know what to say, so he said that he was visiting O. and that he is from Telč. The leader of VI. didn't believe him and told him to go with him. Otto obeyed very pale in face. We were all sitting feeling like we had been stabbed into the heart. They also wanted an ID from the father, but he said that he was a relative and that he is 61 years old, so they left him out. They didn't ask me and mum for ID. I started to look for Otto's documentation in



The remains of the burnt-down forest hut at Kyjanice (The Ethnological museum in Olomouc)

my old bag which was hidden in the heap of manure, but I couldn't find it. I hid in the toilet and kept searching until I found it."

At dawn they let go all the men older than 50 years, whereas the rest of 23 men were transported to the Gestapo headquarters in Velký Újezd where they closed them in the cowshed at the town hall yard. The captives were being tortured cruelly for two days. Four men were released but the rest were loaded on a truck though they had

many fractures and broken facial bones. There were also Otto and Bernhard Wolf among the arrested people. It was the evening of 20th April 1945. Adolf Hitler received the last congratulations for his birthday in Berlin and he decorated the best members of Hitlerjugend – defenders of Berlin. Felicitas wrote into the diary: "Since Wednesday we have only



The exhumation of the corpses of the victims (The Ethnological museum in Olomouc)

had a piece of bread and coffee. We are desperate to learn anything about father and Otto. Nobody has come back yet. We have been praying to the Lord to spare the life of our Otto and let him come back to us."

The more the Third Reich was collapsing, the more cruelly were the innocent treated by the Nazis. 19 men were taken to a wooden hut above the settlement Kyjanice, they were locked and burned down there.

The place of the tragic death was not found until