



The memorial of Jan Šlusar, who was murdered when he tried to escape from the surrounded village

uprising sounded through the air, American soldiers reached Pilsen and the Soviet troops were liberating one Czech town after the other. After 9 o'clock the Nazi Units came to Javoříčko. They started to gather women and children while men were interrogated, beaten and killed in the process. 38 men at the age of 15-76 were killed in the deadly circle. The whole operation ended in at 2 p.m. and there remained only a school, a gamekeeper's lodge and a chapel in the village while 34 houses were burnt down. The only man surviving as a witness was Jaroslav Dokoupil, all the men were buried to the common grave right in the village two days later.

The only culprit found guilty was W. Kunz. E. Lundmann wasn't uncovered, not even during an renewed investigation in 1970s. All the searching was fruitless and the whole case was dismissed in 1983.



The Soviet Army reached Bouzov only two days after the village was destroyed

In 1951 a monument in socialistic realism was built at the place of the common grave. In 1978 this sculpture became a national cultural heritage site. There are now 15 houses with 50 inhabitants in the reconstructed village.



The photo of women and children who survived the massacre



Alois Mrňka, Miloslav Nepustil and Alois Zapletal junior. The innocent victims of the murder on 5th May 1945



Young people are listening to the story about the crime in Javoříčko

Photo on the front page: The view of Javoříčko with the lodge at the front and the school in the distance

*Source of photographs: The Ethnological Museum in Olomouc
More information: www.obec-luka.cz*



**LUKÁ
JAVOŘÍČKO**



JAVOŘÍČKO

5th May 1945

The settlement of Javoříčko is a small village near a Moravian town of Litovel. About a kilometre from the village there is a karst of Javoříče Caves, which was opened to public shortly before the beginning of the Second World War. The landmark of the countryside is a castle of Bouzov four kilometres far away from Javoříčko. At the time of the Nazi occupation the castle of Bouzov became a residence of the Society preserving German cultural heritage. The caretaker of the castle and its estate was appointed Othmar Victoria in 1942, who brought his wife Hilda, a small son Manfred and a daughter Hannelor to stay at the gamekeeper's lodge in Javoříčko in 1944.



To the west of Javořice Caves there is a magnificent stone castle with a beautiful view

In the autumn 1944 a dropping of the Soviet paratroop Jermak led by M. Dimitrijevič took place in Vyškovsko region. An operating territory of this group was moving towards the railway track Olomouc-Mohelnice. During the first four months the unit made eighteen successful attacks to Nazi invaders.

Since the middle of February 1945 partisans from the group called Jermak operated in Javoříčko. They found shelters in the families of Zapletals and Vlčeks as well as in the lodge where the Victoras stayed and H. Victorová took care of them. The first weeks of their stay were peaceful without any conflicts. Then the citizens got scared after partisans had hanged a gamekeeper Švec, who had been collaborating with Nazis.



The former lodge of the Victoras family



There remained only a school in the middle of the village which has become a basis for the memorial

Švec's son Ladislav wanted to avenge his father and he called two dozens of Vlasovci group to the village. The Vlasovci group were beaten by partisans and shot in the forest at the village, only two of them escaped. At the night of 10th April 1945 members of the group Jermak led by dangerous and often drunk Grigorij Litviško insidiously killed Hilda Victorová and her two children without any reason and burnt down



Even the building of the hotel was burnt down



The place where Javoříčko victims have been buried

the lodge. Litviško killed other three people that night, he shot to death František Malík, a mayor and fireman from Veselíčko and threatened other witnesses. After this crime Javoříčko didn't offer its hospitality to partisans any more, only the Vlček family sometimes hosted armed men.

The village lived its peaceful life at the beginning of May. On 4th May 1945 a special anti-partisan unit SS – a special commando no.43 led by Egon Ludmann reached the castle of Bouzov. This unit had committed many crimes on their way from the Beskydy mnt. to the American zone. Within almost 4 weeks the members of this commando killed at least 32 people. Ludmann kept the discipline in the collapsing Germany by executing his own people. On the day of their arrival to Bouzov Ludmann sent ten members of Vlasovci group to join the partisans and destroy them. There participated also a Gestapo member Willi Kunze. When searching the area the partisans clashed with Vlasovci group on the bridge at Javoříčko. The result were four dead German soldiers. The revenge came the next morning.

On Saturday of 5th May 1945 the first shots of Prague