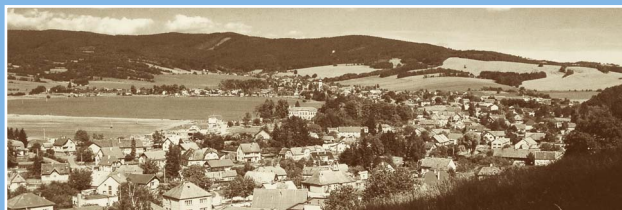*Malín after the tragedy on 13ᵗʰ July 1943*

Disabled patients of the local hospital were shot on the spot. The hidden civilians were found and shot. In Ukrainan Malín women and children were separated from men and burnt to death in locked houses. Several men were assigned to take the wagons with property away from Ukrainan Malín, the rest of the men were burnt to death in the local school and church. All the victims including children were accused of banditting and working for illegal resistance groups so that the Nazis could justify this brutal murder of innocent civilians. The inhabitants of Malín had absolutely no idea why this was happening.

On 13ᵗʰ July 1943 there were murdered 104 men, 161 women, 40 girls a 65 boys younger than 14 years. 26 Polish citizens and 6 Czechs were visiting the village that day and they were killed as well. 68 houses and 223 barns were burnt down. 132 people were killed in the neighbouring Ukrainan Malín.

After the end of the war a part of the surviving citizens came back to their old homeland. The Home Ministry issued a decree that the deserted village Frankštát only two kilometres to the southeast of Šumperk, should be renamed Nový Malín on 13ᵗʰ July 1947. Witnesses and survivors of this crime are still living in Český Malín.

The survivors from the burnt down Český Malín

Nový Malín

Children and survivors in front of the memorial to the victims of the tragedy in Český Malín, 2014

The front page photo: Children with their teacher Švarc around the year 1934

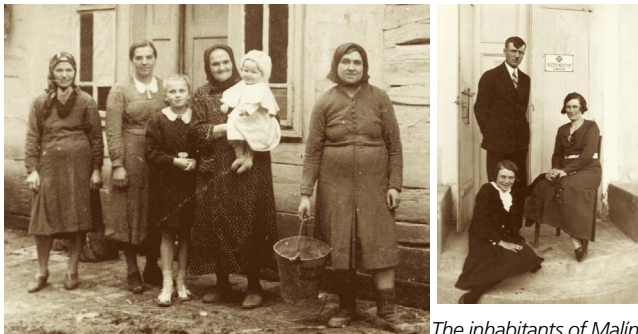*Photo documentation: Archives of Josef Řepík*

More information: www.valka.cz

NOVÝ MALÍN
ČESKÝ MALÍN

ČESKÝ MALÍN
13th July 1943

Český Malín was a rich village at Volyně – an area in the northwestern Ukraine. The inhabitants of Malín have always claimed their Czech origin and love for their homeland, they kept all the Czech folk traditions and taught their children Czech language and history.

The Prussian-Austrian war from 1866 and a "tough" after-war period made many poor inhabitants from the regions of Lounsko, Žatecko and Rakovnicko immigrate in pursuit of a better life. The destination they chose in 1871 was Ukraine and Russia. Many people who couldn´t afford to buy a ticket to America chose the Eastern countries. Twenty Czech families bought land from a Polish farmer Kazimierz Sliwinski and founded a settlement called Český Malín (in Polish Colonia Malín). Surrounding forests and windfalls were converted into fields, meadows and orchards. Until 1914 there were established
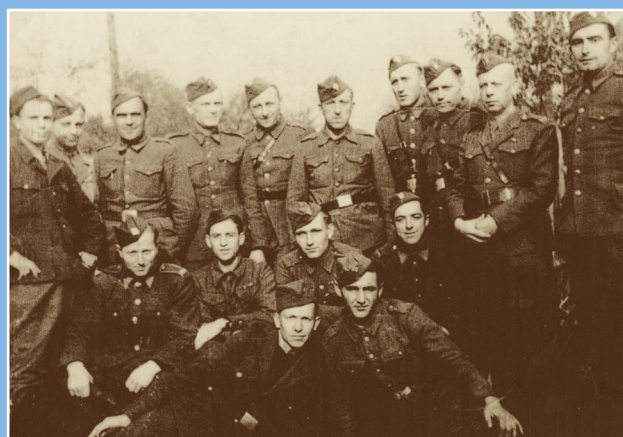

The inhabitants of Malín

Outside the smithery of V. Kechrt

two Czech schools, an amateur theatre, a library, a pub with a ballroom and a voluntary fire brigade.

At the time of the First World War fightings took place even in Český Malín. In the beginning of October 1915 the Russian army left the area to be replaced by the Austrian army, i.e. Czech regiments. The village was quite damaged during the following three years, but after the war the life started to bloom again. Český Malín belonged to Poland at that time and it was administered and developed from the Czechoslovak embassy in Warsaw. In September 1939 Poland was

The Czechoslovakian soldiers liberating Malín

occupied by German army and Český Malín with its 400 inhabitants joined the Soviet Union.

The Tuesday of 13th July 1943 was a fatal day. After the festival of St. Paul and Peter on Sunday and Monday, the village was getting back to everyday life but since the early morning the news came that German army units are settling in surrounding forests. At 7 a.m. the Nazis made all the inhabitants gather in the village square with all their personal property, food and machinery and accompanied by German soldiers they were to march to the nearby Ukrainan Malín. Many inhabitants had to stay, though, or some of them hid somewhere.

Malín after the tragedy on 13th July 1943