



Pardubice Gestapo was led by Gerhard Clages until 1944 (ABS Prague)

of Ležáky were executed including two members of resistance group Čeněk Bureš and Miloš Stantejský, who were not uncovered by anyone and thus avoided torture and interrogation. On 2nd July - the day of the death of the radio-operator Jiří Potůček at Rosice nad Labem, four dozens of supporters of Silver A from Pardubice and Ležáky were executed.

Almost 37 people directly connected with the village of Ležáky and the mill were executed in Pardubice grounds.



This is the photo of the members of ordinary police in the Chateau of Pardubice from 1942 (the archives of Vojtěch Kyncl)



The ruins of the village and the mill a year after it had been burnt down (MM Skuteč)



The Štulík sisters came home after the war (the archives of Vojtěch Kyncl)

Three more people died in concentration camps. Eleven children were gassed in the Nazi extermination camp Chelmn, Poland. The only survivors were the sisters Marie and Jarmila Štulík.

At the place of the burnt-down village and the mill so-called "gravehouses" were built designed by an architect Jaroslav Žák in the 1950s. They remind us today of the original houses. Today reverential memorial is administered by the village of Miřetice and Lidice Memorial.



Pupils and students are observing the reverential area of Ležáky, 2014

Photo on the front page: Karel Svoboda (second from the left) standing with co-workers in front of the hiding place for the transmitter Libuše in the quarry of Hluboká. (Vojtěch Kyncl's archives)

More information: www.lezaky-memorial.cz



LEŽÁKY

24th June 1942

The Czech Moravian Highlands, in particular the Žďárské Hills and the Iron Mountains, can be called the land of painters. Picturesque valleys among forests have been hiding villages inhabited by hard working miners and weavers. Ležáky was one of those villages composed of timbered houses in steep hills and 50 inhabitants.



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



Ležáky was a village of poor miners (Municipal Museum Skuteč)

In a half-year period (from October 1941 to April 1942) there were operating 4 paratroops from England in close surroundings of the village of Ležáky including the village. They were called: Percentage, Silver A, Silver B and Intransitive. The tragedy of the village of Ležáky is closely connected with the Silver A paratroop, dropped together with both the Anthropoid paratroop and Silver B paratroop in the night of 28th to 29th December 1941 onto the territory of Bohemian and Moravian Protectorate. The paratroop consisted of first lieutenant Alfréd Bartoš, sergeant Josef Valčík and private Jiří Potůček. They all came here to set up a transmitter called Libuše which should have enabled them to send the news from the Protectorate to London and help during sabotage activities. The regular raido connection between the Protectorate and Great Britain was in existence since 15th January 1942. The transmitter was operated by the families of resistance fighters, gendarmerie from Vrbatův Kostelec, other members of a resistance group Čenda as well as Fred Bartoš's helpers from Pardubice. Libuše was in operation in the nearby quarry Hluboká until May 1942, when it was transferred to Švanda's mill in Ležáky.

Against the resistance group there was an experienced apparatus of the Nazi secret police led by Gerhard Clages and his successor Walter Lehne. Three dozens of secret police members were to check on four thousand inhabitants. This task



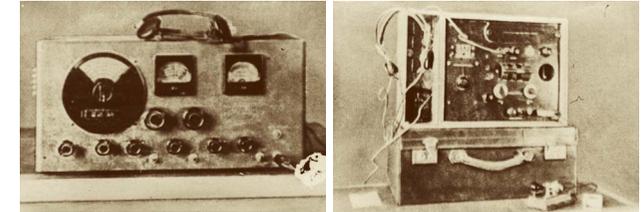
Reinhard Heidrich belongs to the most powerful and cruel representatives of Nazi regime (Barch Berlin)



Alfréd Bartoš led the paratroop dropping called Silver A (Vojtěch Kyncl's archives)

would be impossible without a lot of terror and local helpers, recruited from the fascist parties, e.g. "the Flag (Vlajka)" or "Aryan Labour Front". There were two such minions: Karel Andrák from Dřeveš and Karel Holfeuer from Hlinsko, who reported Ležáky to Pardubice Gestapo. We don't know the exact date of the denouncement but Gestapo started to investigate this matter at the turn of May and June 1942.

Silver A contributed to the successful assassination of Reinhard Heidrich on 27th May 1942. On 17th June people were arrested in Pardubice due to the denouncement of Karel Čurda. The same day the radio-operator Karel Potůček was informed about the situation and moved the radio transmitter away to safer place in Northeastern Bohemia. The day after the paratroopers were uncovered in the Church of St. Cyril and Methodius. Rather than turning in to Nazis they all committed suicide by shooting themselves. On Saturday 20th June most of the helpers of Silver A were arrested, including the owner of Hluboká quarry František Vaško. The following evening even Alfréd Bartoš shot himself dead after he had been chased through Pardubice streets. From 21st June to 22nd June Gestapo made an arrest in Ležáky mill, the miller Švanda was



The transmitter Libuše sent important information from the Czech government to Great Britain (SOka Pardubice)

brutally interrogated and confessed the knowledge of the transmitter Libuše.

After all the "formalities" have been taken care of, the operation of Pardubice Secret Police, German ordinary police and Czech gendarmerie started on 24th June 1942. At 1 p.m. they surrounded the village of Ležáky and drew all its inhabitants as well as quarry workers to the deserted pit near the road. They separated men, women and children and they carried them in coaches to Pardubice accompanied by Gestapo. At 5 p.m. the first house was burning. The children were transported to Prague.

After 9 p.m. Gestapo started executions in the grounds of German ordinary police. That night 33 inhabitants



In Pardubice „folly“ the executions were held during most of the June 1942 (the archives of Vojtěch Kyncl)