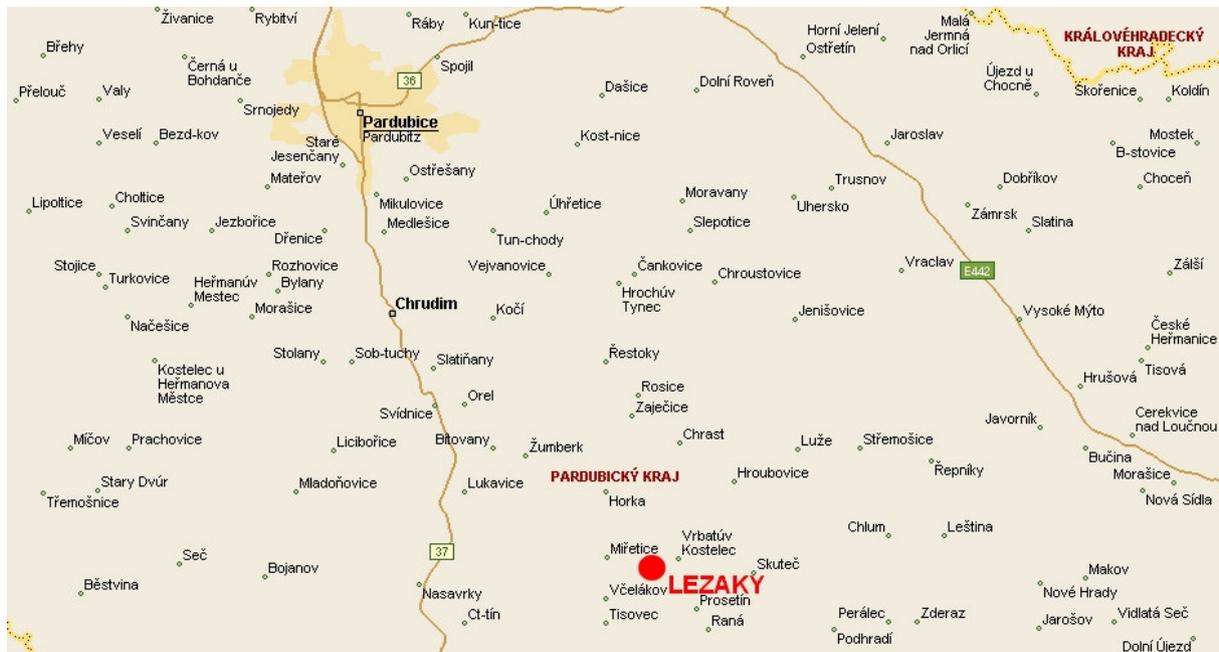




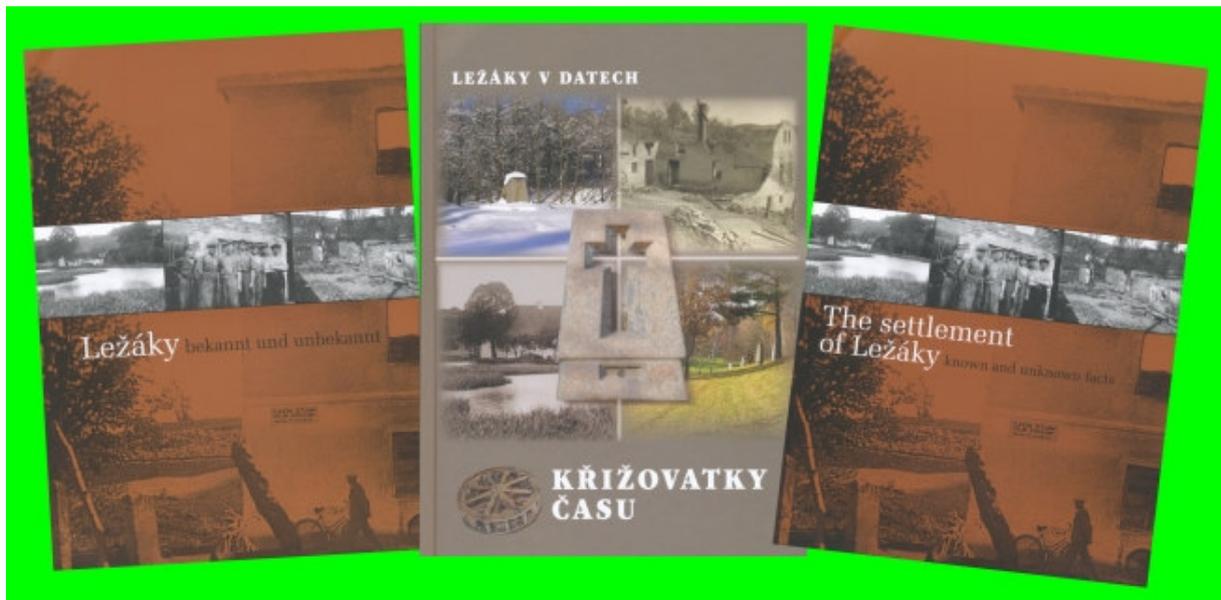
## The Massacre of Lezaky on June 24, 1942



The hamlet of Lezaky which area today belongs to the town of Míretice, approx. 22 km southeast of Pardubice developed around a mill and granite quarries. According to these origins, the inhabitants were millers, quarry workers, merchants and craftsmen with their families.

On June 24, 1942, a fortnight after the extinction of Lidice, the German occupiers led by the Gestapo office in Pardubice encircled the place pursuing their revenge for the assassination of the *deputy Reich's protector for Bohemia and Moravia*, Reinhard Heydrich, who had succumbed to his injuries on May 27. 33 men and women were rounded up and executed on the same day in Pardubice. 13 children from Lezaky were separated from their parents and brought to Prague where two little girls were categorized as *racial valuable* and approved for adoption. The others probably were murdered in a Nazi extermination camp in Poland. Within the next days, more people of Lezaky took their lives, were arrested by the Gestapo, cruelly tortured and afterwards executed or deported to concentration camps; only a few survived. The hamlet itself was leveled.

The crime of the inhabitants of Lezaky (as far as they were involved in the happenings at all) was their support for a group of parachutists named *Silver A* who since December 1941 acted in Bohemia and Moravia by order of the London Czech government in exile against the German war effort by reconnaissance and sabotage. In Lezaky, Jiri Potucek, one of the parachutists from the ranks of the Czech army in exile, ran a radio transmitter for the communication with London, with the help of the resistance organization *Centa* whose members supplied him with relevant information and hid him and his equipment.



Other than the German atrocities in Lidice, the mass murder of Lezaky in the summer of 1942 is almost unknown outside the Czech Republic. To fill this gap Jarmila Dolezalova whose family suffered heavily from the persecution by the Germans, published three very recommendable books in Czech, English and German about the place and the massacre. Rendering the biographies of the inhabitants and illustrating them with many photos from private sources she makes clear what the Nazis' frenzy inflicted upon those people who, legitimized by moral and international law, dared to oppose German occupation - or whose fate was sealed simply by living in Lezaky at the time. They may not be forgotten.

*Gerhard Jochem*

## **Source**

Jarmila *Dolezalova*: Lezaky - bekannt und unbekannt. Litomysl 2007.

## **Jarmila Dolezalova's Website**

<http://www.dolezalova-lezaky.cz>

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