

*The house of Juráň family no. 35 was also burnt down in 1945  
(The Memorial hall Prlov)*

month after the tragedy, its author has been the former local partisan Vladislav Vaňák. A year after that the book called "Lidice, Ležáky and Ploština" was written. In 1949-1989 several books were published of a varied quality. The best of these is the book by Ladislav Mňačko "The Death is Called Engelchen" which was also made into a feature film. Until 2013 several books and articles were written that were trying to explain the events in Ploština, Prlov and Vaňákovy Paseky.



*The victims had been held in the pub in Prlov until the murders began in their own houses (The Memorial hall in Prlov)*



*The witnesses Jarmila Ondrášková and colonel Jan Hronek are talking with pupils from Elementary school in Valašská Polanka about their experiences from the war, 2014*

*The front page photo: The partisans from the Prlov group.  
(The Memorial hall Prlov)*

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# PRLOV

## 23rd April 1945

The war left the beautiful countryside around the village of Prlov deeply scarred. First partisans came to Prlov in the summer 1944, when a local citizen Tomáš Polčák, while working in woods, found an escaped young Russian war prisoner "Lojza". For several weeks the Russian soldier had been supported with food and clothes before they both decided to find the help of partisans, who were penetrating from Slovakia to Moravia. Antonín Prokopec armed with a rifle and two grenades joined Tomáš and "Lojza" soon after that. All three of them found a shelter at the house of Jan Týn at Prlovské Paseky.



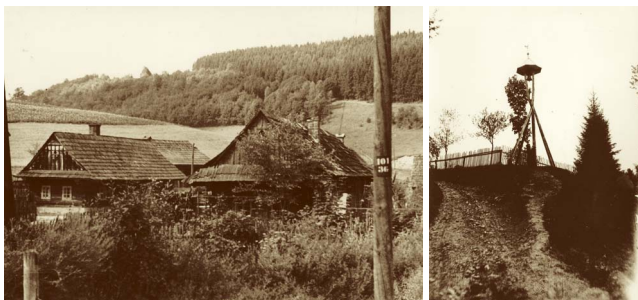
*The picturesque village of Prlov in winter 1944-1945 (The memorial hall in Prlov)*

At the beginning of September they managed to get a connection to a Russian captain Petr Budko, who became a deputy leader of the brigade. During several months other Russian and Yugoslavian refugees joined the Prlov group. There were also patriots from Prlov: Tomáš Heto,

Jan Kratina, Antonín Ondrášek, Pavel Řezníček, Leopold Štach and others. Without the help of local inhabitants: families of Hromada, Lukša, Vařák, Žák and many others, the partisan resistance fighters would not be able to start operations.

The biggest problem was the lack of weapons and the group was getting them by attacking the Nazi squads and smaller units that happened to be passing the area. The first operation was the attack of the Nazi patrol at the sawmill of Jan Mlynář at the beginning of October 1944, where they managed to seize 5 rifles, two boxes of bullets and a box of hand grenades. In November they attacked 5 trucks near Prlov and seized 40 rifles, a light machine gun and grenades. In January there was another attack carried out when three soldiers died and the partisans escaped. During the spring other similar attacks took place which made the Nazi leaders claim the area dangerous for life.

The most courageous attack was carried out in March 1945, when partisans from Prlov and Ploština attacked Hungarian



*The cottages of Prlov photographed by prof. Chodek from the Ethnological Institution of the Czech Academy of Science in 1944 (ČSAV)*

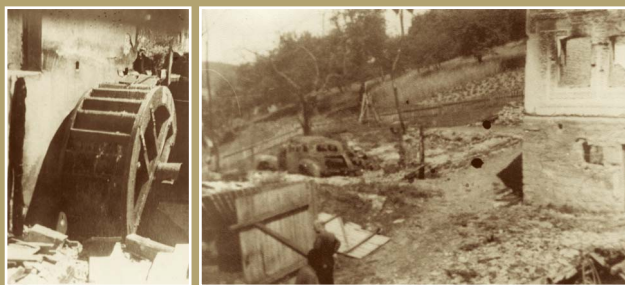


*Dajan Bajanovič Murzín and his future wife Naděžda Jarmak (the Memorial hall in Prlov)*

soldiers accommodated in the school in Pozděchov and disarmed them.

The Nazi units took very cruel procedures against the partisans. – the fighting unions which were uncovering partisans' shelters and destroyed partisans together with their helpers. One of the first victims of the desperate revenge of withdrawing Nazis were the inhabitants of the Juříček's mill in Leskovec near Prlov. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1945 the Nazis found here an ingeniously hidden partisan shelter thanks to a betrayal. They killed three partisans including the leader Kotljarov and a five-member family of the miller Jan Juříček. Two partisans survived hidden under a millwheel.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April a similar situation like the one in Ploština was repeated in Prlov. Early in the morning the Unit Josef together with Gestapo members surrounded the village to find partisans here. The Nazi gradually called up the citizens of Prlov and interrogated them in the pub owned by Antonín Ondrášek. The interrogated citizens were convicted by the two Hungarian soldiers and wounded partisan Alois Oškera. Those proved guilty had to go through the village to their houses. Fifteen people were burnt to death in 8 burning houses. They arrested there also three partisans Tomáš Heto, Antonín Ondrášek and Leopold Štacha, who were hanged at Bratřejov as a warning. There was only one surviving citizen of Prlov Antonín Ondrášek junior, who was heavily burnt. But he was also arrested a few days later and murdered by Nazis at Hoštálkov. Jiří Turín arrested by Nazis in Vizovice was also murdered.



*The Juříček's mill and the mill wheel – the place where two partisans hid (the archives of Vojtěch Kyncl)*



*Anna and Antonín Ondrášeks were burnt to death in their own house (the archives of Jarmila Ondrášková)*

The fatal operation was the attack to a Hungarian patrol at Bratřejov on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1945. Two Hungarian officers were killed and two soldiers were arrested by the leader Vasil Lavrišev, though the rest of the partisan squad didn't agree with it. Both Hungarian soldiers escaped later and joined their unit again. At the same day a Special Commando arrested a young partisan Alois Oškera at Vizovice. He played quite crucial role in the whole tragedy

Four days after the murder in the settlement of Ploština the same Nazi squad set out to search for more partisans.

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The memories of the war crimes and the sad history make local citizens closely connected to the whole region. The fate of Prlov and Ploština was depicted in several literary and film works. The book called "Ploština" was written several