

## Lidice

Village in Czechoslovakia that was completely destroyed by the Germans during World war II.

In September 1941 senior SS officer Reinhard Heydrich was appointed acting governor of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. After much deliberation, the London-based Czechoslovak Government-In-Exile decided to assassinate him. On October 4, 1941 a number of two-man partisan teams parachuted into the Protectorate. By May 27, 1942 they were ready for the hit. One of the teams hid in a bend in the road where Heydrich passed daily on his trip to Prague. As the car drove by, they pelted it with hand grenades, wounding Heydrich severely. A few days later, Heydrich died of his wounds.

In retaliation, Hitler ordered the execution of 10,000 Czechs. This order was not carried out; instead, the Germans entered the village of Lidice on the morning of June 10, and executed all of the village's men, 192 altogether, along with 71 women. The rest of the women, 198 in all, were deported to the Ravensbrueck concentration camp, and 98 children were sent to be "reeducated" by the Germans. No more than 16 of the children survived.

After the war Lidice was rebuilt. It became the symbol of both the Nazis' reign of terror and of the heroism of the Czech resistance. (see also Bohemia and Moravia, Protectorate Of .)