

Remains found at site of alleged 1945 murder of German civilians



Posted : Mon, 16 Aug 2010 16:56:59 GMT

By : dpa

Category : [Europe \(World\)](#)

News Alerts by Email ([click here](#))

Europe World News | [Home](#)

Prague - Czech police said Monday that they have found skeletal remains at a field near the village of Dobronin, where local Czechs allegedly murdered some 15 German civilians shortly after the end of World War II in 1945.

Investigators and archeologists also discovered remnants of leather clothing buried at the site in the central Czech Republic, police spokeswoman Dana Cirkova said.

The investigators, who plan to dig at the Dobronin site until Friday, hope to identify the remains with the help of DNA analyses, she said.

Police began investigating the case as a murder in September after being alerted by a local journalist who researched the post-war killing.

The case, which is largely unknown in the Czech Republic, was also described in a novel by German writer **Herma Kennel** titled Bergersdorf.

In May 1945, a group of local drunken Czechs reportedly paraded some 15 local ethnic Germans to a field by the village where they were forced to dig their own graves. The Germans were then either shot or beaten to death, the Czech news agency CTK said. Only one of the alleged Czech assailants is alive, according to the ongoing investigation. The man told police that he does not remember the event, Cirkova said.

Former Czechoslovakia was home to a large ethnic German minority. Soon after the [war](#) ended, some Czechs lynched and massacred their German neighbours out of revenge for Adolf Hitler's regime starting the global war.

In the best-known case, more than 750 German civilians were murdered in the north-western town of Postoloprty. More than 3 million Czechoslovak Germans were later expelled to [Germany](#) in an act of collective punishment.