

## Police find remains of probable German victims of massacre

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*Dobronin, Aug 16 (CTK) - Czech police Monday found the probable remains of 15 Germans allegedly killed by Czech locals shortly after the end of World War Two in May 1945 near Dobronin in southern Moravia, detective Michal Laska told journalists.*

Detectives have been checking the case since autumn 2009 over suspected murder. The case was reported by Czech journalist Miroslav Mares who has been gathering archive documents.

The bones and parts of clothing were revealed on the spot where the grave was to be. The search started Monday and detectives and archaeologists are to work near Dobronin until Friday.

Laska said it is yet impossible to determine, judging by the findings, how many people were buried at the site and whether they were wounded.

As of next week the finds will be examined by experts from the Brno-based anthropological institute.

"Naturally, our goal is the identification of the victims," Laska said. DNA samples will be taken from the remains.

He said the relatives of the alleged victims live in Germany now.

Laska said the reasons behind what might have been the Dobronin tragedy are unclear.

A number of Germans lived in Dobronin and other towns in the area 65 years ago. "It is possible that a certain of settling of accounts may have occurred here," Laska said.

He said only one eyewitness still survives, who, however, says he cannot remember anything.

The local chronicles mention no event of such kind.

The information was provided by archives and witnesses in Germany.

German author **Herma Kennel** writes in her work, Bergersdorf, that several Czech locals massacred about 15 Germans near Dobronin between May 12 and May 19, 1945.

Under the decrees of then Czechoslovak president Edvard Benes, ethnic Germans were stripped of citizenship and their property was confiscated after World War Two. On the basis of this, ethnic Germans, except for those who suffered under the Nazi regime, were transferred from Czechoslovakia, mainly to Bavaria and Austria.