

MINERAL RESOURCES IN OUR REGION



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The beginning and following mining development of mineral resources were always closely connected with history of local settlement. Archeologists found many rare findings dated from 3 - 2 century B.C. These findings were made of iron and bronze. Manufacture of iron ore is from 12 or 13 century.



Mining of silver and ore reached European and world importance at second half of 19 century. Iron ore with a high content of silver was manufactured in the location around the town Příbram since 13 century.

The other mineral resource was gold. Gold was appeared nearly in all rivers or streams in our surroundin, especially in the river Litavka. It was obtained by activity called gold washing.

In the period 1947 – 1949 a labour camp was build by German war prisoners. This labour camp was situated in the middle of woods 5 km in southeast of Příbram. This camp was named according to the nearist hill called War. After the second world war the German prisoners were pushed away back to Germany. This transfer gave a rise to a question: Who would work in this labour camp? No problem, unfortunately there were Czech war and politic prisoners. The camp was filled by people who had problems with the past communist regime. These people like artists, scientists, politicians, sportsmenand others were sent into this labour camp without being judged. Gradually the camp became the biggest labour camp in mining of uranium in the former Czechoslovak republic.

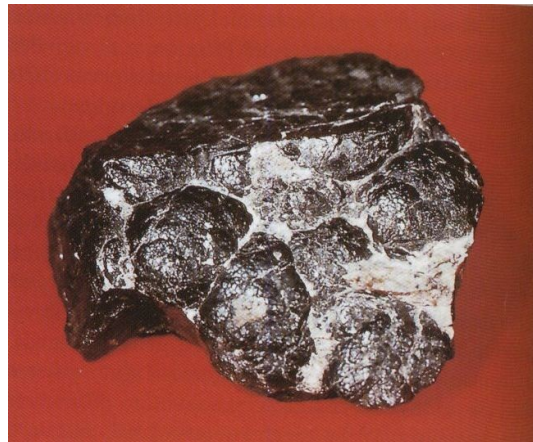
The people who deserved a great deal in former historical development I mean during the second world war, were not good for communist regime so they were placed and pressed to work in this labour camp.

At the beginning of the second half of the 20 century the mining of uranium gave a rise to a mining industry in Příbram. Mining of uranium influenced both positive and negative features of the nature in our region. During the second world war uranium became very important military and strategy raw material. Around the town Příbram there used to be mining industry in a large scale. In the 15 of the 20 century mining in Příbram went down to history by unique results in digging. In 1975 the record to a depth of 1838,4 m was made.



Iron ore finding in Příbram was very important. The production was from 10 – 11 century. This iron ore area is the oldest and largest.

Rapid development is characteristics of the second half of the 19 century. This development of mining industry in Příbram led up to a lot of changes like technical, organizational or economical. Mining university was established here. Now I would like to mention about some mines and their depth and names. In 1779 a new mine called Adalbert was opened and its depth was 1000 m. After 10 years later 1789 the mine called Ann was 1445 m deep and it became the deepest mine in Czechoslovak republic. After the second world war there was next mine Prokop with depth 1600 m. Mining activity was finished in 1978.



Well a few interesting sentences at the end. It could start like Once upon a time in fairytales. Příbram used to be a royal town and in its surroundings always used to live hard-working and brave people mining iron ore. These people called miners worked in deep mines. There used to live rock manikins called knockers – I mean very very short people. Knockers were servants of the king Knecker and all his kingdom. What did Knockers look like? As I said they were very short that you could not see them in the



grass. Their clothes were similar like miners. They wore wooden shoes, an overall with a wide collar and a pointed hood. They became invisible by means of this hood. They worked with small hammers and their work was heard by miners.

Knockers could see and hear everything. They carried a miner slamp with was filled with magic oil. The oil is said to have never burn out.

What the knockers do? They are said to have look after, counted and dusted treasures. They repaired rocks and the ways in the rocks. How did they get on with miners? Knockers used to be good. The repaid good with good and evil with evil. They helped hard-working and good miners. Lazy miners were punished.



Sources of information and used literature:

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