

Blum, Abraham

(1905--1943), A leader of the Bund Jewish-Socialist Party and member of the Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB) in Warsaw.

At the beginning of World War II, Blum, known as Abrasha, was one of the few *Bund* leaders who did not flee Warsaw. He was very active in the *Bund's* underground operations, such as its soup kitchens, welfare services, underground press, and political training. In mid-1942 Blum encouraged the *Bund* to join Warsaw's Zionist groups in a fighting alliance. In October the *Bund* joined the ZOB; Blum was made his party's delegate to the ZOB's political leadership.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising broke out on April 19, 1943. Blum and a group of young *Bund* members defended a ghetto section called the "Brushmakers" district. Blum then managed to escape the ghetto through the city's sewers. He hid in the forest for several days; he then returned to Warsaw and went into hiding. When he was discovered, he tried to escape from the fourth floor of a building by tying sheets together and sliding down. However, the sheets tore, and Blum was injured and captured by the Germans. He was taken to the Gestapo, and was never heard from again. (see also Jewish Fighting Organization, Warsaw.)