

Gildenman, Moshe

(nicknamed "Uncle Misha;" d. 1958), Jewish Partisan commander in the Volhynia region of the Ukraine.

Gildenman's wife and daughter were killed during the Nazis' first *aktion* in their hometown of Korets, in May 1942. Soon after, Gildenman and his son Simha established a rebel unit. The day before the final liquidation of the Jews of Korets, Gildenman and his men escaped to the forest. Their only weapons were two guns and a butcher knife. They wandered north for about two weeks, when they met and took in the survivors of a group of Jewish fighters. The newly enlarged group set up camp in a swampy area of the forest, and its members armed themselves with weapons they retrieved from battles. They then proceeded to assault Nazi collaborators and attack German farms and Ukrainian police headquarters.

The group joined up with Gen. Aleksandr Saburov's partisan unit in January 1943. Gildenman set up a fighting company that was originally all Jewish (as time went by, many non-Jews joined). The company was active in the Zhitomir district until the area was liberated in October 1943. Gildenman went on to volunteer for the Soviet army; he served as a captain in the engineer corps until war's end. Gildenman settled in Israel in the early 1950s.