

Glazman, Josef

(1913--1943), Jewish underground and Partisan leader in Lithuania. Active in the *Betar* Zionist youth movement, Glazman became the head of *Betar* Lithuania in 1937. In July 1940 the Soviet Union took control of Lithuania, and banned all Jewish political movements, such as *Betar*. At that point, Glazman joined the underground.

In June 1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union and Soviet-occupied territories, including Lithuania. Glazman was in Vilna at that time; he was arrested and sent to do forced labor. In November 1941 Glazman returned to Vilna, where a ghetto had been established. He both organized an underground group comprised of *Betar* members, and joined the Jewish ghetto police to be in a better position to carry out his underground activities. He also participated in the ghetto's educational and cultural programs.

In January 1942 Glazman helped found an underground militia called the United Partisan Organization (*Fareynegte Partizaner Organizatsye*, FPO). He was named deputy commander of the FPO, was in charge of its intelligence department, and commanded two of its battalions. In June Glazman left the police and became the head of the ghetto's housing department.

Because of his underground activities, Glazman had a very poor relationship with the head of the Judenrat, Jacob Gens. Gens ordered Glazman's arrest in October 1942, and in June 1943, he had Glazman sent to a labor camp. Glazman returned to the ghetto several weeks later. After Gens surrendered FPO leader Yitzhak Wittenberg to the Germans, Glazman left the ghetto for the forest with a group of FPO fighters; their objective was to set up a partisan base there. On the way they were ambushed by the Germans and lost one-third of their men. In July Glazman and the remaining fighters reached the forest, where they formed a Jewish partisan unit.

In September the Germans began a serious hunt for the partisans in Glazman's area; he and his men tried to escape to a different forest. On October 7, they were attacked by a strong German force; only one member of Glazman's group survived. (see also United Partisan Organization, Vilna.)