

Ziman, Henrik

(also known as Genrikas Zimanas; 1910--1987), Lithuanian Jewish Communist leader and Partisan commander.

Born in southern Lithuania, Ziman, nicknamed "Hanak," became a very active member of the Communist Party in 1932. After the Soviet Union annexed Lithuania in the summer of 1940, Ziman was put in charge of making Lithuania's culture more Soviet. He also helped dissolve the country's Zionist and Hebrew language organizations.

Germany invaded the Soviet Union and Soviet-held territories, including Lithuania, in June 1941. At that point, Ziman escaped to Moscow, where he directed anti-Nazi propaganda for the Soviet Lithuanian government. In November 1942 he was named deputy chief of the Lithuanian partisan movement. In mid-1943 Ziman parachuted into Belorussia, close to the Lithuanian border. He made his way to the Rudninkai Forest in Lithuania, where he took charge of a large partisan brigade that included Jewish partisans who had escaped the ghettos of Vilna and Kovno.

After the war, Ziman returned to work for the Communist Party in Soviet Lithuania. He occupied several high-ranking positions in the party, and edited the party's daily newspaper and its periodical. Over the years, Ziman wrote hundreds of articles on various political and cultural subjects; in some, he strongly criticized the Zionist movement.