

PARTISAN JOSEF SERYNEK

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Did you know

... that many Roma and Sinti were active in the resistance? Many had won medals and honours in the First World War and therefore knew how to fight.

For you to do

What is the difference between a partisan and a soldier? Were there partisans fighting in your country during the Second World War or later? Who did they fight against?

The photo

Postwar photograph of Josef Serynek (second left). Museum of Roma Culture, Brno, Czech Republic.

In 1942, Josef Serynek was deported with his wife and children to the “Gypsy” camp in Lety u Písku. Following the death of his wife in 1943, he escaped and joined the partisans. He managed to set up a group of resistance fighters called Čapajev, made up mostly of escaped Russian prisoners of war. Josef Serynek - better known as the Black Partisan - became one of his country’s most decorated resistance fighters. He died in 1974.