

## Baum Gruppe

(Baum Group), underground anti-Nazi organization in Berlin. The Baum Gruppe, led by Herbert and Marianne Baum, was made up mainly of Jews who belonged to youth movements. Most were Communist, although some were left-wing Zionists. Almost all of the *Baum Gruppe's* members were quite young.

In 1936 the Communist underground asked the group's Jewish members to start an independent group and set up Communist units in Jewish youth organizations. From 1937--1942 the group concentrated on giving out illegal literature; organizing political training courses, cultural events, and educational evenings; and bolstering the morale of those Jews who were to be deported. In May 1942 members of the *Baum Gruppe* set fire to an anti-Bolshevik exhibit set up in Berlin by the Nazi Ministry of Propaganda. This action was considered to be a major offense against the Nazis; most of the group's members were arrested, as were 500 other Berlin Jews. Half were executed on the spot, and the rest were sent to Sachsenhausen and killed a few months later. Herbert Baum was tortured to death, and the rest of the *Baum Gruppe* members were put on trial. Some were executed, while others were deported to Auschwitz, where they were murdered.