

## Memory can't fade away

These days, while many Lithuanians are determined to look for a better life to themselves and their relatives abroad, Lithuania is abundantly facing the problem of people leaving their native land which leads to a loss of Lithuanian nationality. Current situation makes us remember impressive and inspirational history of our homeland and one of the greatest examples of our united, resolute nation is the partisan resistance movement in the middle of twentieth century. Despite poor chances of winning, freedom fighters did not give up and revealed such features of the Lithuanian character as self-sacrifice for their native land, determination and impressive courage.

Post-war partisans were extremely significant for their motherland simply by their existence which was a peculiar sign that Lithuania would not get occupied by any country without a relentless fight that may require tragic sacrifices. So-called Forest Brothers were determined to leave their loved ones – parents, wives and children, in order to resist people who were determined to subdue Lithuanian nation. Not only partisans but also their relatives were often interrogated and tortured in order to repress the anti-Soviet resistance groups. According to partisan commander of Kęstutis district Visvydas, “Lithuanians loved fields of their homeland and their ancestral homes too much to abandon them” and this genuine love inspired freedom fighters not to be afraid to sacrifice everything, including the most precious thing - their lives.

This courageous fight required inconceivable braveness and determination. The Soviet Union had more weapons, equipment and a larger number of warriors which meant that the partisans had poor chances to defeat the far stronger opponent. However, despite seeing members of the resistance getting tortured and murdered in horrible ways, more and more Lithuanian men were determined to join the resistance movement because the willingness to fight for the freedom of their beloved country was constantly increasing in the reflections of brutal historical incidents. Although Lithuanian partisans were not able to banish the repressive Russian authority, they represented Lithuanians as a courageous, resolved nation that fought fearlessly against their enemy.

All things considered, the partisan movement in Lithuania revealed its people as brave and not afraid of sacrifices while fighting for the rights of their native land. The members of the resistance exalted patriotism and homeland love as the main values, being a great example for future generations how to appreciate exclusive features of our nation, such as a unique language, traditions and nationality.

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