I’m Thomas Elek. Let

Thomas left the *Lycée Louis le Grand* at the age of 16, to become involved in the underground movement. He joined a group of students at the [Sorbonne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorbonne) who were linked to the [*Groupe du musée de l'Homme*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupe_du_mus%C3%A9e_de_l%27Homme), wrote and distributed tracts, and stuck *"papillons"* (butterflies) to walls. In August 1942, sympathising with the [*Jeunesses Communistes*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jeunesses_Communistes&action=edit&redlink=1) (communist youth), he became involved with the [FTP-MOI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FTP-MOI) (Francs-tireurs et partisans - Main-d'œuvre immigrée) and took up the armed struggle. Shortly after, his first operation was a solo attack on the Rive Gauche German bookstore with a [booby-trapped](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booby-trap) book. In March 1943, along with a young [Czech](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechs), Pavel Simo, he performed a [grenade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenade) attack on a restaurant reserved for German officers at [Asnières](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asni%C3%A8res). Simo was arrested, and would be shot on the 22 May at the [Stand de tir de Balard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stand_de_tir_de_Balard).

On 1 June 1943 in a spontaneous attack, Elek threw two grenades into a group of 70 Germans in front of the [Jaurès](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaur%C3%A8s_(Paris_M%C3%A9tro)) metro station. His courageous attitude earned him a promotion, and he was named head of the group at the centre of 4th detachement of the [FTP-MOI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FTP-MOI) Paris region known as "*des dérailleurs*" and commanded by [Joseph Boczov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Boczov).

Elek participated in several derailments, notably that of the night of 28 July on the Paris-[Château-Thierry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ch%C3%A2teau-Thierry) line. This derailment would have caused the death of several hundred German soldiers.

Elek was arrested and tortured by the [*Brigades Spéciales*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigades_Sp%C3%A9ciales) and was handed over to the Germans and detained in [Fresnes Prison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresnes_Prison). All but one of the group were [condemned to death](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment) in a [show trial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show_trial) and shot three days later at [Mont Valérien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Val%C3%A9rien).