

## Jewish Military Union, Warsaw

(*Zydowski Zwiazek Wojskowy, ZZW*), a military organization active in the Warsaw Ghetto, numbering 250. It was organized by the *Betar* Zionist Youth Movement and the Revisionist Zionist Movement.

A major deportation of Warsaw Jews took place from July to September 1942. At that time, the main Warsaw *Betar* leaders were not in the ghetto; they were staying in Hrubieszow. In September there was an *aktion* there. Those *Betar* members who survived returned to Warsaw and created the ZZW.

The ZZW had ties to the Polish Home Army and received arms from some Polish officers. However, the ZZW did not get along well with the Jewish Fighting Organization (*Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa, ZOB*), Warsaw's major Jewish underground organization. The ZZW claimed that the ZOB refused to incorporate them into their group's structure, while the ZOB maintained that the ZZW wanted to take over the operation. In addition, both groups imposed taxes on the ghetto's wealthier Jews, causing more tension between them. Nonetheless, the groups made their peace in time for joint action in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. ZZW members heroically fought one of the major battles of the uprising; afterwards, they fled through a tunnel to the Aryan side, where many died fighting German soldiers.