

Lubetkin, Zivia

(1914--1976), A leader of the Jewish underground in Poland and one of the founders of the Jewish Fighting Organization (*Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa*, ZOB) in Warsaw.

Born in eastern Poland, Lubetkin joined the pioneering *Dror* Zionist Youth Movement as a young woman. When World War II broke out in September 1939, Lubetkin found herself in the part of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union. As soon as she could, she made her way to German-occupied Warsaw, in order to participate in her movement's underground activities. At that time, she also met and fell in love with fellow underground leader Yitzhak Zuckerman. The couple later married.

By 1942 the Germans were deporting Jews from Warsaw to Extermination Camps at an extremely fast rate. At that point, Lubetkin helped found the Antifascist Bloc. This was the first organization set up in the Warsaw ghetto whose express purpose was armed resistance. In July 1942 Lubetkin also helped establish the ZOB. She became a member of its political council (called the Jewish National Committee), and also served on the Coordinating Committee, which acted as a contact between the ZOB and the Jewish Socialist Bund movement.

In January 1943 the Germans launched a wave of deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto. The ZOB, thinking that this was to be the final liquidation of the ghetto, sent its two armed units to stage an uprising. Lubetkin fought in this revolt, and was one of the few ZOB fighters to survive. In April 1943, when the actual final liquidation of the ghetto began, Lubetkin participated in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. She survived by escaping through the sewers to the "Aryan" side of Warsaw. During the summer of 1944, Lubetkin also fought with the ZOB units that took part in the Warsaw Polish Uprising.

After the war, Lubetkin was active in the organization of Holocaust Survivors, and helped organize the *Berihá*, an organization that helped European Jews "illegally" immigrate to Palestine. She herself settled in Palestine in 1946, where she helped found the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz and the Ghetto Fighters' Museum. (see also Jewish Fighting Organization, Warsaw.)

