

## Mojsze Lubling

Born in Wolbrom in 1904 and, later, lived in Sosnowiec. From the earliest years of his youth, he was an active member of the Zionist-Socialist *Poalei Zion* Party. In the spring of 1940, he came to Częstochowa with his family, a wife and two children, and lived under harsh material conditions. He devoted all his energy to organising the *Arbeiterrat*, which was the first sprouting of the resistance movement in Częstochowa. As a talented public speaker and organiser, he came to stand in the foremost ranks of the *Arbeiterrat* and was elected as the organisation's chairman. Concurrently, he was the spiritual soul of the movement.

He perceived the tragedy that was bearing down on the Jews and called to the fight against the Nazi regime and its Jewish helpers, the *Judenrat*. Mojsze Lubling was the main leader of all the strikes and campaigns against the *Judenrat* for the improvement of the financial situation of the forced labourers. He also helped form *kibbutzim* and organise the radical Jewish intelligentsia in Częstochowa, which gave considerable moral support to all the operations undertaken by the *Arbeiterrat*. For his selfless activity for the *Arbeiterrat*, he was vigorously persecuted by the *Judenrat* and was arrested many times by the Jewish police.

With the arrival of the tragic reports of the annihilation of entire Jewish communities in various cities, Mojsze Lubling began to promulgate the idea of armed resistance, as the only honourable way out in the fight against the Nazi regime. At first, the lack of armaments and the disbelief of the masses in the barbaric methods of the Nazi authorities made the realisation of his plans impossible.

On Yom Kippur 1942 at sunset, the last session of the *Arbeiterrat* was held in his house, with the participation of the renowned writer and poet, Ch.L. Zytnicki. The ghetto was then already surrounded by the extermination squad and it became clear that the deportation of the Częstochowa Jewry would begin within a few hours. It was decided that Mojsze Lubling would leave the ghetto and put himself in contact with the Polish labour activists with whom he was connected. He rejected the proposal of leaving the ghetto to save his own life, expressing his desire to share the same fate as his people.

During the *akcja*, he had various possibilities of saving himself. However, he did not take them and, together with his wife and child, was sent to Treblinka. Pinches, his son, remained in the ghetto, where he perished.

In Treblinka, Mojsze Lubling was selected to work in the sorting camp, and he witnessed the annihilation of millions. Remaining true to his fighting traditions, he began to organise a resistance movement in Treblinka, conducting clandestine activity. Through railway workers, he sent several letters to the resistance movement in the Częstochowa "Small Ghetto". In these secret, electrifying, historical letters from the Treblinka hell to his comrades in the "Small Ghetto", he called for resistance, warfare and revenge.

After spending eleven months in Treblinka, where he stood at the top of the resistance movement, he perished in the uprising in August 1943. Mojsze Lubling was a historical, heroic and radiant figure of the Jewish people and the Zionist-Socialist movement.