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Survey of Experiences During the Holocaust

Oliner Altruism Research Archive

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Survey of Experiences During the Holocaust

This questionnaire is intended only for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. Through your answers Jewish organizations and scholars hope to gain a better understanding of the Holocaust. We ask you to help by giving only a few minutes of your time to answer the questions. All you have to do on most questions is circle a number to show your answer. Hundreds of survivors will be answering these anonymous questionnaires, and the results will be statistically compiled. No one will be identified in any report and you are not asked to sign your name. Use the following English or Yiddish version.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. When World War II began, what country were you living in?
<u>POLAND</u> 5-1</p> <p>2. How well did you speak the language of that country, for someone your age?
<u>Fluently</u> 6-1
fairly well 2
poorly 3
very poorly or not at all (spoke only Yiddish) 4</p> <p>3. Which of the following best describes the place you lived in when the war started?
<u>City</u> 7-1
small town 2
village or countryside 3</p> <p>4. When the war began, how old were you?
<u>17</u></p> <p>5. Many years have passed since the war. How well do you remember your war experiences?
<u>Remember it vividly</u> 8-1
<u>remember fairly well</u> 2
forgot a lot of it 3
was too young to remember 4</p> <p>IF TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER, TURN IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE</p> <p>6. During the war, how much time did you spend in a ghetto?
Less than a year 9-1
about two years 2
<u>about three years</u> 3
four years or more 4
never went to a ghetto 5</p> | <p>7. Did you spend any time in a concentration camp?
Less than a year 10-1
<u>about two years</u> 2
about three years 3
four years or more 4
never went to a camp 5</p> <p>8. During the war, did you live in a forest or remote mountainous area?
Lived there as a fighter in a partisan unit 11-1
lived there only in hiding 2
both in hiding & as a partisan 3
no, never lived there 4</p> <p>9. During the war, did you pass as a non-Jew or hide among non-Jews?
Yes, I was passing but <u>not</u> hiding 12-1
Yes, I was passing and also hiding 2
Yes, but only by hiding 3
No, I never tried to pass or hide among non-Jews 4</p> <p>10. Those who survived the Holocaust sometimes had to change from one situation to another. Would you describe yourself <u>mainly</u> as:
<u>Concentration camp survivor</u> 13-1
Someone who survived mainly by hiding among non-Jews and/or passing as a non-Jew 2
Someone who survived by hiding in a forest or mountainous area 3
Someone who survived as a fighter in a partisan unit 4</p> |
|--|--|

11. In order to survive the war, many people needed some help. In your case, did you receive:
- no help at all 14-1
 - help only for a brief time 2
 - help more than once, but irregularly 3
 - long and continuing help 4

IF YOU RECEIVED NO HELP AT ALL, SKIP TO QUESTION NO. 24

12. During the war, when did you get most of the help?
- near the end of the war 15-1
 - in the middle of the war 2
 - earlier in the war 3

13. When you got the most help, was it given to:
- just you and your family 16-1
 - you alone 2
 - you and (unrelated) one other person 3
 - you and a small group 4
 - you and a large group 5

14. Thinking about all the help you received, was it from:
- other Jews only 17-1
 - from both Jews and non-Jews 2
 - from non-Jews only 3

IF THE HELP WAS FROM JEWS ONLY, SKIP TO QUESTION NO. 18

15. Were the non-Jews who helped you:
- strangers only 18-1
 - acquaintances or co-workers or employers only 2
 - close friends and Christian relatives only 3
 - both strangers and acquaintances 4
 - both strangers and close friends 5
 - both acquaintances and close friends or relatives 6

16. Did the help involve:
- shelter only 19-1
 - food, clothing or money only 2
 - warning only 3
 - both shelter and food or clothing or money 4
 - both shelter and warning 5
 - both warning and food or clothing or money 6
 - shelter and warning and food, clothing or money 7
 - none of the above, but other kinds of help 8

17. Did you receive any of the following kinds of help?
- illegal papers 20-1
 - medical care 2
 - both illegal papers and medical care 3
 - neither kind of help 4

18. In general, which of the following applies best to the help you received from other Jews (ANSWER IN COLUMN A) And which applies best to the help you received from non-Jews (ANSWER IN COLUMN B)

	<u>A</u> from <u>Jews</u>	<u>B</u> non- <u>Jews</u>
I would not have received most of the help without paying or giving something in return	21-1	22-1

I paid or gave something, but would have received most of help anyway 2 2

I did not pay or give anything in return for most of the help 3 3

I did not get any help from this group 4 4

16. איז די הילף באשטאנען פון:

- 19-1 נאָר אָפּדאָך
- נאָר עסן, געלט אָדער
- 2 וואָרענונג
- 3 נאָר וואָרענונג
- אי אָפּדאָך, אי עסן,
- 4 קליידער אָדער געלט
- 5 אי אָפּדאָך, אי וואָרענונג
- אי וואָרענונג, אי עסן,
- 6 קליידער אָדער געלט
- אָפּדאָך און וואָרענונג, און
- 7 עסן, קליידער אָדער געלט
- 8 נאָר אנדערע סאַרטן הילף

17. האָט איר געקראָגן די פּאָלגענדע סאַרטן הילף:

- 20-1 אומלעגאלע פּאַפּירן
- 2 מעדיצינישע הילף
- אומלעגאלע פּאַפּירן און
- 3 מעדיצינישע הילף
- 4 ניט דער ניט יענער

18. אין אלגעמיין, וואָסער פון די פּאָלגענדע באשרייבט אים בעסטן די הילף וואָס איר האָט געקראָגן פון אנדערע יידן (ענטפערט אין עמוד "א"), און וואָס באשרייבט אים בעסטן די הילף וואָס איר האָט געקראָגן פון ניט-יידן (ענטפערט אין עמוד "ב")

א	ב
יידן	ניט-יידן

- כ' וואָלט פון דער גרופע ניט גע- קראָגן קיין הילף אָן באצאלן אָדער עפעס צוריק-געבן
- 22-1 21-1

- כאָטש כ' האָב עפעס באצאלט אָדער געגעבן, וואָלט איך סיי-ווי געקראָגן ס' רוב הילף
- 2 2

- פאר ס' רוב הילף האָב איך גאר ניט באצאלט אָדער געגעבן
- 3 3

- די גרופע האָבן מיר גאר ניט געהאלפן
- 4 4

11. כדי איבערצולעבן די מלחמה, האָבן א סך מענטשן געדארפט הילף. האָט איר געקראָגן:

- 14-1 גאר ניט קיין הילף
- 2 הילף במשך פון א קורצער צייט
- 3 הילף מער ווי איין מאל, אָבער ניט שטענדיק
- 4 לאנג און שטענדיקע הילף

אויב מ' האָט איך גאר ניט געהאלפן, היפערט איבער ביז פראגע 24.

12. ווען האָט מען איך צום מערסטן געהאלפן?

- 15-1 נאָענט צום סוף פון דער מלחמה
- 2 אין מיטן מלחמה
- 3 פריער אין דער מלחמה

13. ווען מ' האָט איך צום מערסטן געהאלפן, האָט מען די הילף געגעבן:

- 16-1 נאָר איך מיט אייער משפחה
- 2 איך אליין
- 3 איך און א צווייטן (ניט קיין קרוב)
- 4 איך מיט א קליינער גרופע
- 5 איך מיט א גרויסער גרופע

14. אלץ אייער הילף איז געקומען פון:

- 17-1 נאָר אנדערע יידן
- 2 אי יידן, אי ניט-יידן
- 3 נאָר ניט-יידן

אויב נאָר יידן האָבן געהאלפן, היפערט איבער ביז פראגע 18.

15. זיינען די ניט-יידן וואָס האָבן איך געהאלפן געווען:

- 18-1 נאָר פרעמדע
- נאָר באקאנטע, מיטארבעטער
- 2 אדער באשעפטיקער
- נאָר נאָענטע חברים און קריסטליכע קרובים
- 3 אי פרעמדע, אי באקאנטע
- 4 אי פרעמדע, אי נאָענטע חברים
- 5 אי באקאנטע, אי נאָענטע חברים
- 6 אָדער קרובים

19. How important do you feel the help you received from other Jews was in your survival (ANSWER IN COLUMN A). And how important in your survival was the help you received from non-Jews (ANSWER IN COLUMN B).

	A <u>From Jews</u>	B <u>non-Jews</u>
Could not have survived without it	23-1	24-1
It helped a lot, but could have survived without it	2	2
It had little or no effect on my survival	3	3
Did not get help from the group	4	4

IF HELPED BY JEWS ONLY, SKIP TO QUESTION #24

20. Think of the NON-JEW who helped you the most. Would you please describe what he or she was like when you first met, by making a check mark somewhere along the line to show how much of each quality the person had?

very courageous	/	/	/	/	/	very cowardly	25-
very moral	/	/	/	/	/	not moral at all	26-
very unselfish	/	/	/	/	/	very selfish	27-
very self-reliant	/	/	/	/	/	very dependent on others	28-
very smart	/	/	/	/	/	very stupid	29-
very lucky	/	/	/	/	/	very unlucky	30-
strongly anti-Nazi	/	/	/	/	/	strongly pro-Nazi	31-
very supportive of Jews generally	/	/	/	/	/	strongly anti-Semitic	32-
strongly leftist	/	/	/	/	/	strongly rightist	33-

21. Thinking of the non-Jew who helped you the most, which of the following best describes that person:

old woman (over 60)	34-1	old man (over 60)	35-4
middle-aged woman	2	middle-aged man	5
young woman (under 35)	3	young man (under 35)	6

22. What nationality was the non-Jew who helped you the most? _____ 36-

23. What was the occupation of the non-Jew who helped you the most? _____ 37-

24. At the outbreak of the war, compared to other Jews in your locality, were you and your family:

- very well off 38-1
- well off 2
- average 3
- poor 4
- very poor 5

25. At that time, compared to most other Jews, would you describe yourself as:

- totally assimilated 39-1
- somewhat assimilated 2
- hardly assimilated 3
- not assimilated at all 4

26. Check your SEX:

- male 40-1
- female 2

27. What country are you living in now? Rep. of South Africa 41-

As you know, many scholars are studying the Holocaust. If there is something in your experience as a survivor that you think would be valuable information for their studies, please describe it in this space:

BORN IN WARSZAWA-PRAGA. LIVED THROUGH THE WARSZAWA GHETTO.
 CAUGHT IN MAY 1943 FROM BUNKER ON MILA 19. FROM WHERE
 VIA THE WARSCHLAGPLATZ SENT TO MAJDANEK. ^{KL.} ^{STR.} WITNESSED HANGING
 DURING (APPEAL) ROLL CALL HANGING OF FRIEND WHO TRIED TO ESCAPE
 SENT TO AUSCHWITZ JULY 1943. TATTOO NUMBER 48632
 (WHICH WAS REMOVED BY SURGERY IN 1948 IN JOHANNESBURG)
 GOT NO MEDICAL ^{HELP} WHEN CONTRACTED TYPHOUS IN AUSCHWITZ.
 SENT TO BERGEN BELSEN NOVEMBER 1944.
 LIBERATED BY THE BRITISH ARMY IN MAY 1945.

If at some future time you would not mind participating in these studies, please indicate your name and address.

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If undeliverable in Israel, return to Institute, 165 E. 56 St., N.Y.C. 10022, U.S.A.

24. אז די מלחמה איז אויסגעבראָכן, זייט איר געווען לגבי אנדערע יידן אין אייער געגנט:

זייער רייד
רייד
דורכשניטלעך
אַרעם
זייער אַרעם

38-1
2
3
4
5

25. לגבי אנדערע יידן, וואָלט איר זיך דעמלט באשריבן חיי:

39-1 אין גאנצן אסימילירט
2 עפעס אסימילירט
3 קוים אסימילירט
4 גאָר ניט אסימילירט

6. איר זייט א:

40-1 מאן
2 פרוי

27. אין וואָסער לאנד וווינט איר איצט?

ווי איר וויסט, פאַרשן א סך געלערנטע דעם חורבן. אויב איר מינט אז עפעס אין אייער איבערלעבונגען היי אייניר פון דער שארית-הפליטה קען זיין וויכטיקע אינפאָרמאציע פאר זייערע פאַרשונגען, זייט אזוי גוט און באשרייבט עס דאָ.

אויב איר וואָלט גייווען גרייט אַנטויל צו נעמען אין די פאַרשונגען, זייט אזוי גוט און שרייבט אייער נאָמען און אדרעסע.

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