Survey of Experiences During the Holocaust

Max Hilfstein

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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.

1. When World War II began, what country were you living in?
   - Poland

2. How well did you speak the language of that country, for someone your age?
   - Fluently
   - Fairly well
   - Poorly
   - Very poorly or not at all (spoke only Yiddish)

3. Which of the following best describes the place you lived in when the war started?
   - City
   - Small town
   - Village or countryside

4. When the war began, how old were you?
   - 18

5. Many years have passed since the war. How well do you remember your war experiences?
   - Remember it vividly
   - Remember fairly well
   - Forgot a lot of it
   - Was too young to remember

IF TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER, TURN IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

6. During the war, how much time did you spend in a ghetto?
   - Less than a year
   - About two years
   - About three years
   - Four years or more
   - Never went to a ghetto

7. Did you spend any time in a concentration camp?
   - Less than a year
   - About two years
   - About three years
   - Four years or more
   - Never went to a camp

8. During the war, did you live in a forest or remote mountainous area?
   - Lived there as a fighter in a partisan unit
   - Lived there only in hiding
   - Both in hiding & as a partisan
   - No, never lived there

9. During the war, did you pass as a non-Jew or hide among non-Jews?
   - Yes, I was passing but not hiding
   - Yes, I was passing and also hiding
   - Yes, but only by hiding
   - No, I never tried to pass or hide among non-Jews

10. Those who survived the Holocaust sometimes had to change from one situation to another. Would you describe yourself mainly as:
    - Concentration camp survivor
    - Someone who survived mainly by hiding among non-Jews and/or passing as a non-Jew
    - Someone who survived by hiding in a forest or mountainous area
    - Someone who survived as a fighter in a partisan unit
לאור עזים אפרים

1. רצון על התורה מלתון א' ח"ג' לקרדיט

5-1)

ברכשה

2. באמר ואת אמרו אמרו:" והיה...

6-1)

ויהו ואמר גוזר

3. להלך...

7-1)

והיה אמר בכף

4. דuerdo שלומך אפרים א"ז קבעל נב

8. או אמי וחברה בכם ליבש על...

11-1)

א"ו קבעל וערובא

2. ויהו ואמר בכר הקדוש הלך

3. דuerdo

4. דuerdo להלך...

9. העת דeroon הכתוב של א"ז בידך...

12-1)

א"ו קבעל קבר

2. ויהו ואמר בכר הקדוש הלך

3. דuerdo

4. דuerdo להלך...

10. בזלת כאן הכתוב ו"מ ח"ג'...

13-1)

א"ו קבעל קבר

2. ויהו ואמר בכר הקדוש הלך

3. דuerdo

4. דuerdo להלך...

6. עת דeroon הכתוב של א"ז בידך...

5-1)
11. In order to survive the war, many people needed some help. In your case, did you receive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no help at all</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help only for a brief time</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help more than once, but irregularly</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long and continuing help</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

12. During the war, when did you get most of the help?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>near the end of the war</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the middle of the war</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>earlier in the war</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. When you got the most help, was it given to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>just you and your family</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you alone</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you and (unrelated) one other person</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you and a small group</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you and a large group</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Thinking about all the help you received, was it from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other Jews only</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from both Jews and non-Jews</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from non-Jews only</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

15. Were the non-Jews who helped you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>strangers only</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintances or co-workers or employers only</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close friends and Christian relatives only</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both strangers and acquaintances</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both strangers and close friends</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both acquaintances and close friends or relatives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Did the help involve:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Help</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shelter only</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food, clothing or money only</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warning only</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both shelter and food or clothing or money</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both shelter and warning</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both warning and food or clothing or money</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shelter and warning and food, clothing or money</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>none of the above, but other kinds of help</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. Did you receive any of the following kinds of help?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Help</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>illegal papers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medical care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>both illegal papers and medical care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neither kind of help</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would not have received most of the help without paying or giving something in return</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I paid or gave something, but would have received most of help anyway</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not pay or give anything in return for most of the help</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not get any help from this group</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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).

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

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 moral  
very unselfish  
very self-reliant  
very smart  
very lucky  
strongly anti-Nazi  
very supportive of Jews generally

very cowardly  
not moral at all  
very selfish  
very dependent on others  
very stupid  
very unlucky  
strongly pro-Nazi  
strongly anti-Semitic

strongly leftist  
strongly rightist

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

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

23. What was the occupation of the non-Jew who helped you the most? beautician 37-
לא ניתן להבנתי את המילים וה dildoים של/english. יש לי הצעהiors כדי להבין יותר. אם יש לך יותר עמודים או מקורות נוספים, אני יריאי assortilleים את המידע.
24. At the outbreak of the war, compared to other Jews in your locality, were you and your family:

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

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

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

26. Check your SEX:

- male: 40
- female: 2

27. What country are you living in now? USA

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:

1. My work in ghettos
3. Liberation by the French Army

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

Max Hilfstein
1523 Dwight Place
Bronx, New York 10465

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לוב ז"ל גניך. צור ז"ל.

Data:

1. 39-1
2. בורש יז"ל
3. קורא יז"ל
4. אוצר טן יז"ל
5. דוד יז"ל
6. צור יז"ל

גופים:

1. מז"ל
2. זו"ל

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