Surviving the Holocaust

Many were killed, many starved, but a few lucky ones survived through the tragedy.

- What happened to the Jewish Survivals after the holocaust, and what did they do to survive?
- The Jewish survived in many different ways but mainly by hiding. After the holocaust many Jews remembered every day of their life and could not forget what had happened to them or their families.

“Over one million children under the age of sixteen died in the Holocaust - plucked from their homes and stripped of their childhoods, they lived and died during the dark years of the Holocaust and were victims of the Nazi regime.”

Nazi Swastika

The star of David so that every Jewish can be identified.
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WHAT SURVIVORS DID TO SURVIVE

The Holocaust is the name for the Nazis’ systematic genocide of six million Jews during World War Two. The Nazis called this genocide “The Final Solution of the Jewish Question.” Not only did the race policy hit the Jews, and an additional 4 million gypsies along with homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, anti-socials, criminals and physically and psychologically disabled. Approximately 1,200,000 people were looking for homes at the end of the Holocaust. But how did all those people survive the tragic?

Many people hid in country-sides, or in attics. Many parents hid their children from the Nazi’s, some parents even gave the kids to non-Jewish people who would take them in.

“They would go into the country-side and live in the woods and try to find a way to survive.”

This is an exert from “Alicia: My Story.” The exert is saying that she and her family would go into the country-side and hide there until the war was over. She also talks about all the different things she went through, like being separated from her family and being brought out of the concentration camps by pretending she was dead.

Many survivors had to take risks, and know that there was a possibility that they could be found and killed by the Nazis.

Many kids were separated from their families. Some parents sent their kids away, so that they didn’t have to deal with watching them get killed.

Many parents had to deal with “giving away” their children to complete strangers.

“Because an entire family could seldom find a hiding place, parents were confronted with the horrible necessity of giving away their children to complete strangers. They did so while facing a dismal future, uncertain if they would ever see their children again in an “after-the-war” era.”

Many children had to go with strangers in order to stay alive. This isn’t what the parents wanted to do, but they felt they had to do it. They had to save their kids no matter what.
Each survivor has their own stories. Many are alike but some are different in ways.

One story was **Alicia: My Story.** Alicia went through some pretty rough things. She was in Chortkov Prison for many months and than a man found her in a pile of dead bodies and brought her back to a local ghetto. There for weeks she battled Typhoid, but eventually recovered.

Alicia also escaped many death marches with the help of a friend. She reunited with her mother in Buczacz, which was a ghetto where her family used to live. Alicia went through many other things along with her mother, her only family member left.

There are many other stories about how survivors dealt with the holocaust.

**Jeannine Burk** was a hidden child. She lived in a women’s house for two years.

“My life as a hidden child was...how can I say it...I had no toys. The only fresh air I got was when I was allowed to go in the backyard. I made up imaginary friends because I had no one to play with. I do not remember being hugged and kissed. That was my life for two years.”

For two years Jeannine Burk lived with a woman who she didn’t know the name of, and was never treated like a normal child. No hugs or kisses, and no toys. She wanted to be a normal child. She wanted to be with her father. Jeannine Burk blamed Germany for all of this. She said at the end

“People ask me, can I forgive? I can’t. I cannot forgive. I blame the German people a great deal because I feel they were passive. They turned away.”

Jeannine will never forgive Germany. That goes for many other survivors too.

**Isak Borenstein** had many things happen to him during the war. When the Germans went to Poland, He ran to Krasnodar in Russia. He worked as a carpenter for many years.

In 1944 he joined the Russian army and was sent near Kremenchug. He was than caught by Germans who killed 33 Jews. The Germans took the rest of them to a prisoner-of-war camp. There Isak escaped.

Isak went through many rough things after that. He was tortured, along with many other things.

**Eva Galler** was born in Poland. When she was being deported to Belzec camp, Eva escaped along with her brother and sister. An SS troo shot at them, but Eva stayed alive while her brother and sister had gotten shot.

Eva than went to live with a fried. She was hid behind a cedar-robe. Eva than headed to a different family who lived near the woods. Eva worked on a farm for many years.

These stories all had something in common. They all hid eventually during the war. They were all very different too. Im sure all these people went through their own tragedies. But the important thing is that they stayed alive. Somehow they fought against the sickness, and starvation and stayed alive.
What Happened to the Survivors After the Holocaust?

We never hear what happened to the survivors after the holocaust. We only hear how difficult it was to survive, what everyone went through, and all of that. But what happens to people after the holocaust?

Many survivors suffered guilt. How did they survive well so many others hadn’t? Guilt was the main effect that almost all survivors had. They felt guilty for their families and friends deaths. It wasn’t their fault but yet they felt that since their families had died they should have also.

Another symptom is anxieties and agitations. That includes inner tensions, and feelings of valuelessness. They are also sometimes afraid to be alone. Which can be expected because they went through so much.

Many survivors remember the smell of the gas chambers, the brutal killing, of a single individual, or simply separation from family members. The survivor can feel stuck in time, unable to move beyond it. They remember these feelings when ever something strikes it.

Many survivors resent help that is offered because it is a sign of weakness. They want to be strong. They couldn’t do anything during the holocaust so they want to be able to do something on their own now. Many survivors feel this way. It is one of the most common symptoms.

The most common effects are resenting help and guiltiness.

It is difficult for the survivors. They deal with the remembrance everyday of their lives. They struggle to leave their past behind them. Most survivors don’t want to talk about The Holocaust. They fear that they we will remember the horrible awful things they went through.
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So what happened to the Jewish survival of the holocaust? And what did they do to survive during the holocaust?

Many Jews had to hide from Nazis. Like I said before, they hid in attics and in strangers homes. Kids stayed with families they barely knew, and pretended to be of German origin. If the kids had got caught not only them, but the German families would also be prosecuted and more than likely killed. Everyday got harder and harder for them.

They had to impersonate being a German child. That involved dressing and acting differently, and learning German responsibilities.

After the Holocaust was over many survivors went to America. They tried to find the rest of their families with the help of many American people. The survivors went through tragedies. They had learned a family member died, or something horrific. Many survivors not only went through tragedies with death but they went through rough patches in their physical and mental health. Many survivors had break downs, after learning a friend or family member had died. Many are afraid they might go through something like the holocaust again.

Most survivors don’t like talking about what they went through because it brings up such horrible memories, and they just don’t want to relive it again.


Works Cited Continued:


