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<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de> veröffentlicht.**

Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Questionnaire for use in eye-witness interviews

- 1) Can you tell us a little about where you come from? a)Where did you grow up? (living conditions, village, town) b)Please describe your family to us (number of brothers and sisters, parents' occupations) c)What is your educational/training background? d)What was your profession? e)Were you brought up in a religious household? What is your religion? f)What political views did your parents hold? Did you hold the same views? g)Were you ever married, and if so, when?
- 2) Please describe to us your life immediately before the outbreak of war.a)What did you think about the political situation before the war? b)What did you know about the political situation in Europe? c)What did you know about Germany, what did you know about the political situation in Germany? d)What did you know about the camps in the USSR? e)Where and when did you first hear about the beginning of war with Germany? f)Did you think the war would begin in 1941?
- 3) Please describe how you were arrested.a)When and where were you arrested?b)Who arrested you and how did it take place? c)Why were you arrested? d)Were you aware of/ did you have an idea about what would happen after being arrested? e)Did you worry about how it would affect your family and friends? f)Did your arrest cause you to abandon any previously held convictions? 4) What happened between your arrest and your arrival in the concentration camp?
a)What happened immediately after you were arrested?b)Where were you taken?c)How were you taken there?d)How was your initial accommodation? e)How was the food?f)What emotions, fears and premonitions did you have?
- 5) Please describe your arrival at the concentration camp. a)Which camp were you taken to? b)Please describe your first day there. c)Who welcomed you? d)How was your initial contact with your fellow prisoners? e)How did you feel upon arrival?

6) Please describe everyday life at the camp.

- a) How long were you at the camp and which category of prisoner were you?
- b) Describe a typical day in the camp
- c) What did you have to work as?
- d) What was your personal low point?
- f) What was your relationship to your fellow prisoners?
- g) What was your relationship to the camp guards?
- h) What helped you to survive?
- i) What do you feel were the biggest organisational problems?
- j) Did you ever think about escaping, or did you make an escape attempt?

7) Please describe how you were liberated.

- a) Who liberated you?
- b) Did you see your liberation coming?
- c) Can you remember how you felt upon being liberated?
- d) Who looked after you after liberation? How were you looked after?
- e) How was the parting from your fellow prisoners?
- f) How did you return home?
- g) How much time passed between being liberated and your arrival at home?

8) Please describe your homecoming.

- a) Where did you go?
- b) What expectations did you have of your home town?
- c) What relatives and friends did you meet?
- d) How was your health condition?
- e) How were you received?
- g) What was your status in the USSR, as a “traitor“ or “hero“?
- h) Were you afraid of being sent to a camp in the USSR?

9) How did your life continue in the

- USSR? a) Did your experience in the concentration camp affect your ability to integrate into society?
- b) Were there problems, if so, what were they and how long did they last?
- c) Were you given some form of compensation?

10) How do you live with your memories of incarceration in Germany today?

- a) Has your opinion of Germany and Russia changed at all?
- b) What role does your concentration camp experience have today?
- c) Are there situations which especially make you remember your experiences, if so, what are they?
- d) Do you have problems in everyday life today on account of your incarceration?
- e) Do you need to discuss your camp experience, if so, with whom?
- f) Do you still have contact with former fellow prisoners?

g) Are you still actively involved with this issue today?

h) Is it important for you how people in Germany remember the crimes of the National Socialist period?

Taken from:

Ponomarenko, Denis, Frank Reiniger & Barbara Thimm: "Leben mit der Erinnerung. Deutsche und russische Jugendliche interviewen Überlebende nationalsozialistischer Konzentrationslager" ("Living with the Past. Young people from Russia and Germany Interview Survivors of National Socialist Concentration Camps), published in *Weimarer Beiträge zur politischen und kulturellen Jugendbildung (Weimarian Contributions to the Political and Cultural Education of Young People)* (EJBW series, issue 1). Glaux Publishing House: Jena, 2003. (in German/Russian), pp. 223-225.