

## **Milton Ehrlich, Ph.D. – Two Poems**

### **Survivor**

Wild-eyed men smashed through our front door.  
We huddled behind our wood-burning stove  
trying not to breathe as if stillness were a barricade.  
But my mother screamed—and was shot between the eyes.  
They hauled the battered body of my father away  
over the floor of splintery hand-hewn beams  
he had built by himself. I was never to see him again.  
I ran as fast as I could over bloodied bodies  
into the forest until I collapsed in the snow.  
Awakened by partisans who surrounded me  
from this nightmare with the gravity of their kindness.

### **Evidence On A White Wall**

A residue of blood-soaked holes  
failed to hit their intended target  
on men lined up to be assassinated.  
We will never know all their names  
as they were selected at random  
from men of conscience who spoke up.  
Someone will write a great poem  
about what soldiers were ordered to do.

**Milton P. Ehrlich** Ph.D. is an 89-year-old psychologist and a veteran of the Korean War. He has published poems in *The Antigone Review*, *London Grip*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Descant Literary Magazine*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Red Wheelbarrow*, *Christian Science Monitor* and the *New York Times*.