

## **Summary:**

Herb Carlson, born in 1919, discusses growing up in Bayonne, New Jersey; practicing photography beginning in 1926 at the age of seven; earning a journalism degree from the University of Alabama in 1941; living in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with a family that had three sons and a general store; being stationed in Mississippi with 255th infantry regiment of 63rd infantry division, 3rd battalion as acting corporal gunner in antitank platoon, working 37-millimeter antitank gun; serving in WWII during combat, 1943-1944; regiment went through southern France, Dijon Ville, Nancy, Belfort Gap, crossing Rhine at Worms, went through Colmar Pocket, Black Forest; recalls going into a concentration camp and seeing bodies hastily thrown into ditches and pits and sprinkled with lime to decompose and seeing bodies hastily thrown into open boxcars; recalls lower-class tougher soldiers were outraged and visceral while others seemed more distant emotionally; also visiting concentration camps Theresienstadt, Oranienburg, Buchenwald and Auschwitz, feeling almost inured; transferred in 1945 to military government in Detachment H268 in Rothenburg ob der Tauber in Bayern (Bavaria); his knowledge of French and German languages; working in an Denazification special branch, giving four-page questionnaires to Germans in the Romantische Strasse area of Bavaria; questionnaires identified Germans who were in the Nazi party before 1937 and thus barred from working for any government post after the war; Nazis had found a haven in this area after the war and needed to be flushed out; serving with US Army Counter Intelligence Corps, including working with a Jewish German-born American soldier who lost his family in concentration camps; moving to New Jersey in early 1950s.