

RALPH MILES
RG-50.005.0043. (Recorded 1984 in California)

Ralph Miles was a retired Colonel in the US army. Born in upstate New York, he spent 30 years in the Army. During the war he was sent back to the US after being in the Pacific theater, but was called back to patrol the iron curtain countries in the tank corps. He was given an Iron Cross for helping to liberate Dachau.

Ralph tells of going into Dachau and seeing the Germans run away. There were 5 freight cars that they opened. They were filled mostly with dead bodies and a few living ones. He describes the outlay of the camp with its gas chamber and 4 ovens. He describes how the people had to take hot showers before they were gassed so that the open pores on their bodies would absorb more gas. In the basement of one building they found corpses stacked head to foot 8 feet high. Suddenly a living man came out of the pile thanking America. He spoke English, so Ralph used him as an interpreter.

They went to Munich because he was ordered by General Patton to take Munich and find a large house for their headquarters. The survivor from Dachau was able to find him a large home. This man also warned him about the landmines outside the home. Later the man played the piano in the home beautifully He left to try to find family and Ralph never saw him again.

After the liberation of Dachau General Patton moved in a medical battalion, and when Ralph went back to Dachau a week after he saw how they were being helped.

He is infuriated with those who deny that the Holocaust existed.