

-TITLE- RALPH MILES - COLONEL
-I_DATE-
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-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
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-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
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My name is Ralph M. Miles, Colonel U.S. Army Ret.

2. I was born in Walcott, N.Y., attended military school. After 30 years I ended my service career as full colonel US Army. I was introduced to the service during my high school years after WW 1.

3. I joined the regular army. At the end of WW 2. I was returned to the States as an advisor to veterans and attended University of S. California Evening School.

4. I was called back to duty to patrol Iron Curtain countries. I was stationed in Germany, Pacific Theater, European Theater; I was in the Tank Corps.

5. He shows a picture of himself in the 50s. Another picture receiving award of the Iron Cross for the liberation of Dachau.

8. Another picture showing him leading the armored division in Dachau. I had been to the Pacific and then shipped to Germany. I lost one of my lieutenants moving in to take Dachau and I was hit by shrapnel but it bounced off my helmet in April 1941 entering Dachau. I was told it was a prison camp. I did not know if there were any Jews there. I could have been told. I was told it was a prison camp for the Jews, yes I was told it was a prison for Jews before I closed in. Germans ran away when I came through. There were 5 freight cars packed outside the camp. I went up to one, shot the lock off.

9. A live individual fell out in my arms. It was my first encounter. The car was packed with dead bodies and some were alive. Most of the bodies were in the basement.

10. There were 3 rooms, a reception room, gas chamber, where bodies were gassed and a crematoria. There were 4 ovens. They had some shovels and plates and wheelbarrows for bones to be taken out and dropped in the cemetery.

11. In the first building there were corpses in the basement. They were stacked at least 8 ft, first heads and feet, heads and feet. I do not remember seeing any females, mostly males. Out of one group there crawled an individual on his hands and

knees. "Thank God, Americans". What can I do for the Americans. He spoke English and as I needed an interpreter, I said to him: "You come with me". My objective was to take Munich. General Patton instructed me to find a house for headquarters in Munich. He took me to a house which was a castle and we went inside. There was a piano. He asked if he could play, he played, he was a genius. The next day he came to where I set up headquarters and asked if he could leave , his home was nearby and he wanted to see if anyone of his family was alive. I never saw him again.

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