

RE: WILSON FREEMAN
INTERVIEWER: KAETHE SOLOMON
DATE:
CAMP: DACHAU
TRANSCRIBED BY: RUTH SCHEINBERG Dec. 1, 1981

Q My name is Kaethe Solomon, I am at Georgia State University interviewing Mr. Wilson Freeman. The address is 812 Starlight Circle, N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30342. His date of birth is March 16, 1916. His age at time of liberation was 29 yrs. His prospective profession at the beginning of the war was C P A, and at that time he was already a college and law school graduate. Mr. Freeman's present position is Contract Officer at Georgia State University. His military unit at the time of liberation was 601 Field Artillery Battallion, and his rank at the time of liberation was Major. He involved in the liberation of Dachau.

Q On a descriptive level, how did you first hear about it?

A Well, we of course, anticipated the liberation through Stars & Stripes, through Armed Forces, radio, through Armed Forces Network Radio, and perhaps general scuttlebutt that goes around in military units, even if in an attack posture.

Q May I interrupt you for a moment, because before we put the tape on you said you went into the service in 1940.

A That's correct.

Q Obviously by that time you had seen quite a bit of camp talk in the Stars & Stripes, etc... is that what you are saying? You had already read material which described some of the camps? _____

A Yes, and I am sure by that time, I think Belsen had been liberated and was ... and had been pictorially depicted in Stars & Stripes. I wouldn't ... my memory is a little ^{faded} ~~hard~~, but I believe perhaps some other camps had also been liberated. We had ... we had been by Holoboorgagar (spelling?), which was a P O W Camp, and had performed an administrative function in connection with Holoboorgagar (spelling?) earlier, so we had been exposed to that type of camp. As a matter of fact, we knew in advance that we were going to be

targeted for certain political, politically sensitive, camps... Holoboorgagar was an
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A example ... uh, there was a women's prison that we had ... had performed similar type supervisory and administrative functions over...

Q What was that? Part of the Holo *boorqagae*

A No, that was in ... Bavaria also. In a small German town, I am not sure if I pronounce it right. A I C H A C H. Aichach. Our mission at this particular time, the mission of the battalion was to support the Infantry front line troops by taking possession and control of these politically sensitive targets, which we called Key Targets in those days. A Nazi Party headquarters would be another example ... anything having to do with things that could have been disturbed by the citizenry or resistance forces, as the attack went forward. The Infantry, the front line infantry, ~~we~~ usually captured these installations, and then we would come up immediately and take it from them, so they could go on with their normal mission in the attack. And then, subsequently, maybe the same day ... probably was two or three days later, then other ~~XXXXXX~~ forces in comparable situations would relieve us, and then we would move forward again. Now we did this by leaps and bounds...

Q When you had come across Dachau...camp... what information did you have about them?

A Very sketchy as to detail. We knew that we had just left Aichach that morning, and we knew that we were going to be taking over a politically sensitive target, and I don't think that we knew at that moment that it was going to be Dachau, we just knew that there was one.

Q There was one, and that there was a class fight...under... politically...?

A Oh yes, I think we knew at that moment that it was going to be Dachau, we just knew that there was one..

Q That there was one and that there was a class fight under... politically sensitive...

A Oh yes, it was another one of these Key Targets that I mentioned. But that was the classification that we used... we were also informed weeks before what the Key Target designation represented.

Q And Dachau was under that Key Target?

A Classification, yes.

Q Interesting information that I have not heard.

Q you got to Dachau?

A Yes.

Q What happened?

A Well, maybe back up a few hundred ~~years~~ ^{yards so to speak ---} As we approached the town, we were ~~loaded~~ ^{loaded} in trucks. My unit, originally, was mountain artillery, which has very few motors. We used mules to transport our artillery. We had given those up some months before this and had been supplied an additional number of trucks. We ~~XXXX~~ ^{used} these trucks to transport the troops. And at the edge of Dachau, we were stopped by -- I guess - the local military commander there. Not, in person, of course, but his troops. And we were told that there was still some resistance going on at the camp, we didn't know then exactly what camp it was, but we knew we were in Dachau, and we assumed it was a concentration camp as we called it.

Q Do you remember the date ... or about approximately the time?

A It certainly was in late of April, 1945. I say that because you know V E Day occurred on May 8, and I can estimate the number of stages we went through up until May 8th. This was just about two stages for us before then. So, I am sure it was late April. It was before 10 o'clock in the morning, we were not stopped very long. I think we heard some small arms fire, and then we got the signal to go ahead and proceeded with the trucks on in through the town into the concentration camp. There were still a lot of ground activity in the conte-xt of our Infantry, American Infantry, still on sight , subject went unrelieved, there was still a lot of loose individuals that I am not... I am sure some of them were the prisoners, the inmates that had gotten loose; there were still SS attempting to elude the Infantry or the inmates...

Q How? What was the activity? ^{Describe that activity by} _____ were they running, were they shooting? _____

A We saw some running, we heard some small arms fire, we came upon many recently killed SS, I don't recall seeing any recently killed inmates of the camp, although we found, of course, hundreds of bodies, in all of the different locations... in the crematorium, en route to the crematorium, in the boxcar was a train... boxcars, not really boxcars, they were open cars, and at least... each car was at least half-filled with corpses.

A With corpses. ^{Gang} ~~going~~ back to the activity, there was lots of activity behind the barbed wire with the inmates beckoning to us, greeting us...

Q Now... you were now outside the camp? The inmates were inside?

A No, this was within the perimeter of the camp, within the compound itself, but I recall there was an irrigation brook of some type that had been confined... something of not more than 6 feet wide, and perhaps 2 feet deep, just on the ... this was within the compound, just on the outside of the barbed wire enclosure, which must have gone up 12 feet or so.. the barbed wire. And there was... the barracks that the inmates slept in were there, behind that. On that occasion I did not go into them, although on a subsequent visit to Dachau, I did go much more in depth. We were more interested, in that time, of course in taking over the camp, taking over the administration of the camp and finding out just what was expected of us and just what we were going to do - until we were relieved, but I remember seeing SS that had been perhaps killed and put in the stream that I mentioned to you and I remember one of the inmates ^{mates} reached through the fence and by means of a pole, pulled the SS up out of the water, and by reaching through the wire, relieved him of his wrist watch. That is a vivid recollection that I have, and we didn't do anything ~~to stop~~ To stop this type of activity, to let them dump their emotions, and things...

Q Did you receive any instructions prior to entering the camp as to what you were supposed to do when you got in there?

A Yes, we were - of course - these were the typical instructions that we had that we had exercised at Holoboorgag (spelling?) and at the women's prison at Dachau, and the Main thing was that we wanted to assert our Allied Force control and to minimize violence, action ... among the inmates - by the inmates against other parties - make sure that they were fed, make sure that ill health, sickness, etc was attended to, attempt to gain control for the ^{statistical} ~~specific~~ purpose of ~~the~~ the numbers involved. Providing for the actual feeding of the inmates.

Q Do you remember the numbers involved?

A I do not remember the numbers involved in Dachau. I am sure it was tabulated, we kept

A records, we - in effect, the period that our Forces, ¹³⁵~~The 60th~~ Forces were in charge.

Q How long was that?

A It was not more than three days, it was somewhere between two and three days.

Q And ^{if} you were to put yourself back in that time.

A And I was not on sight the whole time. For example I did not spend the night there. I don't recall right now, but probably somewhere down in Munich is where we set up our battallion headquarters.

Q So you were in there three days, a few hours each day, is that what you are saying?

A No. I don't think I had occasion to go back more than one time in those three days.

★ Q What did you do yourself? When you...?

A My role was that of a Battallion executive officer, which is second in command of the battallion, and the battallion was made up of four batteries. We put one of our batteries in charge of the compound, which is roughly 135 individuals, and we we would.... that was under the command of a captain. We would expect them to do that and to call on a battallion when they had a problem, or when they felt they couldn't handle it. In other words, that was our way of operating. In other words, just one of the units of the 601st was in charge.

Q So you just actually went in there and gave the instructions as to what...

A Well, they really knew what was expected of them from prior experience, so it was not necessary to give special instructions with respect to the administration of the concentration camp.

Q What... when the ^{mates}~~inmates~~ saw you... what happened?

A Oh they were elated, quite elated. They cheered us, and gave us a very warm welcome.

Q Did they, those that were able to walk, did they walk towards you? Did they try to hug you, or touch you, or in their relations... with you... you know.

A Nothing quite as emotional as you suggest. If you will recall, I said there was this very large, very high barbed wire fence separating the free access area of the concentration camp from where the inmates were confined. They in large numbers, came out of the barracks and lined up along the fence, many communicating with us and showing

A signs of appreciation. I think if my memory serves me, one of them - somehow - produced an American flag, and waved it. And...

Q So you never really got inside?

A On that day I did not get inside, subsequently after V E Day, and after the people had been evacuated, I did go and make a much more complete inspection of it .. of the camp, and I think I had been back there maybe three times. I remember this is after even V J Day, I was a member of a military tribunal and we tried... and War Crimes trials were held at the concentration camp at a later date. And I was one of the members of the tribunal.

Q I would like to hear more about that, but when you actually entered the camp, went through that barbed wire, *fence - what did you see*

A Well, remember now, I didn't really go through the barbed wire fence... On the day that we were there. I was outside of that, we made a tour after responding to the inmates who were lined up at the fence, we made a tour of ~~shed~~-like buildings. They were more than ... it could have even been in the general category of warehouses. They were one-story very substantially constructed buildings, which could have been used to house vehicles, ~~XXXX~~ etc., and we wanted to discover what was in those buildings. And eventually we came around to the Administration Building of the compound, and then my ...the captain in charge of the Battery - who was already taking over so to speak - I was just looking for situations that ~~it~~ might require his attention and reporting these to him. I don't recall specifically anything but quite a few ~~XXXX~~ dead SS which were going to have to be removed. As I mentioned earlier, I did not see any dead American Infantrymen or dead inmates, they had identifiable striped costume on, you can call it a uniform if you like, but it was identifiable like a prisoner, very light clothing.

Q Pajama-~~type~~?

A Pajama-~~like~~, *type*, yes.

Q And you saw the dead SS ... and they were dead inmates at that time?

A I did not see any inmates, other than in the crematorium, and in the so-called shower room if you are familiar with the pattern that these things followed. There was a

A definite house where they were supposed to go in - to be taken, divest themselves of clothing and supposed to be taking a shower, and this is where they were gassed, I learned later. We were not aware of just exactly how they had been killed at that particular moment, although we went into the rooms in this shed that I am talking about, with that in mind of trying to find out just exactly how it was done.

Q ~~Did you find your~~ *The bodies were still in* in that gas chamber...?

A There were none in that building but obviously you could tell there had been. There were stains on the floor and on the walls.

Q What kind of stains?

A Human ... stains from humans having lain, dead humans having lain against the walls. That was also true in the crematorium. There were about three principal rooms, one of them appeared to be a supply, a rather smallish room, and the next room the bodies were stacked up against the wall...all of the dead inmates I would say... and then the third room was the actual ovens where the bodies were put in. When they were burned.

Q Did you see charred bodies in the ovens, the remains? As far as you remember?

A I can't say that I did.... I can't say today that I did. I don't remember seeing the actual charred bodies in the oven.

Q And in the room before that? Were there still bodies?

A Oh yes. There must have been 150 bodies thrown one on top of the other, back up against the wall, it was, it looked...

Q What did you feel when you saw that, do you remember *my reaction of your own as you walked*

A Well, I am sure I ~~would recall~~ *was Repulsed at* .. the whole situation, even more so, when I saw the train and cars with the bodies there, because it was pretty obvious to us that these people had not been dead when they were placed on those cars, and they had died en route somehow. Now, how, we don't know, and it was pretty obvious to us that evidently they were being brought there for cremation.

Q You were alone, or with some other men when you went through the camp?

A I believe the Int... like...

Q *Did you talk*
... ~~and~~ about what you saw?

A Oh yeah.

Q And what was your conversation like? Was it official-~~like~~ *type*.... what do we do with these people? What's the next step? *OR WAS IT AN* emotional reaction... *type of story*

A I think a combination. I am sure we had an emotional reaction, *of* repulsion, and some surprise, because this is the first time we had seen such large numbers of dead persons. And we wondered exactly instructions we would be given for the disposition of the remains. I don't know how deeply you have researched this camp, but subsequently they bulldozed out a large trench and the bodies were removed from the various locations and placed in the trench.

Q Were you there at the time?

A Not at the time it ... I saw the bulldozing operation to dig the trench, and subsequently read in the Stars & Stripes about the ceremony.

Q When you saw these inmates, do you remember any feeling or question in your mind... *25 to* who are these people? *human?*

A Oh, there was no question in our mind, but that they were human and entitled to humane treatment, and I guess we marveled at the German mind that would ... that could produce the Holocaust, although we didn't call it that, and naturally, but the whole episode. In other words, now in Hologoord (spelling) ... now there prisoners were tortured and I doan't believe... these were military prisoners there. The ones that we encountered were all military. Many of them had been taken ~~and~~ as captives in North Africa. They were tortured, and I don't know whether you probably heard the story that some of those that were killed there were used as lampshades. *the sk. 25*

Q Ah, that was in some of the concentration camps, yes.

A And we looked very closely at the lampshades if we could discover that. I am not sure that we were actually looking at human flesh. Dried, but they were things such as... that you would expect to have been tatoood on a person's body, depicted on the lampshades.

Q The lampshades in the P O W camp?

A No, this is in Haologoord (spelling again?).

Q the lampshades...?

A But anyway, the... what I was trying to reveal to you was that any deaths ~~xxxx~~ at that camp were on a very low level ~~and~~ count as compared with Dachau... with hundreds of dead.

Q The focus was entirely different.

A Yes, the focus was entirely different.

Q Were there any Germans present? Outside of the SS you had seen in...

A Live Germans?

Q Live Germans.

A Don't believe I saw... there may have been a few who were in custody of American troops. That is not a very ~~good~~ ^{vivid} recollection.

Q And what about German civilians? Who were...

A Just rank and file.

Q Just rank and file. Your own unit sort of stayed there... Did you speak with any

X German civilians?

A I don't think my command~~er~~ of the German language was very great in those days.

I do recall a line of thinking that was going through our mind about how could the natives have said - as they were quoted as having said - that they didn't know what was going on in the camp. We did discuss that aspect. Particularly, here was this railway train, I don't recall ~~seeing~~ an engine right now, but I mean it must have been 20 cars at least just inside the gate of ~~the~~ compound. It had to have gone through parts of the town in order to get there, anybody who had been even in a second story window of a dwelling that adjoined the railway tracks could have looked into the cars and seen bodies, so we were discussing that angle. It was an improbability that they .. the natives did not know what was going on.

Q What was ^{some of} the... the comments that were made, ^{you} ~~the~~ German wasn't fluent....

A Well, I don't know that we.... You know, we were prohibited X from fraternizing with the populace in those days, so we had

Q Discussions among yourselves?

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A Only among ourselves. We did have troops in the battalion who had a good command of German, that I don't know that I recall any reports now of what they gleaned from conversations.

Q *If you were to* ... reflect upon questions like ... what kind of people would do this? or... what are some of the thoughts you would come up with? What are some of the thoughts you would come up with? If you indeed did reflect on a question like that. *at that time*
Although there were many other things that were imposed.. upon you - - -

Q I am sure it came to mind and I am sure we talked ... it was a little bit shocking, it was a little bit surprising that these people who would not look, that we had dealt with, directly, would stoop to this type of behavior. But I mean when you see the physical evidence, you ... it is pretty hard to refute it, isn't it?

Q Were there any violent incidents? That you remember *two guards, 10 minutes* civilians....?

A I know there must have been a killing of an SS shortly before we arrived in one of those storage sheds that I mentioned to you earlier. We heard noises of a *shuffle* ~~couple~~, and noises of running, and we - in my recollection of today - we saw an inmate come out of one of them. And subsequently we found a dead SS in there, and one of the recollections that I recall was that this SS ... had his ring finger removed and was lying there, as if there had been a ~~dark~~ ring of some description on the finger. And the inmate had relieved him of that. Now whether he also killed him, we did not see.

Q In this type of experience, *- being exposed to these camps* was there any opportunity within the military, to discuss what ... the feelings... the result of having seen it... were there any such opportunities in the military?

A Well, when you use the word opportunities, you naturally.... We had bull sessions, and we referred to them, and probably at mealtimes, we would discuss the events of the day and reflect on them - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ probably there were other opportunities that I mentioned to you, that we often moved in trucks, of large numbers, and on those occasions you might be relatively immobilized by being a passenger in the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck, and don't have anything else to do but to observe what is going on about you or what you just witnessed, so those kind of occasions occurred all the time.

Q You have any recollections of any specific kinds of conversations that...you may have been involved in, ^{http://collections.ushmm.org} ~~and ...~~ *...relating to experiences*

A I think I have already mentioned those that the Battalion Intelligence Officer, which we called an S-2, who was a close friend, and he was with me...- at least the two of us walking most of the time together making these observations, but I don't recall ... uh that there was a third or fourth individual. There may have been, I just don't recall it. But we did discuss and reflect on this, I am sure, for a long time.

Q Were you married at the time?

A Oh yeah, yes. I had been married in '42.....

Q Children?

A Not at that time, no.

Q Did you write home about your experiences?

A I am sure I did, I wrote every day, so I can't just put my hand on the letters..

Q But you have no specific memory of writing about these Dachau experiences as opposed to any other...?

A No, I would say in all probability I did write about the Dachau experience.

Q And when you got home, did you talk to anybody about it?

A As a matter of fact, this is the first in-depth conversation I have had about it, although Mrs. Freeman joined me in Germany in '46, and we had occasion to...

Believe it or not, on a subsequent trip over there, I was stationed in Munich, and to play golf at Dachau, a golf course was maintained by American Forces, which was something she did once a week -- maybe something like that --so, on one of these occasions, I..

Q At Dachau? In the area of Dachau?

~~Ex~~ A. Yes, it wasn't far from the compound. You could see the compound from part of this fairway, and I... we went there on a visit, and I sort of explained what I knew. At that time, I had been back, as I mentioned to you before - several times. So I was able to be a little bit more informative. And strangely enough, we picked up a booklet there and I must apologize that I have not been able to find it, but surely it was a _____ of some description and you should be able to come upon this type of booklet.

Q Like the description of the golf course you described is something I have not heard before. Was that golf course ^{http://collections.ushmm.org} in use all the time? ^{Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection} You came back, say in '46, and you used it... Was it pretty well maintained? So obviously somebody had been looking after it, and it was being used?

A I feel confident that it had existed for some years. I did not know about it until the ... the period when my wife went there and played. I had not heard of it before then.

Q Was it called the Dachau Golf Course?

A Yes, it was called the Dachau Golf course. It could have been built with slave labor.

Q When... you say this is the first time you have spoken in-depth about the experience, have you spoke to your wife about it? At any time? The letters you indicated

A I feel confident I may have ~~mentioned it~~ *mentioned it*

Q ...but beyond the correspondence?

A Well, I told you about taking her there and sort of a cook's tour of that, and I had briefed her ahead of time what ... we were going to encounter, hoping that it wouldn't be too repulsive.

Q Then, having returned to the states, was there any resurgence of that type of conversation? At any time? Or with any contact with your friends? Children, your children?

A Uh... all three of our children were with us when I was subsequently stationed in Munich. I won't say... no, I just don't recall any.

Q Did you watch the Holocaust TV show?

A I certainly watched parts of it, I can't say... I am not that much of a television viewer that I watched the whole thing.

Q And do you feel that there is anything that people can learn from the Holocaust TV show? If they watched parts of it, or from this kind of information that we are gathering now? Do you think that...

A I am sure that it is very ... there is a very valuable lesson to be learned from it. I am not sure that we can really anticipate what a nation's leaders might cause (?) if you are thinking in terms of some of the things that have been going on in Africa. Recently. Uganda comes to mind. And I think there are probably other situations around the world ...that maybe that we don't... that I don't perceive very much out of the newspaper. We hear lots about what China may have done, and it's cultural

- A revolution, things like that. It's hardly really to defend against this happening. All we can do is to have a very high level humanitarian creed, which we hope that all nations will subscribe to.
- Q Do you think that the Holocaust, the events of the Holocaust should be taught in schools? Public schools, religious schools?
- A I don't see why they shouldn't.
- Q Do you think it has a place in the churches?
- A I think for me that might be a little more difficult. Political science type subject area, although certainly any church that has programs of that type... there is no reason why it shouldn't be. I am a member of the Episcopal Church and I don't know that I ever went into the religious education courses or classes so to speak where we focused on modern history as opposed to ancient.
- Q Do you see the Holocaust as as ... a particular event? As a Jewish problem or a humanitarian problem?
- A Oh, it 's a humanitarian problem.
- Q And do you see anything about the Holocaust that may be a victimization of the Jewish people...separate vicfimization as opposed to the general 11 million, as opposed to the 6 million Jews?
- A I don't think it's defenseable (word?) ... what was done in the interest of quote purifying quote the German population. To me there was no excuse for this type of program.
- Q Do you consider yourself a religious person?
- A Yes.
- Q At the time of your experiences/ were you religious?
- A Oh yes. I was... I grew up going to Sunday School and taking a part in church activities, even in college, etc.
- Q Episcopalian, all the way through?
- A Yes. Well, I would say... my mother had been a Presbyterian... of the Presbyterian Church, very close to home, and occasionally we went there, but mostly Episcopalian.

Q Do you remember at the time - when you were involved at Dachau -when you did see any ^{with}
... did any of your religious feelings come to the fore at that time? How could this
have happened how could God have let something like this happen? Do you remember...

A My views on God permitting, or prohibiting, I would say - preventing something like
this are pragmatic. I am not sure that he can really command the ill out of us, so
to speak, ~~X~~If it is there, it is going to surface. No, I do not recall now that there
was a religious aspect that came out of my revulsion of seeing what I did.

Q Do you religious feelings have any effect on your attitude towards the Nazis.... like...

A No, I don't think I have forgiven them. ^{forgiveness}

Q Forgiven them for what?

A Well, the atrocities primarily, but, we will say - leading, leading the German populace
to the situation where war was produced and then of course getting this vast amount of
power, permitted such things as concentration camps and the holocaust.

Q The World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors ends today in Israel. Have you seen any
of the films that were shown in the evening by David Schoenberg by public TV?
11:30 to 12 at night for the last few nights?

A If you knew my daily schedule, you wouldn't ask...

Q I apologize for asking... that question... that probably sounds absurd to you.

A I am sure I would have liked to have.

Q But you haven't see it.

A No, I have not.

Q Are you familiar with the World Gathering of the Holocaust Survivors?

A Yes.

Q And how do you see the impact of such a gathering? In the light of your experience at
Dachau, and in the world situation today?

A I guess my simplest answer would be ... that I probably don't know enough about it.
^{to speak} Intelligently on that question. I certainly am not unsympathetic to the idea at all.
If they have a laudable purpose, whatever... Well, first of all I think maybe
publication of the event of the Holocaust might prevent it ever having it happen again
in civilized nations. I am not so sure about the Uganda-type situations or even

A or even/Salvador... I am not sure ^{http://collections.ushmm.org} is happening down there. But, if that ^{Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection} is the only by-product, I think that is a plus. At the same time, they might, they might have, that is the leaders of this movement, might have a much higher purpose in mind. To that end

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XM

long break

Q Reviewing a little of the philosophy ...of the process of how the Holocaust was able to take place, specifically the final solution which was pointed at the Jews, making the Jew appear as vermin and ^{the userer} ~~/XXXX~~ and the Middle-Age concept which was very often considered in Offberg's _____ and turning neighbor against neighbor, and friend against friend, do you see a possibility of that happening today?

A I am afraid in my mind it is possible.

Q Do you see any events today, political events that could lead up to such a disintegration of majority once again? Jews specifically. Look at the oil situation and things that are happening in now/in the Middle East, etc. Any political events that you could think of that would

A Direction.... directed toward a group because of race or religious ...?

Certainly we hear about episodes ; hopefully they are just small ones, nothing on the magnitude of the Holocaust, against Jews around the world. I mean from time to time, but I don't recall any recent situations, but I do believe that you will find ~~x~~ ... we will say emotions dictating violence ... violent situations, take the antagonism against the generation _____ of energy by nuclear reaction. This gets entirely out of hand.

I think the resistance to the Viet Nam War, the events got entirely out of hand. From the standpoint ... rather than ^{other than} trying to convince people by peaceful means

or argumentation, why... we see all sorts of weird type of actions taken to cause the well... the parties to follow the thinking of those - the perpetrators say...

But, from the purely religious opposition, yet I do not profess to know what all is going on. What you might perceive for example.

Q In the light of the anti-semitic outbreaks that we have seen in

Q national.... with the bombing of synagogues in France, in BELgium now, in New York, Brooklyn, etc..where does this leave us? As far as prevention and deterrent? If this type of thing escalates? How do you see that you, as a person in the Episcopalian church, or I whatever church or religion I accept, to do something about this?

A I really have serious doubts that the outbreak that you speak of as far as the U S is concerned would get to that magnitude, so that we ^{need} to do anything more than training our children to be respectable humans, regardless of race, etc, or religion, I do feel that there can be in some of the Arab nations much more violent activities. I just don't know what we could do about that. It is so ingrained, the opposition or hatred. Maybe even fear I am not sure. that I am not surprised at almost anything. that I read about. Yet, the taking of large numbers of Jewish people and subjecting them to slavery or death even by the Arab nations really seems to be ^{not} something ~~that~~ what I would expect. In this century.

Q What is your feeling about Israel ... its needs.... to be or not to be.

A Well, of course, I am... I think they are a brilliant group, I think they have demonstrate their fortitude , their ability to take command of a situation, I just... I sometime wonder at this, they seem to have so many skills. I read about their horrible inflation that they have over there, and I just wonder in my own mind... What causes it? Is it the price of oil? What is it that really produces that situation? That seems to be the only thing that they haven't mastered yet. I am very appreciative of what the Israelis have done, and commend them highly.

Q You gave us an idea of your view about the general view - your political view as far as your questioning as to what have we learned.....your answer to my question ... was the learning process and what's going on in Cambodia, Bangladesh or with China with the cultural revolution, etc. Therefore, do you see a need to really.... I will go back to my initial question, of teaching children about this past history - and including all the other events that are mentioned before _____ within a family framework and a religious involvement? In addition to the academic problem? Personalize...?

A Well, I certainly feel... I think in our country ... I don't say it is true with all countries that we havethe parent has ceased to be as much of a trainer and educator as when I grew up. I think this is extremely unfortunate and I am not so sure it exists in families you know as much as I perceive it. So many of the unfortunate events that we read about in the papers, on a daily basis, are due to inadequate parental supervision and control as the child comes of a reasoning age and/responsible becomes for his acts, etc. Now, I do... I think there is definitely a place where we teach the humanitarian principle and I think it should be taught. I mean there is no reason why they shouldn't be ^{principally} be / taught in Church. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ To use the Holocaust as an example, what will happen if we don't observe these rules , naturally would have

Q Is there anything else you would like to share with us.. that we haven't covered? ^{A place}

In relation to your experiences...?

Some other area?

A I can ' t think of anything specific. I would like to say - if you think of anything.

t I am not sure whether you have interviewed anyone, you or your co-workers have interviewed x with respect to Dachau, but I ... but after the war, after the war in Europe, and I guess after WW II, worldwide, I was relocated to a unit, Third Army Headquarters, which at that time was in Selen (spelling) Bavaria, and I do know that quite a lot of history was drawn up about Dachau, that will probably flesh out some of the areas that I am a little weak as far as memory is concerned. Some of the more details that you seek, well, I suggest that you consider calling on the appropriate U S Army Historical Office, or what have you to help you acquire these details.

Q We have already published - republished - a book that was put out by the Army. ^{and} Dachau, but what is so important here is your personal Reaction

A Yes, I perceive that.

Q That is ^{relevant} ... to let you know that your personal reaction is what will make up history. That's what we are looking for now. On a one to one basis.

A I would like to add in that context, and I feel confident that all of the individuals in my unit who witnessed these events at Dachau, and I am ~~not~~ ^{not} so sure but what others

-- other than ^{new to that} that Battery that was in charge there -- found occasion to go there, and

A see it, we were of course curious - yes. But, I think the idea was to see first-hand the deplorable situation, and not just hear about it. I think that the views that I have expressed with respect to revulsion and deploring the fact that such a thing could happen was shared by everyone in my Battalion that came upon these scenes.

Q Do you see that experience as having any effect upon you did in later life? Commitment, etc...Involvement?

A I am sure it must have ... and I am sure in 1945, shortly thereafter, it had much more effect. Probably taken the form of strong antagonism against the Germans in general. As I mentioned before, we were prohibited from fraternizing and I just do not recall in the next group of days and weeks ~~xxx~~ after that event that I had much direct contact with the Germans. As we left Munich and headed East toward Austria in the ensuing days, why.... you may have read of this, there were just literally thousands of German soldiers who surrendered, and ~~who~~ ^{we} were using the Autobahn as their main access or approach... they were on both sides of the road, they had thrown down their arms, they had their hands over their heads as they walked down the road to indicate that they surrendered. There were so many of them that we just could not ... the American forces could not provide what we called escort guards for these people. They had... we had to use their own officers to help control them. You may. We took over a large airfield at Rosenheim, and it was made into a P W camp, and the number that was there was over 100,000, that were eventually kept there.

Q How did you feel about needing to protect them rules of military government...? YOU needed to?

A To protect them from my own forces?

Q From your own forces... or...

A I don't think we had any problems with respect... ^{to that} I think our people were observing the Geneva convention rules so to speak very well. I don't recall any violent episodes against the the military persons, when we were there.

Q lots of self-control.

A Yes, self control.

Q I want to thank you very very much for sharing this information with us.

A Glad to help.