

Dr. Richard Schley

Interviewer: E. Jacobs

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- Q. Just for our sake, if you are going to be talking about a camp, if you can remember, as you give the testimony, say the name of the specific camp, <sup>that you're</sup> ~~before~~ <sup>hand</sup> and I'll try to remind you .... When did you first hear about the camps? Were there any rumors filtering back through the lines about such things?
- A. I don't recall hearing things. We were pretty busy because we were a combat outfit and nobody knew where they were. You knew that your daily objective was thus and so. ~~Exactly~~ I had wounded to look after, both ours and Germans, and the evacuation of the wounded after we treated them and then keeping my men together...the general day-to-day duties of a combat medic. in the battallion aid station infantry.
- Q. Did you hear any rumors whatsoever of any <sup>German</sup> atrocities?
- A. No. No.
- Q. None whatsoever? Alright, then what you expected to see at the camp isn't really a relevant question. (Interruption at door)
- Q. Was there any mood of the unit as you came outside of the camp or did you just stumble upon it or....I'm just trying to get a general feel of what it was like as you approached the camp.
- A. Well, as I as the battallion surgeon, you conceive of an operation of an infantry battallion. We would have an objective to attack. The medics bring up the rear and pick up the wounded from the company sent into combat. I would be "Tail End Charlie" as far as getting into one of these places was concerned. I usually would hear about them from the boys who came back through the aid station, either wounded, or who came by for medicines or what not, who had been in the combat outfits who had first gone into these camps.
- Q. What did you hear from them if you can remember?
- A. Well, the Audrif (?) one was the first one that we came to. I'm afraid they never supplied Medics with maps. We were supposed to just trail behind everyone else, so I didn't keep up with the maps. I think it was in Bavaria but I'm not sure. In the town of Audrif I set up my aid station and I heard about this operation that had gone ~~on~~ on outside the town, several miles outside town. The thing that really astounded me was, and I think that they were not lying about it, the people ~~of~~ of the town were pretty simple country folks. I don't think they had any idea of what was going on.

Q. You honestly think they didn't know?

A. I really don't. I think it was the same thing, thinking about it, that we don't know what goes on down at Reidsville, unless you happen to know someone who was a guard there or something. There's no way in the world for them to know what was going on, and as an example of this, when I went into a town I was the only doctor in town so I'd have to deliver babies who were born to people. Lots of times we'd have a firefight and artillery rounds and bombs had fallen into the town and a lot of people ~~went into labor~~ <sup>went into labor.</sup> Later I had to deliver babies and all that kind of business since I was the only doctor in the countryside. But there was a girl doctor in Audrif, a very nice person, a dedicated doctor and she and I were working together on some of these problems that had come up medically because we usually had to see if we could supply medical materials if they were short. So the news came back about these things and I was giving her a hard time about it. I said, "This is a frightful thing." She literally didn't know anything about it. As an example, I don't know whether John told you about this or not but our Commanding Officer took the burgermeister of this town out to see this thing. He was so upset he came home and blew his brains out. Did John tell you that?

Q. Yes. And we had heard it from other testifiers. What did you hear from the people that you were giving her such a hard time about. Do you remember?

A. Well, they just said that the emaciated people and the inmates of this place, when they heard the Americans were coming, had overpowered the guards and killed all the guards and threw their bodies in the wells and all sorts of things like that. They were so delighted to be free and that was about the extent of it.

Q. Would you remember your date or approximate date of arrival at Audrif?

A. I would say, in retrospect, that it was either late February or ~~early~~ March of '45..

Q. Can you give me a description of Audrif as you <sup>remember it when you</sup> walked into it? Any sights, sounds or even smells <sup>or if you talked to any of the prisoners</sup> as you walked into it.

A. Actually, it had been pretty well cleaned up before I got there. I had a lot of medical duties. It was just a barbed wire enclosure with some huts around.

Q. Did you tour any of the camps or barracks or anything? As detailed a description as possible.

A. I did not at Audrif. I did at the other ones later on.

Q. At Mauthausen?

A. At Mauthausen and Geusen(?).

Q. If you want to could you now go into what you saw at each of them?

A. Well, I was thinking particularly at Geusen. See the same thing happened at both of these. I was one of the first medical officers that got in there but the combat outfits had been in there prior to this and had taken over from a military standpoint before I ever got into that. Geusen, which is the one which I think these pictures were taken...

Q. Yes, it's where these pictures were taken.

A. Was where I think most of the inmates ~~XXXX~~, according to the information I got from those individuals pictures there, a Dr. Kaminsky, I think.

Q. Right.

A. I've written his name back there, who I believe was either Polish or Czech.

Q. Yes, you have other polish doctors written on the back here,

A. He told me, he spoke good English. He said there had been an Englishman who had been in with the group and that most of the people in there were professors, doctors, lawyers and higher educated people who were brought into the place and .... (both talking at once) two of the barracks.

Q. If you can tell me what you saw there.

A. You can see in the pictures there that they were frame buildings and I spent most of my time around this doctor's quarters because he had a lot of medical materials there. He had been chosen apparently because he was a pathologist to make sections of the bodies that exemplified certain disease processes when he did post mortems. He said that he had done about 5,000 post mortems in the years that he had been there because he said that these people, despite their relatively high station in life had been used as common laborers in digging these tunnels back into the chalk cliffs. They were building these underground airplane factories. It was an underground Messerschmidt factory. From a pathological standpoint what had happened to most of these people was that they had gotten silicosis (?) and silicosis is, of course, an inflammation of the lungs caused by aspiration of the limestone chalk from these cliffs, and when they had become debilitated to the point where their resistance to infection was very low, and they were obviously malnourished, they would get TB and when they were incapable of working, the SS would come in and line them up and inject <sup>I think he said</sup> 2.5 cc of Benzine into the heart <sup>which would</sup> ~~and~~ kill them right away. He said that while he had been there, in the three or four years that he had been there he had done over 5,000 autopsies and that the Germans had planned to have a SS Military Medical Academy where they were going to send the men who wanted to be doctors in the SS to this military school and this

man's expertise was such that he had made the sections of say a liver that had cirrosis or a lung that had been particularly diseased or a heart that had been damaged by -----(?) and he had made these sections which as I recall from my experience at medical school and that I've seen at medical museums were as fine a work as I've seen anywhere and maybe one of the reasons this guy had pretty good treatment was that they utilized this. But the buildings were neat and clean and kept in good shape in the particular places that I went. We didn't have an awful lot of time, We were going very rapidly. Now I spent more time at Geusen and at Mathausen, these were very close together, they were no basic differences. I guess the two prison camps were practically next to each other. I guess the overflow from one took over the other.

Q. What did you see at Mathausen?

A. They were just about the same.

Q. You said they were relatively clean, or well kept,

A. Yes, they were. What I mean, a medical laboratory would certainly be kept clean. I think they'd demand that of the people who were working there.

Q. Did you see any actual prisoners ~~there~~ barracks where the laborers went back to?

A. I did later on around Lintz. I saw <sup>some</sup> ~~one~~ of the barracks that the Germans called Farmenschlager (?). This is a place where they keep foreigners, anyone who is a foreigner and they would have these people in there and we, see the 6th Waffen SS army ~~would~~ with Seth Deitrick who was the head of it, they ~~would~~ were probably THE elite German fighting outfit, they had spearheaded the Bulge through the Ardennes and they had surrendered to us at Lintz and we put them in the same enclosures they had housed prisoners in before, the Geforeigners (?). So we made them clean this place up and we had a little bit of trouble getting them to, these SS soldiers, they thought they were something and we put them to work the same way they put the prisoners to work. They didn't like it much. Of course we didn't go around shooting any of them or blowing their heads off. We didn't find it was necessary, but sometimes we had to have some other methodology to get some work out of them.

Q. I hate to sound gruesome or anything but this is just because we're trying to double check our historical data. In any of the camps, I can't remember where Mr. Baker said his pictures were from, possibly, possibly Audrif. Did you ever see any open pits where they had just dumped bodies, any gas chambers, any of the barracks you had seen, any type of those things.

- A. I vaguely ~~remember~~ recall being told that this was where they had cremated some of the bodies but I didn't see any/<sup>great</sup>grusome things. Of course Auschwitz and Dachau and all the rest of these places....John went on to Dachau later ~~and~~ as I think he told you.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Well, of course that's been much more publicized. It was much bigger. These ones were ~~one~~ on a/<sup>very</sup>small scale compared to the others.
- Q. What did the prisoners do when they saw you...this doctor and his friends or any of them at Audrif. Were they, do you think, over the elation of liberation by the time you moved up?
- A. Well, they were of course relieved to be freed but I don't think they had too hard a time. As I say, they were working in a capacity that they were doing work that the Germans wanted done so therefore I imagine they were treated a little bit better than the other ones were.
- Q. Did you talk to any of the laborers or did you mainly just talke to these doctors who were working in the....
- A. Well, of course, I didn't speak Polish. I could speak German and French . And this, the, he and I communicated in ~~German~~ English and German and French rather than having to depend on Polish which I didn't understand. I learned how to say "Yakshemash" (?) and then they'd say, "Dobshedobshe" but that was about the extent of my Polish.
- Q. Did you have any specific orders concerning the treatment of any survévors that you came in contact with?
- A. No. Because that wasn't within my scope. I wasn't there as a doctor. I was there to look after our troops.
- Q. Do you know what happened to ~~some of the doctors~~ this doctor or some of the laborers at the camp? Were they allowed to go free? Were they processed in some form?
- A. I don't have any idea. I don't have any idea. In retrospect I, what happened to us...they quickly found duties for us to perform in our capacity as occupation troops because the Russians were right next door, the Czechs were right next door...all with Communist troops within spitting distance of us and we had.....
- Q. That's all right. Did the condition of any of the people you saw, you know you have a picture here of...
- A. Yes, they were emaciated.

Q...Emaciated man. Was he one of the worst off?

A. I thought he was a pretty good example of how scrawny and scraggly they were but I mean, he wasn't dying on his feet.

Q. Did you see any people who fit that description?

A. They all looked about like that.

Q. Did it make it difficult for you to think of them as humans after you had seen the kind of condition they were in because of their work?

A. Well, not really, but for combat troops who have been through combat and have seen , for months and years, your friends, the guys you're soldiering with dead and dying and blown to pieces, you are ~~inured~~ inured to human suffering to a great extent. If you didn't you'd have gone berserk. So that I'm sure that we as combat troops were a lot less affected than you would be or the average citizen would be who has never been through any foolishness like that. I mean combat is an experience that no human being should ever have to go through. It's a dehumanizing experience. You're an animal/ You have literally regressed to the animal state and the fact that these people were poor unfortunates ~~was~~ tough but you didn't get wrapped up in politics much.

Q. Yes, we've come across that ~~but~~, some people did say they saw it as different from combat because these people weren't allowed to fight back and they were subjugated and these things but then other people say, like you did, that after seeing so much that stumbling onto the camp really wasn't going to shock you to your boots after seeing everything you had seen in the service.

A. You knew it was tough and you knew it was frightful but you, as I say, in retrospect, if I came upon it today it would certainly disgust me and upset me a lot more than it did at the time.

Q. Were there any guards left. You had hinted at this earlier, when you reached the camp..with Mauthausen or Audirf..if you can be specific?

A. Most of the guards had been done away with pretty well. Beat to death.

Q. This is at Audirf or...?

A. Both places. All places. Some had managed to escape but those who had lingered and those who had been grabbed hold of, I never saw them, except in the bodies.

Q. So there weren't really that many walking around then but you had mentioned that you had some SS, or that they were.....

A. The Waffen SS in contradistinction to the SS, who were in charge of the camps SS were different, supposedly a different breed of cat. I understand that there is less and less distinction made the more and more is known about it but combat troops are combat troops and I saw all kinds of combat troops do all kinds of things that wouldn't be acceptable to discuss at your dining room table. I mean one of my medics who was ..should never have been in the medics..in the first place he

was a forty year old man, which seemed like a real old man at that time to me, well he was an aid man and he had a red cross on his forehead and a sniper had shot him right through the red cross. That did not happen much but it did happen this time. And the individual who we thought was the sniper came out and surrendered when his ammo gave out. Well, he was done away with on the spot and we didn't take any prisoners for about three days afterward because the whole outfit was upset about this boy being shot when we honored their medics. Our medics worked together a lot of times in close fighting, we'd work right along with them.

Q. Were there any orders different concerning the treatment of the Waffen SS versus the regular Wehrmacht? Were they under any tighter security or anything like that?

A. Yes. They were. As I say, we put the Waffen SS in the same type kazen (?) that these people were in, with the charged barbed wire and everything else.

Q. How did your superiors or your fellow servicemen treat these Waffen SS that were in the camp, I mean....

A. American troops did not perpetrate any cruelty against helpless individuals. I mean, if they were shooting at you we would do away with them, I would say, under ordinary circumstances as best we could but no one would be cowardly enough in a combat outfit to do that.

Q. What were your own behavioral feelings about what ~~kind~~ kind of people could do this. How could you rationalize ~~how~~ how someone could knowingly reduce a man to the state that this guy was in, or, you mentioned that your doctor did 5,000 autopsies while he was there.

Q. How did you rationalize how someone could do that?

A. I didn't try to rationalize it. I knew <sup>who</sup> we were fighting and I knew what had gone on apparently. I had read enough because this was common knowledge from way back when before we ever went into the war that they were doing frightful things to the Jews and a lot of other people and the Catholics and the literati and the Kateen Forrest thing at the time was, of course, that was perpetrated by the Russians but the Russians initially blamed it on the Nazis.

Q. They blamed the Nazis for almost anything.

A. It was the pot calling the kettle black.

Q. So, did you just automatically consider them as something other than human or other than American persons..

A. Do you mean the SS?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, I'll tell you one of the funny things that happened, though, that made me have a different feeling about the Waffen SS. I came to the gate of this place,



Q. Audrif or Mauthausen?

A. No, No. This was in Lintz in the Kazan in which we put the 6th Waffen SS. We had them in several. I mean there was a whole flock of them. And I went into this place and this young Oberleutnant who was about the same rank as I met me at the door in a very smart military salute and he said, "Captain, I've been assigned to be your guide here at our camp." And I said, "Well, thanks very much but I think I can get along alright but I would like to know where you learned to speak American." And he said, "Well, I was an exchange student at St. James school in Maryland. And I knew a lot of people who had gone there and a lot of the prep school teachers who had taught me I knew had gone to this school and I said, "How did you like Lukie Fleming who taught you French there?" And he said, "Well he certainly was a little ~~xxxxx~~ dirty name" and I agreed with him and he and I chatted about this and he was just like an American kid. He had been over here for two or three years in Prep school and he had gone back and gotten into the SS. He had been wounded nine times on the Russian front. He had been real clean cut, had all sorts of decorations and his 7 or 8 ~~wounds~~ stripes in which he had been shot to pieces several times. And one soldier admires another who did a good job. Now, and for the most part except for the Maumadie (?) massacre and things like that that are blown up terrifically and I think if things were known that any army has things like that happen. Another person that I ran into there, this guy was as sick as a cat, I went into his place and these boys told me there's a sick officer in here and I went in to see him. He was a 34 year old lieutenant general.

Q. In the SS?

A. In the SS. The Waffen SS. Which is phenomenal for someone to be that rank at that age. And I went in and he had shaking chills and about 106 degree fever and between his chattering teeth he told me that <sup>he'd been in</sup> ~~that~~ in the Crimea, that's where they, when Hitler at the battle of Stalin grad, I watched it on "The Big Battles" the other night.. Hitler had split his army. The war would have been very different if Hitler had let his Wermacht officers run it. And had sent his group down into the Crimea to take the Plumetze (?) Oil Fields and everything else and at the Battle of Sevastophle (?) this man had been in command of one of the big outfits that had gone into there. Well down in the Crimea, of course, that's tropics and he had caught Malaria down there. So, from his description of this thing he, I felt that this was probably what he had and when I asked him he said he had had Malaria and they had no drugs so I went back to my aid station and found.. when we left for combat we had no idea where we were going.. to the Pacific or the Atlantic so I took two drug chests along, one for one and one for the other and of course, I had no use for the malarial drugs so I had



an antimalaria drug and gave it to him and of course, that controlled his malaria and he was very grateful. In fact he gave me all of his medals because he said a lot of the boys had come around and taken all the medals away from them, we had a lot of American troops there. And he would like me to have them since I had helped him. Which was a very human gesture I thought.

Q. Do you think you would have felt differently toward him if you had known that they had been in charge of some of these camps per se?

A. As I say, the Waffen SS had nothing to do with camps. They were an elite military outfit. Very different. I've got a lot of books on that if you want to read some of them sometime. There's a good....I don't have it here, it's at home, but it's a ~~big picture~~ book on the SS. It's a big picture thing, and it's fascinating the way they ~~were~~ were all cutting one another's throats at the top. See, the SS started out as the SA..

Q. Right, the Brown Shirts under Hitler.

A. That was Himmler's outfit. Then Himmler branched off from that and started the SS as his own little group and he won and they did away with the SA because they were really a bunch of street bums. And he made of this outfit, he utilized some of the ones to do guard duty in these places for the type guy that would do guard duty in a camp where he is, his psychopathic type personality suits him to do the frightful things they did, would be no good in the most part as a combat officer.

Q. Right. And it's the ones in the camps that we're most concerned about, like the death's head units and things.

A. The Death's head unit was not relegated to the camps. They were the Waffen SS.

Q. Getting back to some of our questions here, did you see any German civilians around the camps?

A. No.

Q. Not even at Audrif other than the....

A. No. I don't believe they were permitted around the camps.

Q. They weren't told to tour the camps or help clean.....German civilians?

A. Oh, you mean our outfit?

Q. Yes.

A. We usually used, well, as I said, I didn't see this. I did not see it. We made the SS troops clean up the camp.

Q. How did they react having to clean up?

A. They didn't like it worth a damn. In fact, I ran into one Major SS who was a very hard looking character and I was responsible, of course, for the health of these people. And the kitchen was filthy, ~~was~~ which was contrary to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (German phrase?) which the Germans, everything must be spit and polish. So I would come by there and run an inspection on their mess and it just looked like the devil and so the Major in charge would show me around. Three days in a row I told him what to do and he wouldn't do ~~it~~ anything so I went down the road where there was a roadblock where the Russians were and I struck up a friendship with one of these little Russian lieutenants and we had swapped some things that we had...I think I had a Mickey Mouse watch or something and he gave me some sort of things that he had and we became sort of friends. He could speak a little German and so could I. So I told him I wanted him to do me a favor. And so I went down and marched through the camp with this little Russian lieutenant and told him to take the Major and march him through the camp and out the door and he just took him down the way and put him another place. I mean he didn't take him down and blow his head off or anything but it was most effective. The next morning I came back and you could use all these pots for mirrors. They didn't want to be put in the hands of the Russkies in other words.

- Q. After seeing the camp, this may be sort of a wrong question, did you feel that any of the people, the Majors, the ones that..other than the Waffen that you may have come upon or any civilians, do you think they had any responsibility or like that girl, you said they really don't think they knew what was going on. Especially if Audriff was outside of a town.
- A. I did not feel and I don't think I was overly sympathetic with anybody over there, that the people actually knew. I don't think that they knew the extent of what went on. Now I'm not saying that some of them mightn't have known but I don't think that the average guy who if he found out about a thing like this would want his kids to know about it because it was shameful and they have great pride in their background and military ability. In their ability as hard workers, and it just was contrary to what I feel anybody who has the basic tenants of being a good citizen, and a lot of them were very fine citizens, would do or would put up with.
- Q. Did anybody have any, you know, in the unit, like ask to be relieved or be overcome by what they saw at some of these camps at Audrif or Mathausen, you know coming upon the people. Everybody was pretty much hardened?
- A. Combat infantry outfits, as I say, they're pretty tough characters. <sup>The ones who</sup> ~~then you~~ have survived combat and they weren't shaken by it.
- Q. Do you think the chaplain had a more active role at this time. After combat and then still seeing some of these atrocities?
- A. No. Chaplains looked after the dead. I don't think the chaplains had much affect on them.

- Q. How did some of your superiors react, coming from these camps where evidently these people had been starved en masse and as you had mentioned, had labored to the point where they were so weak they would catch any disease. Did they react different from the rank and file?
- A. No I don't think so. Again, they had duties to perform which were all occupying and they might have expressed opinions about this thing but it made us all feel that what we were doing was certainly right and justified but it didn't make us want to do the same thing to anybody else because Americans just couldn't feel that way.
- Q. Did you tell anybody about the camps? Did you write letters home or <sup>you took some</sup> ~~show~~ these pictures here, ~~did you~~ <sup>show</sup> pictures to anybody back in the states about what you had seen?
- A. I could tell from the magazines that we got that it was being very well done over there, back in the states. The trouble with the pictures that I took, I just wish I had taken thousands more now because it became so much a matter of daily course that you weren't shaken by it. You weren't too much impressed with it as being anything different that what you had been through.
- Q. Did you feel that it was important that the people, you know your wife and children and relatives or whatever, ~~did you~~ that they know that such things as these camps existed? Was it important to you to let them know that they were there, you know, for any reason?
- A. No, as I said, that was all over the papers, all over the magazines, all over the movies, the news and what not so, funny I told about it as a matter of my having been aware of it and having been the doctor in a few of these places where I had seen these things happen.
- Q. Did you watch the "Holocaust" Tv show when it was on by any chance?
- A. Um hum.
- Q. What was your reaction? To that and to some of the things you had seen?
- A. Well, it was pretty much, of course, with 35 years having interceded, it certainly shook me a lot more than it would have at the time. It recalled what I had seen. Of course the scenes of the actual killings and that sort of thing business would shake anybody for God's sake...women and children and old men. It was awful.
- Q. Do you think there's anything people can learn from this? Do you think it should be taught in classes and things like that?
- A. The thing that is disillusioning to me is, that the people who were fighting in the last war are now ~~now~~ our allies.
- Q. In terms of West Germany?
- A. Well, in terms of West Germany and Japan. Contrare the Russians who were our allies in the last war. So that it's such a melange that you've got to change

your concept of things so that I feel that the Holocaust being repeatedly repeated let's say, is not doing our relations of our people much good when we are going to, if we have to go to war, God forbid, we're going to have to be depending on the children of the people who perpetrated some of these frightful things.

Q. So then you still sometimes hold a grudge against, I don't know if that's the right way to....

A. I think that it's something that although it's obvious that it's not going to be forgotten, it's the horrors of war again and when you think of what happened in our bombings of the big cities, my brother was a pilot, a bomber, and when I heard the stories of 50,000 people being cooked in Hamburg in one night from a raid and, of course, all this stuff they bring up about the Japanese...

Q. The Japanese fire things were even worse.

A. Hiroshima and burning Tokyo. I don't like to quote this ape Sherman but War is Hell. He was certainly right and it's a frame of mind that the combat soldier has to get into. It's a frame of mind that I know you don't want me philosophizing on your tape.

Q. Let me just change it over while we're on.....

Okay, go ahead, you were saying about the frame of mind that....

A. That a man, to be convinced that he has to put his life on the line for his friends, for his family, when he is going to fight with the people who did great harm to and probably were the reason for some of ~~the~~ his friends having been killed is a peculiar state but it's a state that has gone on from the beginning of history.

Q. Just the switching of sides...

A. Switching of sides. It's all political. And if you look at it from the geopolitical standpoint it's understandable from a historical standpoint but the conclusion that everybody always reaches is that war doesn't accomplish anything. So that the idea and ideal of something like the United Nations is great but what's happened to the United Nations? The United Nations, at its inception, became a Communist tool and it is a Communist tool now.

Q. Don't you feel that liberating some of these people that you took pictures of made your experiences worth something? That you freed them from the atrocities that another people were committing upon them?

A. I didn't feel personally responsible for any of these. I thought it was great. You read about it and, all you had to read was "War and Remembrance" which I'm sure you've read. The elation of these people was obvious and easy to understand. Well, the elation of the combat troops when the war was over was fine because all through combat you didn't know from one minute to the

next whether you were going to be blown to smithereens or not. And when that's gone on for a long time you have a feeling in the pit of your stomach that is just with you 24 hours a day. It's tough. You become used to it to a degree but when the thing over there was over, of course, I was on my way to make the assault on Japan after that. But when that ended I was in mid ocean on the way back home. I was on the way ostensibly to Japan but we turned around and came back home. That's certainly a human feeling that anyone can understand. You feel that, as John there told you, we liberated over 10,000 British, Scottish and American troops who had been incarcerated for as long as 5 years. I didn't mean to....I'm sure you're not interested in my philosophy.

Q. I'm finding it all interesting but there are certain things that I've got to get covered somewhere along the way here. Did you consider yourself a religious person at the time you were involved with the liberation of these camps or the cleaning up, or whatever you want to call it?

A. I've always considered myself a individual who was brought up in a religious atmosphere, who attended church, who went to a church school. I think, like so many people at college and at medical school you let things sort of lapse.

Q. Slide.

A. And you, but I did not attend a lot of church services there but I've always said my prayers and felt a nearness to God and a faith and I've had a lot of mixed feelings about a lot of things but I <sup>don't think I've</sup> ~~have not~~ deviated much from having religious feelings.

Q. Did you have any doubts about God or religion after seeing some of these camps or horrors about how such a higher being who you put so much trust in could let something like that happen or did you consider it a matter of the course of war.

A. That never had anything to do with..I never let that enter the picture because wars have always been and always will be I'm afraid. I hope against hope that we'll stop having them someday but I don't think that we will and all through history, religious history and otherwise, there have always been frightful things perpetrated and I would like to feel that religions, particularly like the Presbyterian, who feel that everything is foreordained and whatnot is great. I think it's great to feel that way but there's so many things that you can't explain that ~~Explain~~ I've never tried to delve too deeply into it as far as my personal feeling about war and the horrors of it.

Q. Does religion have any affect on your attitude towards forgiving the Nazis?

A. I don't think that I ever forgave the Nazis as such for the frightful things that they perpetrated.

Q. When you say frightful things they perpetrated do you mean things specific to

combat or, could you just expand on that a little?

A. No. Combat was no different fighting against the Nazi or fighting against the Wermacht.

Q. What do you mean by the frightful things that they perpetrated?

A. Well, I think the murder camps and the gassings and taking men, women and children, helpless, hopeless people and destroying life when all that makes life is, from a medical standpoint certainly, is a mysterious marvelous miracle and the human intellect and the human brain is so complex and so beautifully constructed that there's never been anything to resemble it and to destroy it willy-nilly, there's got to be something wrong with the kind of people who would set out on a tract like this and the fact that there were people who could be subverted, I feel, into doing these things is a shaking realization that you come to.

Q. So you basically never really forgave them for that reason.

A. No. Not the people like that.

Q. It's really quite understandable. Did you think your experience, and you mentioned a little bit about this in your philosophy, change any of your political views? Did you become more liberal or more conservative as far as your experiences in the war and in relation to the camps went? That's kind of a broad question.

A. Well, ~~I would say~~ I've always been a fairly conservative individual and I don't think that that would have any significant influence upon my political feelings because I look at politics in terms of the precept that a man, woman, person should have great feelings of personal responsibility which would prevent him from doing the kind of things that...

Q. You have to draw the line somewhere between <sup>him and what his</sup> what his government wanted him to do.

A. I would think so.

Q. Did you consider this, the information that you found afterwards as a primarily a Jewish persecution, did this change your attitude towards the Jews or did you just see it as a general persecution..you listed that most of these people here were polish and the Russians and the Czech..Did you see any particular group singled out?

A. Well, of course I knew that the Jewish people had been the center for Hitler's focus for ill feelings just the way anybody in politics tries to focus the feelings of his people who are being really degraded by a low political mind who is running, something like the Russians. Now the Russians attacked Afghanistan because of so many things within their own country.

Q. That's gone bad.



A. That are going bad and they can concentrate on this and get them away from that so I think that that is the answer as far as...

Q. So really, it's a scapegoating type of thing?

A. But I have Jewish background. My great-grandfather was Jewish and they, I've always felt, ~~and~~ I've always had many, many Jewish friends. And I didn't at the time that this went on, I knew that this had gone on but as I say, most of my experience <sup>was</sup> with these camps where the people who were being persecuted were not Jewish.

Q. More political, professional type? Okay, there's one other thing I want to pick up on. You mentioned that "Holocaust" struck you a lot harder after 35 years. Do you think being removed from the combat situation, you know, day-to-day having not to worry about your own survival made you more sensitive ~~to~~ during your life afterwards to what happened?

A. Very definitely so. You change completely, I hope, from being a complete animal, which you are. For instance, I came back and I was working for a doctor in Savannah while I had my 30 days leave and I was sitting in ~~the~~ window of his office. It was a hot, August day and the windows were open, before air-conditioning. And there was a filling station across the street where they were doing mechanical work and what not and I was interviewing this individual whom I had grown up with who had, I think goofed off during the war and was now, I think he had been in the service for about six weeks and then said he was nervous and was now trying to get on a pension from the government. About this time this man had a little riveting gun over behind and this thing went off brrr-brrr-brrr. It sounded just exactly like a German machine gun. I hit the floor in this office and this guy looked at me ~~and said~~ as if, "what's going on with you?" "Who's attending who?" You'd hear a terrific thunder storm and it'd make you real shaky. Because it sounded so much like artillery.

Q. But all that dissipated and...

A. It does. And you've had bad dreams about things but they gradually go away.

Q. Okay, I'm at the end of my questions. If there's any other thoughts you've had from these or anything else you'd like to add I've got plenty of tape. If there's any other thing you'd like to say something about now's the time.

A. I'm afraid I haven't been very helpful because I haven't had a lot of new ideas about these things.

Q. Any kind of information. We don't have any information that I know of on this camp "Guzen" and basically we're trying to find information. If there's anything that you can remember about that camp. Any buildings that you saw, any people that you talked to, you know, something you may think is unimportant