

Interviewer: S. Shaye
Transcriber: Sue Epstein

Tape badly audible

Q. Let's see now, your full name?

A. I'm Hayden G. Turner.

Q. And your address?

A. 59 Wilkshire (?) Dr., Avondale Estates, Ga. 30002

Q. And your date of birth?

A. 8 Nov. 1916

Q. And what was your age at the time of liberation of the camps?

A. Well, I would have been 29 approximately. I would be 29 that year.

Q. What was your profession at the beginning of the war?

A. I had been a ~~school~~ school teacher and school administrator before Uncle Sam needed another private.

Q. And your present occupation?

A. I'm a retired teacher and also retired from the army reserve, currently working as a life insurance and accident and health insurance salesman.

Q. Did you not say that you put in for a second tour in Korea at the request of ?

A. Well, I was called back to active duty. I had been in the reserve after the end of the second war. After I was released from the service I was released into the reserves. At the time of the warming up of hostilities over there in Korea a number of us who were reservists were called up to active duty (but I didn't want to go)?

Q. What was your military unit during WW II?

A. At the time of the liberation of the camps there I was serving as commanding officer of the 30th Special Services Company, with the 20th corps of Patton's 3rd army.

Q. What was the responsibility of that corps?

A. Well, the 20th corps was the tank corps of Patton's army and had, in the initial breakthrough, been the lead corps of armour that led through and broke through out the peninsula into France proper and then as the war progressed there were times when other corps that were in Patton's army were used. In a variety of

ways but we were still the strike force out in front usually and whatever else was later to follow. I had a special service company which was an interesting creation for the purpose of providing just those things for people when they pulled out of combat temporarily.....ready to go back in again.

Q. What was your rank at the time of liberation?

A. I was a Captain.

Q. Which camp did you liberate?

A. I was not in a liberating unit per se. I was made aware of the fact that a camp.. as I recall called Buchenwald was liberated and that I had a Jeep driver at that time from Memphis, Tennessee, Aaron Weiss, who was very interested from the standpoint that he spoke Yiddish and he thought he'd like to come in to find out what he could.

temporarily very close by

and just gettin gin there and seeing what had transpired if we can.

Q. How soon or how long after the liberation did the two of you enter the camp?

A. we were in within 48 hours. I don't recall just precisely whether it was within 24 hours or 48 hours
sometime near when the sun went down.

Q. The Jeep driver, was he Jewish?

A. he spoke Yiddish.

Q. And you first heard about the camps through him?

A. Well, we had been reading in "Stars and Stripes" and hearing reports that these things were being discovered and were being taken over by American troops. By these things I mean the concentration camps. In this particular case we went in to see this one because this was one of the ones where many of the inmates were still there. Some of the most horrible business . Those that were in a state of
of were still there at the time and still
themselves up in the buildings where the people had done

Q. What did you expect to see there?

A. Well, quite honestly, I had seen some photographs of that, of the first ones that

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we had gone into and were wondering if we would see the same emaciated people dressed in the _____ uniforms with the striped cotton set of clothes

Q. Now, was ~~the~~ it just the two of you who went into the camp?

A. As I recall, there were only two of us.

Q. Do you recall what the mood of the two of you was? At the time you went into the camp?

A. We were, I think, horrorstruck _____ the things we began to see

Q. Was _____ any different from your friends?

A. Well, obviously I couldn't justifiably say what his mood was. He and I first went through some of the buildings where the people were required to stay and were told that..by a man who had been an inmate there who

He spoke English with fair fluency and he was acting as a tour guide shall we say.

He took us into some of these barracks buildings, and of course all of them were in a sense the same structure, wooden

_____ of his country,
framework there and he was telling us that people, his family and friends
and other of the _____ camps

_____ were not as crowded and the setups were more

_____ were concerned