

## **RG-50.030.1109**

### **Summary**

Francis Robert (Bob) Dwyer, Jr. was born January 9, 1926 in Atlantic City, NJ. He was drafted in July 1944 into the Army, sent to Europe in December on the HMS Queen Mary landing in Gourock, Scotland, moving directly to Le Havre through Southampton and onto the Ardennes where he was wounded in battle.

He recuperated in Paris, returned to his unit in Germany, then on to Czechoslovakia, and to Nordhausen, Germany. His unit was Company D of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. They helped clean up the nearby labor concentration camp for about a week. Local citizens denied any knowledge of the camp despite what Dwyer says was strong odor. He describes what he witnessed at the camp. He also took pictures at the camp with a camera that he had found earlier in a German home. Prior to his arrival at Nordhausen, he had heard of Auschwitz, Dachau and the persecution of Jews from childhood friends.

After the German surrender, he was sent to Marseilles to await transfer to the Pacific Theater, but was sent back to Germany for occupation duty after the atomic bombs forced Japan's surrender. Dwyer had an accident in a kitchen that gave him second-degree burns; he recuperated at a burn center in Nancy, France. In mid-1946, he and a friend, Len Finger, earned enough discharge points to be sent home from their post in Herzogenaurach near Nuremberg.

Dwyer says he suffered from battle fatigue, or PTSD, but received little effective treatment at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He describes how his wife, Betty, bore the burden of some of his symptoms.

He concludes with comments on how his experience shaped him.