

**Time-coded notes for Interview with Monroe Nachman, Douglas Monsson, and
Walter Gray
December 1989**

Mr. Monsson was an American officer in the liberation of the camp Ohrdruf. Although he sometimes gets caught up in war stories about the liberation of Europe in general, Monsson shows a strong emotional reaction to the atrocities committed in the Holocaust. Mr. Nachman was also an American involved in the liberation of the Landsberg camp. He gives a very coherent and emotional picture of the conditions in the camp after the liberation, and describes contact with some of the former prisoners.

Col. Douglas C. Monsson

Tape counter

680 The camp Ohrdruf was the first taken by the American forces. General Reinhard told me to take all my men up to the "horror camp."

780 There were naked bodies all over, shot through the forehead. I had heard some rumors of atrocities before actually seeing the camp.

1135 Then we saw the ovens. There were hundreds of (charred) bones and more were piled nearby. Several of the American officers got sick at the sight.

1360 I don't know if we took any German prisoners after that.

1443 I saw only one survivor.

1980 The bodies were naked -- the clothes must have been taken, probably by civilians; they were a premium commodity.

2000 It should never be forgotten. I was there, I saw it!

Monroe Nachman

2430 We crossed the Vosges Mountains. This was before Dachau was liberated. We hadn't heard anything specific, only that Jews were being killed. The stench was horrendous. Naked bodies lying all around. Literally skeletons [shows photos].

Monsson and Nachman

2580 Soldiers got sick at the sight. This was very different from combat. Bodies were strewn everywhere. There were two survivors. I could speak some German and Yiddish, but there was nothing to talk about with them--they were sick and dying.

2620 I couldn't give them food, their stomachs wouldn't hold it. We gave them cigarettes. We took some SS prisoners, but they didn't last long. American troops killed them. The horror of their deeds was so vile. Landsberg is the prison where Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*.

2752 You never found a Nazi in Germany after the German surrender, everyone denied connection.

2810 The prisoners couldn't work well -- you can't work without food.

2860 I didn't talk about this for many years until I read an article asking for eyewitness accounts.

3000 What brought me to speak was that professor at Northwestern who said it didn't happen--it has to be told.

3090 These two survivors I spoke with (at the camp) were glad to be alive. To survive that you had to be as strong as iron. The SS took the other stronger inmates with them to Dachau.