

Title - Jack Bertges

I Date - 1989

Source - USHMM

Restrictions -

Sound Quality - Poor (very quiet)

Image Quality - Excellent

Duration - 45 minutes

Languages - English

Contents - Very little discussion of the Holocaust. It contained an american soldier's viewpoint of the War itself.

00:01:10 Jack fought in the Battle of the Bulge, German's last powerful drive. He fought under Patton in WWII. He was the head of a platoon and felt a lot of pride fighting under Patton.

00:07:55 Jack traveled across the Rhine with patton. They took the Germans by surprise and began to go deep into Germany. Jack believed German soldiers were well trained, had great weaponry. He thought it was the allied air attack that did Germany in. He had great respect for the German soldiers. He had no idea of the atrocities that the German soldiers were doing to the Jewish people until they almost got into Czechoslovakia.

00:13:20 Jack begins to discuss Buchenwald. He shows pictures from his journeys. When his armies liberated Buchenwald, there were frail bodies piled up everywhere. He saw how the process of death worked. They would gas the prisoners and then pile the bodies up until it was high enough to take them to the crematoriums. The prisoners lived in horrid conditions. He shows pictures of the barracks in which the Jewish prisoners lived in. The prisoners were so crowded in. The people he talked with were only "skin and bones, nothing else."

00:20:00 When Jack's platoon buried the Nazi soldiers, they showed respect for the dead. They stopped doing this when they found out the horror of what was going on.

00:23:29 His unit spent four months in Germany, from midwinter, until late spring in June, 1945. He got back to the states later that year in August.

00:28:30 Seeing what happened in the concentration camps eliminated all prejudices that Jack ever had. He was completely

stunned by how people were so brutally treated. Jack believes the Holocaust should never be forgotten.

00:35:00 After he came back from the war, he got his B.A. and Masters in just over three years. He began his education at the age of 21. He stated that in WWII the soldiers were fighting a just cause. Jack refers to the Vietnam War it being a war that the public considered unjust.

00:41:23 Jack has three children and six grandchildren that have received better education than he did. Jack says that this is a part of generation passing.

00:44:49 Jack believes that it is very important that people remember the Holocaust so that it does not occur again.

00:45:39 Tape complete.