

-TITLE-BERTRAM DINMAN
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION HOLOCAUST CENTER PITTSBURGH
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-SPEAKER'S VOICE OFTEN TOO SOFT TO BE UNDERSTOOD
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-45 MINUTES
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

1:01:00 Dr. Dinman was born on August 9, 1925 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His mother was a homemaker and his father an insurance salesman. His family was Jewish but not particularly religious. Their lifestyle was affected somewhat but not greatly by the Depression.

1:03:05 Dr. Dinman was voluntarily drafted into the Army in January 1944. He now also describes his post-war activities doing work at various U.S. universities.

1:07:25 Dr. Dinman was 19 when he enlisted in the Army. He knew what was going on in Germany "for the most part" and was very aware of the Nazi situation. His company was sent to Liverpool around the time of the Battle of the Bulge.

1:11:25 His company was sent across the channel in December 1944. He says he experienced a little bit of anti-Semitism among U.S. troops through not much. Dr. Dinman was hospitalized then with pneumonia.

1:15:20 After 4-5 weeks in the hospital, Dr. Dinman went with the 4th Army Division of the 3rd army as an engineer.

1:18:30 Dr. Dinman's division went SE in April 1945 through Eisenbach, Germany to a small town called Ordra "(ph)". The smell of rotting flesh was very strong. There was a small "holding camp" with no crematoria; no SS troops appeared to be left there.

1:21:40 Several photographs were taken when they first arrived; there were bodies everywhere and the smell was overpowering.

1:24:08 The troops killed the remaining German army personnel they found there. Dr. Dinman attempts to describe the first two photographs, using the terms "unheard of", "appalling", and "beyond description."

1:27:33 As Dr. Dinman describes the 3rd picture, he speaks of he and the other soldiers feeling angry. They rounded up the people living in the small town and showed them the inside of the camp; apparently no one had known about it. They dug hundreds of graves and buried each body individually. The next few pictures show sterilization machines, more dead bodies, and a hanging apparatus.

1:30:46 They took the serving inmates for medical treatment and gave them food and cigarettes.

1:34:22 Dr. Dinman was discharged in June 1946. He compares the "Final solution" for the Jews only in extent to the mass killing of the Gypsies.

1:37:47 Dr. Dinman feels that education is an absolute must, as the Holocaust could happen again.

1:40:17 Dr. Dinman believes that Israel is too small and overly populated, but is "Necessary"; it may have made a difference if it had existed in 1939-40. He believes Holocaust survivors in the U.S. are a key source of human documentation of what happened.

1:42:52 Dr. Dinman almost never speaks of his experiences in the war.

1:45:57 Although he doesn't know how successful attempts to educate people about the Holocaust will be in the short term, he believes that the long term education is our only hope for preventing another such event.
.END.