

-TITLE-HENRY MARINELLI  
-I\_DATE-OCTOBER 17, 1989  
-SOURCE-UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION HOLOCAUST CENTER PITTSBURGH  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-GOOD  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-ONE HOUR  
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
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1:01:00 Henry was born on February 9, 1923 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He comes from a religious Catholic family. Henry's father admired Benito Mussolini in his early stages. He has two brothers and a sister. He was the youngest. They are all now deceased.

1:04:15 During the Depression, Henry was doing odd jobs at the age of twelve. Diligently, he worked until he went into the army. At the age of 16, in 1939 the only information he received was from the newsreels at theaters. The war had very little impact on his family. His parents felt that a job was much more important than an education.

1:07:26 His mother thoroughly resented Henry for finishing High School. Henry had a lot of initiative. He knew that an education and a diploma were more useful than sweat on his back.

1:10:08 He was married in 1953 after the war. When he returned from the war at the age of 23, his entire family was dead. He was drafted in 1942, went two days after Christmas. He was in the 12th Armor Division

1:13:19 His father was very patriotic. Henry taught his parents English and also helped them acquire citizenship. Henry forbade the use of Italian in his home. He also assumed the role of head of his family. He took care of the finance and business of the Marinelli household.

1:16:37 On October 1, 1944 he went to Bristol, England. His division was supposed to go to Le Havre, France but plans were changed due to off shore submarines. His division set up a make-shift camp near a glider base four months after D-Day.

1:19:08 Henry felt that a year and a half of training was almost too much. The men were very anxious and excited to go to war. He was in Patton's Third Army. His 12th Armor division relieved the 4th division which was fatally caught in the deep mud. Many men lost their lives because of their tanks being stuck in the mud.

1:22:03 Henry's division dealt with town to town fighting. Le Havre to Weislingnec(ph) to Lunevale to W rzburg. From November 1944 to late April 1945, he never left the front line. He was a corporal when he went over. His memory of combat is very clear. He had vivid dreams about the war for 10 to 15 years. In his tank crew there were 5 men. His tank had a 105 Howitzer that had a range of seven miles.

1:25:02 Henry now describes the purpose of the German 88 tank gun. This gun is for direct hits within a quarter of a mile. At this point Henry was NOT aware of any Concentration Camps. He was aware of Polish slave labor camps.

1:28:05 Henry breaks down, sobbing when he describes the slave labor camps he came upon. He saw filthy blocks, and he recalls that there were no bathroom facilities. Polish girls ran to the American soldiers and hugged their feet. The Americans were outraged. Most of the German guards had run away. This was the first indication of what was going on. Henry was very bitter at that time. He said that the Americans treated the Hitler youth very badly, while the older German officers were treated with more compassion.

1:30:13 The American soldiers felt very bitter when they came upon Landsberg. There were dead bodies burning everywhere. He then shows photographs. He saw Jewish bodies in striped uniforms. This was a strictly Jewish camp of all men. He thinks that the Germans just let them starve. Gasoline was poured all over these men to incinerate their bodies.

1:33:05 Henry shows a photo of the burning bodies. He thinks that the German soldiers retreated into the woods. He says that blame for atrocities such as this cannot be blamed on American soldiers. He says that the common people did not know what was going on. It was a hidden secret. Henry was educated about the "camps" after he came home. After the war, he visited Dachau.

1:36:00 Landsberg did not have crematoriums and most of the prisoners died of starvation. Henry was only there for 3-4 hours. Their job was to follow the infantry .

1:40:01 He only saw slave labor camps. He never saw death camps. His division went through down town Munich, Berchtesgaden, then through the Brenner Pass in the Alps.

1:43:04 After the war, the soldiers took 3 day tours. They came upon buildings which they think were Himler's cottage or Hitler's compounds. P-47's bombed the structures.

1:46:06 He feels bitter because at first, the Americans were to shoot the Germans, and now his division was ordered to chop wood to keep the Germans warm for winter. He thinks his experience in WWII gave him more compassion for people and it taught him to help people. He gets very emotional when he vividly recalls the starvation of the people.

1:49:11 He says that the younger generation of today is very materialistic. He has no children. All kids want is sex, drugs and Rock and Roll concerts. He believes that young people don't want to waste their time hearing stories about the past. He thinks its great that 35 years later, people are eager to teach and learn about the Holocaust and WWII.

1:52:00 He thinks that the younger generation flicks the switch on history. Henry is hopeful for the future but bitter at the same time. He wonders what he could have done with his life in those 3 and a half years he spent at war. He wonders what the war really has accomplished.

1:55:19 He shows his extreme bitterness through the fact that he gets no respect from American people. He cites that Russian war heros proudly wear their medals on their coats, and Russian people give them great respect. In America, he says that no one cares, and no one wants to hear stories of the past. He says that people should only spend what they can afford. His last and final advice is to have compassion, help whenever you can help, if you can help.

1:58:26 Henry truly hopes that people will benefit from his interview.  
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