

**Samuel Hagner**

**RG-50.106\*0098**

Born November 1, 1925 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Parents were Quaker - he became member at 14, went to Quaker work camp

Jewish friend Doris Weil told him what was happening in Europe - he didn't believe her

Brother became Conscientious Objector and worked in a forestry camp during war

Went to Oberlin College - attended Quaker meetings there

January 1944 - inducted into Army as 1A-O

Trained as a medical corpsman

December 26, 1944 - sailed to Europe

Early March, 1944 - Joined 7th Army in Germany, kept moving as front moved

Asked to be armed guard at a billet - he refused to carry a gun, it was very traumatic as captain could have subjected him to severe consequences

Went by truck to help liberate Dachau - overwhelming experience

Felt betrayed by his parents,  
Experienced hot rage, had fantasies of revenge on SS guards  
On DDT spray team, stayed in camp for 1 week  
Wavered about being a CO, wrote to Doris and told her she was right

Went to German hospital with nuns -- American officer walked away with their Zeiss microscopes

Went to France to be deployed to Philippines, war ended

Became a scrub nurse during plastic surgery on war victims in Indiana

Discharged and returned to college in fall of 1946, decided to become a psychiatrist

Graduated from medical school, practiced psychiatry for adults, now retired

Lives with his Dachau experience but has not made peace with it, humbling experience to be in touch with the dark side of himself, has lived with cold rage since then

Went back to Dachau with his wife, but did not go in.  
"I've been there once. That's enough."

Abhors war - still does not know if he would go to war if it were a just one