

**RG-50.156.0031**

**Summary**

**WILLIAM C. LANDGREN**

Born 1917 in Fort Dodge Iowa. Graduated (now) Iowa State U. Worked for Pioneer Hybrid Corn Co. whole life. Was in Buenos Aires for the company in 1939 and ran across survivors of the Graf Spee sinking around town saying "Heil Hitler." Drafted 2/42. Ended up in Italy with the 45<sup>th</sup> Division, 179<sup>th</sup> Regiment landing at Anzio and then onto Rome and southern France in 8/44. Unit drove north on to Munich and arrived at Dachau the day of the liberation of the camp. He spent a week in the area and took many photos (Added to his interview in 1987). Saw bodies piled in coal/boxcars and bodies outside the crematorium. They were Jews and several other national groups. Bodies were picked up with ice tongs, put in carts and driven through the town of Dachau to a mass grave. Townspeople claimed to know nothing about the camp, but soldiers forced them into the camp to see what had happened there. The pictures he took were developed and were later used as part of classroom lectures by Bill Borth in his new residence in Willmar, MN. On a return trip to Germany on a tour through Munich he asked to go to Dachau and was told there was nothing there anymore.