

CLAUDE HIPPI

Interviewer: Lee Sokolitz
Note taker: Ruth Jacobs

#1349-005

8/15/91

0-500 BACKGROUND Born 1923 in SC
Attended Clemson College
Volunteered for Infantry, US Army
Assigned to 89th Infantry
after attending OCS (Officers Candidate
School in 1944
Combat in Moselle Valley to sweep out Germans

5.32 ARMY Formed combat teams
OVERSEAS Moved hundreds of miles in short time.
Very successful.

6.20 Germans fearful of Americans.
Thousands of German soldiers captured.
Contact with some German soldiers - limited
contact with civilians.

7.50 OBSERVATIONS Lavish farms - foodstuff plentiful -
of CIVILIAN Germans lived "high on the hog".
POPULATION

8.35 Knew Germans after war.
9.10 Central Germany occupation

9.50 WORK CAMP First week of April, 1945
Gotha (ph.)
Work camp outside of Ohrdruf, Germany.
German Officers Candidate School and a
Munitions plant located two or 3 ~~mi~~ miles
from Work Camp.

11.16 Slave labor from work camp in Munitions Plant.
11.50 Description of compound.
Dead bodies.

12.20 FEELINGS Quoted college professor talking about
thru "Man's inhumanity to man."
13.53 Burning bodies - bodies on top of each other,
railroad ties over them.
"Trustees" description of daily activities
in camp.

13.54 DESCRIPTIONS Picture of bodies

14.35 Buried in holes behind concentration area
15.03 SS forced laborers to dig up bodies recently
1 buried and burn them.
15.50 Scent/stench of bodies hundreds of yards be-
fore reaching camp. Scent hard to forget or
get rid of. Even now cannot enjoy BarBcue
in back yard.

16.40 Shackling and beating of prisoners.
17.25 FEELINGS Ohrdruf, a work camp - not a Concentration
Camp. "If this was Work Camp what was
Concentration Camp like!!!"
17.90 "What can make men do this to other men?"

- 18.32 Visit by Generals Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton.
thru Reaction of General Patton to camp.
1915
- 19.29 FEELINGS "Make sure it doesn't happen again."
- 20.29 Germans said they knew nothing about atrocities around
them.
20.50 Mayor's reaction.
The mayor (Burghermeister ph.) and his wife committedth
suicied from guilt.
- 21.35 FEELINGS Have read articles saying this (the holocaust)
did not happen. "I resent this bitterly."
- 22.21 Limited contact with Germans.
22.75 Was Junior Officer on General Mark Clark/s
staff.
"People are afraid to speak."