

-TITLE- Dr. Michal Chilczuk  
-I\_DATE-October 1981  
-SOURCE-International Liberators Conference  
-RESTRICTIONS-:  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-Excellent  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-Excellent  
-DURATION-about 28 minutes  
-LANGUAGES-English  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-Subject has a very thick accent and is sometimes difficult to understand.

Tape 1

- 1:1:18 Dr. Chilczuk was a soldier during the war with the Polish peoples army, which was established in the territory of the Soviet Union.
- 1:2:05 Dr. Chilczuk participated in the liberation of several camps, one of them was a concentration camp named Sachsenhausen "(ph)".
- 1:2:54 Dr. Chilczuk was a Company commander, and around April 16, 1945, he and his company were marching towards Berlin. They marched through the area of Oranienburg "(ph)". And came upon "one of the most terrible places on earth".
- 1:4:22 On around the 16th, 17th, or 18th of April in 1945, Dr. Chilczuk and his company entered a village in Orienburg, called Zantausen "(PH)". From there they entered the camp of Sachsenhausen. Dr. Chilczuk says what he saw there was impossible to describe.
- 1:6:17 In the camp there were hundreds of people lying on wooden beds, unable to move their heads. There arms and legs were so skinny they looked like skeletons. When Dr. Chilczuk and is company came in, the prisoners cried with joy. His soldiers wanted to help the prisoners, and shared food with them. He didn't know

there was a danger in giving out the food. Some of the prisoners died, and later the company Dr. told the company that the prisoners should eat only under the supervision of a Dr.

- 1:7:08 One group of prisoners, including a Jewish woman prisoner, showed Dr. Chilczuk around the camp. The prisoners showed Dr. Chilczuk the crematoriums, and told him that these ovens were working a mere two days before liberation. Dr. Chilczuk remembers feeling terrible.
- 1:8:16 In the battle to liberate the camp, dozens of Polish soldiers were killed, some of them Jewish. Altogether, Dr. Chilczuk says over one hundred Polish soldiers died in fighting to liberate camp Sachsenhausen.
- 1:10:21 There were many prisoners in the camp, from many different nationalities, including Jewish, Polish, Russian, Czech, Yugoslavian, Belgium, Dutch, Greek, Spanish, and Italian prisoners, as well as some from Latvia. Dr. Chilczuk says that the majority of the prisoners were Jewish.
- 1:11:04 Dr. Chilczuk describes his life now. Lives in Warsaw, was in Zambia and Iran for the U.N. as an advisor, spent some time in the U.S.
- 1:12:21 Before the war, Dr. Chilczuk lived in small village that is now in the Soviet Union. He lived in Voyvoitchship "(ph)" Stanyasloviff "(ph)", the village of Bordiginn "(ph)". During the war, people in his village helped Jews, sometimes hiding them in the village. After the war was over, Dr. Chilczuk went to meet some of these people in Los Angeles.
- 1:14:00 Dr. Chilczuk here about the liberation of the Majdanek "(ph)" camp by the polish underground, and did not take part in the liberation. He and his company did go there shortly after it was liberated.
- 1:15:44 He gave the prisoners at Majdanek the company's medical equipment and services, and tried to share everything, placing the prisoners under the care of the company

doctors.

- 1:17:33 Prisoners, the Kapo's "(ph)" of the camp, and the Polish liberators were all together. Some of the healthy prisoners saw the Kapo's of the camp and wanted them to go on trial and be judged, but it was not allowed.
- 1:18:57 In general, the German population did not help the Polish army at all. A lot of Polish soldiers died because the German population did not give out any information.
- 1:21:07 In Germany, Dr. Chilczuk and his company had two orders. One was to block the road leading to Berlin, the other was to liberate Sachsenhausen. At Sachsenhausen, he found unburned and burned bodies in the ovens, as well as a lot of bones, it was "difficult to describe" Dr. Chilczuk says he saw a lot of bodies on the battlefield, but nothing compared to what he saw in Sachsenhausen. He said they had developed a "special technology for murder.
- 1:23:25 Altogether in Sachsenhuasen, Dr. Chilczuk said there were about 5000 prisoners that were liberated. He can't understand how people could do the things that were done during the holocaust.
- 1:26:32 Dr. Chilczuk says there are a limited number of Jews in Poland now. All young people are taught about the holocaust, as it is "part of history" and because "everyone in Poland lost someone in the Holocaust