

-TITLE-ALEXEI GORLINKSY
-I_DATE-OCTOBER 1981
-SOURCE-INTERNATIONAL LIBERATORS CONFERENCE
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-POOR. VOICES ARE MUFFLED
-IMAGE_QUALITY-FINE - TRACKING IS A LITTLE OFF
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-RUSSIAN
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
Tape 1

00:04

Kotlyar speaks of the importance of informing today's youth about the atrocities of the war and the Holocaust. He also emphasizes the fact that many different nationalities were victimized in the concentration camps: Jews, Americans, English, Czechoslovakians. Gorlinsky agrees with this statement, adds that its important for the American youth to understand Fascism.

02:47

Petrenko further echoes these sentiments, adding that life was deemed worthless in the concentration camps, and this fact needs to be impressed upon students.

03:80

Elijah thanks them. Interview ends.

Tape 2

01:94

Maj. Gen. Golinsky and his troops liberated Krakow (ph) and Aushwitz in 1945. The Russian army knew that Hitler had been committing atrocities in his concentration camps, but the general had not anticipated the degree of inhumane cruelty which he would see upon liberation of the camps. When the Russian army stormed the Auschwitz, the Nazis put up a violent protest and three days of fighting took place. About 10,000 prisoners were still alive upon liberation. The Russians immediately set up medical facilities to administer the maximum amount of aid to the prisoners.

05:24

The prisoners of the camp appeared tortured, exhausted, starved, and weak. They didn't have enough energy to express their joy at liberation. They cried and smiled, but seemingly without emotion. The Russian soldiers inspected the camp, and found evidence of the cruelty of the Nazis, who employed the latest scientific technology to inflict suffering.

They saw Zyclon (ph) gas in cans and boxes and the gas chambers which could kill hundreds at once. They also saw crematoriums where the corpses were disposed of. There were also more "primitive" methods of slaughter such as guns and the ditches into which the dead and partially dead were shot, then smothered with gasoline and burned.

07:30

The Russians also found in Auschwitz piles of gold teeth and gold crowns, cases full of eye glasses, and collections of women's hair. Also there were lamp shades, and ladies' gloves and purses, all made from human flesh. Human bones had been used for fertilizer.

08:65

After Auschwitz, Golinsky visited a concentration camp in the Ukraine where there were mostly Soviet prisoners. For several days thereafter he was haunted by the images of cruelty which he saw at the concentration camps.

11:15

Golinsky met with one of the Jews whom he liberated. His name was Elie Zbarovsky (ph). The two met in Moscow and were photographed by the media. Golinsky says that Zbarovsky is doing fine.

13:10

Lieut. Petrenko helped liberate not only Terzin (ph), but several prison camps on Soviet territory. These camps contained Russian, Bielo-Russian, and Ukrainian prisoners, all of whom were treated in the same manner, regardless of nationality. Of all of the horrific sights of the war, the concentration camp images are the most difficult recollections.

15:30

In one Nazi camp (perhaps called Shipetovsk [ph]) of about 1,000 prisoners, Petrenko recalls seeing people working in the fields, digging with their hands. The SS played shooting games with the prisoners, shooting at will, and turning people into "live mice." Other prisoners were dismembered by being tied to two different tanks or wagons. Petrenko says that while liberating prisoners, the troops didn't distinguish between Jews and non-Jews, what was important was that they were Russians.

19:33

In one Polish "showcase" camp, there were no visible crematoriums or mass graves, as dignitaries were marched through this camp. However, several miles away was an old brick factory used by the Germans as a crematorium. Petrenko saw children being taken away from their mothers and being thrown in a well right before their eyes.

25:26

Col. Kotlyar, upon arriving at the camps was concerned with finding evidence of crimes committed. He interviewed living victims who would serve as witnesses, and he also sought concrete facts like last names of those who died, and the methods by which they died. At one of the camps he visited, doctors saved 156 children under the age of 13. Of these, 84 survived. He was present at the trials in Nuremberg and also Dachau.

27:58

From the "Dachau Process," Kotlyar recalls how a Jewish professor testified, saying that he was constantly tormented.

32:20-34:97

See tape 1.

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