

Interviewee:	<u>DEPROPHETIS</u> , Dr. Nino	Date:	November 6, 1987
Interviewer:	Philip G. Solomon		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 90

## SUMMARY

Dr. Nino deProphetis served with the U.S. Army in Europe from November, 1944 to December, 1945. He became the commanding officer of the 81st Armored Medical Battalion, part of the 11th Armored Division of General Patton's Third Army. In April 1945, he led a contingent of 30 men to Mauthausen concentration camp after the Nazis had left. He describes in detail his entry and the sight of a pyramid of approximately 6000 naked bodies in the main yard. He viewed an additional number of thousands of bodies in smaller piles in other parts of the camp and also saw two gas chambers. His unit, equipped to treat only battle casualties, was quickly reinforced with troops that brought an abundance of food. He believes that many of the subsequent deaths of surviving prisoners were caused by overfeeding. He describes in detail the terrible malnutrition and gastrointestinal disease of most prisoners, as well as the immediate disposal of dead bodies into a trench. Soon afterwards, General Patton ordered that local citizens were made to exhume the bodies and rebury them in individual graves.

Dr. deProphetis also supervised the evacuation of patients for the next two weeks until he was transferred to the Gmunden area, near Salzburg. There, he was placed in charge, as *Burgermeister* of Attensee. He remained with the Army of Occupation for six months, in charge of all battalion vehicles until his return to the United States.

This file includes photos taken at the time of liberation.

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### SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Concentration Camps - Liberation  
US Army - 81st Armored Medical Battalion part of 11th Armored Division of General Patton's  
Third Army  
Mauthausen - Concentration camp  
Holocaust survivors - medical treatment