

Interviewee:	<u>BONNER</u> , Philip	Date:	November 29, 1990
Interviewer:	Philip G. Solomon		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
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Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Mr. Bonner of the 159th Engineer Battalion, 3rd and 9th Army, saw combat in Normandy, Brittany, the Battle of the Bulge, and Germany. He mentions atrocities committed by Germans against French resistance fighters. He arrived in Buchenwald on April 17, 1945, several hours after its liberation. He describes conditions at Buchenwald, piles of bodies, evidence of mass cremations, semi-starved condition of survivors, their reaction to the liberators, as well as harmful effect of giving survivors their rations.

He relates the rest of his war experiences, including encounters with German soldiers and civilians. Post-war, his unit built a camp in Antwerp, Belgium housing German prisoners of war. He expresses his thoughts about the causes of Hitler's rise to power, and Germany's role in World War II and the Holocaust. He hopes that his testimony will prevent future Holocausts.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

United States - Army 159th Engineer Batallion- 3rd Army - 9th Army

World War, 1939-1945 combat

World War, 1939-1945 liberator

Buchenwald (Germany)

Atrocities

Germans: attitudes towards Hitler and the Holocaust