

Interviewee: CAHN, Walter
Interviewer: Philip G. Solomon

Date: March 31, 1989

Audio tapes: 1 English
Audio Record #: GC00083
Restrictions: None

Transcript: 1 vol. (unpaged) English
Libr. Catlg. #: D 810.J4 G7 #52

SUMMARY

Walter Cahn, a Jewish youth of 14, came to the United States from Germany with his parents in 1937. He saw combat in Europe with Patton's Third Army as an interpreter. Already at the Battle of the Bulge he witnessed atrocities of Germans against Americans and civilians. In May 1945 he came on Dachau, Mauthausen and Wels concentration camps in Germany and Austria. He describes the prisoners' condition and American efforts to save them. Even food killed many of them. Hungarian guards had stayed at Wels guarding mostly Hungarian Jewish prisoners.

Walter met his future wife, a former inmate of Bergen-Belsen, and returned to the United States in 1946. He expressed his gratitude for being able to help survivors. He speculated on why German culture and industrial know how produced such hatred and killing machinery. The need to fight today's revisionists made it paramount to bear witness.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Personal narrative Jewish

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Patton's Third Army

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Jewish refugee in US armed forces

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Concentration camps - Liberation: Dachau, Mauthausen, Wels

Wels Concentration camp - Hungarian guards

Thoughts on Revisionism