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Interviewee: <u>ECKSTEIN</u>, Ernest Date: November 4, 1987

Interviewer: Philip G. Solomon

Audio tapes: 1 English Transcript: 1 vol. (unpaged) English

Audio Record #: GC00107 Libr. Catlg. #: D 810.J4 G7 #131

Restrictions: None

SUMMARY

Ernest Eckstein served in the 93rd Heavy Mortar Battalion, U.S. 3rd Army. He arrived at Buchenwald concentration camp in April or May, 1945 and was completely unprepared for what he saw there: piles of bodies, gold teeth, hair and clothing. He describes the condition of the approximately 20,000 survivors, many of whom died after liberation. He interviewed one of the survivors through an interpreter and mentions his encounter with a Jewish survivor. He describes the barracks and finding fingermarks on the walls of the gas chambers. Buchenwald profoundly affected him and he still thinks about it every day.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

United States Army - 93rd Heavy Mortar Battalion - 3rd Army World War, 1939-1945 Concentration camps - Liberation Buchenwald - Forced labor camp - Germany Liberation - psychological aspects