

Interviewee:	<u>KEERAN</u> , Frank Douglas, Jr.	Date:	August 30, 1999
Interviewer:	Gloria M. Schwartz		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Frank Douglas Keeran, Jr. served in the 798th Automatic Weapons Mobile Battalion during World War II. His unit arrived at Dachau concentration camp while attached to the 989th Field Artillery. His recollections of arriving at Dachau, serving as a guard at two camps for German prisoners who were being held for interrogation near Ludwigsburg, Germany, including *Stalag* 19, in June or July, 1945, and his combat experiences are intertwined in this interview as Mr. Keeran tries to recall often very painful memories.

He describes what he saw and heard at Dachau, conditions for American soldiers guarding the German prisoners at the prisoner of war camps, and the behavior of German prisoners and of German civilians toward the Americans after the war ended. He recalls an incident—that still haunts him—when he let a German prisoner get away with an offensive statement. After the war, there were several other instances when Germans he encountered, though outwardly friendly, let their true feelings emerge. He explains how seeing Dachau affected him, and his thoughts about Germany's decision to establish the concentration camps.

The transcript also includes two documents not part of the interview itself: an essay written by Mr. Keeran on April 24, 1945 describing his immediate reaction when he saw Dachau Concentration Camp, as well as a handwritten note explaining what unit he served in during World War II.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Personal narrative, American serviceman
World War, 1939 - 1945 - Concentration camp - Dachau
World War, 1939 - 1945 - Concentration camps - Liberation
Prisoners - of - War: German
Prisoner - of -- war camps