

Interviewee: SUSHMAN, Benjamin  
Interviewer: Philip G. Solomon  
No. of Audiotapes: 1 English  
Transcript: 1 v. (unpaged)

Date: May 11, 1989  
  
No Restrictions

### SUMMARY

Benjamin Sushman served in the 81st Medical Battalion of the 11th Armoured Division of the 3rd US Army during World War II. His unit entered KL Mauthausen near the end of the war, in May 1945. He witnessed the digging of trenches by army engineers for mass burial of dead prisoners whose bodies were stacked "like cord wood". He mentions the screams of a *Kapo* who was beaten by inmates he describes as the "walking dead".

After the war ended, he volunteered to serve with the Zionist organization *Haganah*, to transport Jews from displaced persons camps to Palestine. He mentions helping at two displaced persons camps in Austria and France. He details two voyages with illegal immigrants aboard a Canadian Corvette named "Haganah". The first trip was successful, landing about 1,000 people; the second attempt, with 2,000 aboard, was stopped by a British warship and the passengers were interned on Cypress. Mr. Sushman worked on a *kibbutz* in Palestine for the next three years.

Mr. Sushman reads an essay he wrote describing how seeing KL Mauthausen and participating in the transport of illegal immigrants to Palestine affected him.

SUSHMAN, Benjamin

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## SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 -- Personal narrative - American  
World War, 1939 - 1945 -- Concentration camps - Liberation  
Concentration camp -- Mauthausen (Austria)  
Emigration and immigration -- illegal immigration (Palestine)  
Displaced persons camps -- Austria, France  
Rescues

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

OF

BENJAMIN SUSHMAN

Transcript of Audio taped Interview

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