

Questions to Consider When Viewing Video

1. What advantage was Jack's knowledge of Yiddish when dealing with Jewish survivors?
2. How old was he when he enlisted in the service? What role was he given by his commander and why?
3. Why was Jack's time in the service mistakenly extended?
4. Describe the unique experience that Jack and some other Jewish soldiers had with the 12 young people.
5. How did Jack's parents and other people in Cleveland, Ohio, become involved in his work with these 12 young people?
6. What was the importance of the packages of dye?
7. What kind of risks did Jack and some of his fellow Jewish soldiers take in order to help these 12 young people?
8. What were some of the reasons that Jack found himself questioning some Germans? What did he usually do with them?
9. How did Jack eventually reunite with some of the 12 young people?

Retired U.S. Soldier Jack Kleinman

Filmed on March 16, 2006



"I don't feel I deserve any awards for my participation in saving these kids. It was 'B'shert.'"

- Jack Kleinman

Face to Face
A Holocaust Education Program at
Congregation Shaarey Tikvah
Beachwood, Ohio

Jack Kleinman was born in 1925 and was raised in a Jewish home in the Cleveland area. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the army. Being very fluent in Yiddish enabled him to understand the German language, and he became a translator.

Jack is very proud of his Jewish background and introduces himself saying, "*Ich bin a Yiddin*" ("I am a Jew" in Yiddish). When the war was over he should have been discharged and recognized for his Purple Heart. Instead by some accident, the army sent him to Garansweiler, Germany, to help young survivors. Jack feels that this assignment was *b'shert* (meant to be or fated).

Jack was assigned 12 young people who had lost their relatives in the Holocaust and had nowhere to go. The young people ranged in age from 16 to 28 years old. They were the sole survivors of their Polish village. All were emaciated and recovering from diphtheria and other diseases. Jack and his group were responsible for providing food, clothing and shelter for these Holocaust survivors.

Jack and others assigned to this duty brought the young people to Regensburg, where they disregarded some of the rules imposed upon them. A very stringent rule was that no one other than military personnel could wear military uniforms. Because the survivors did not have warm clothing to protect them, Jack ignored the rules about uniforms. Instead, Jack asked his friends and

parents in Cleveland to send packages of dye. Seamstresses were hired to reconstruct army blankets and other articles into civilian clothing. Five 45-pound boxes arrived from the United States and it was enough to "dye the world!"

During this time, Jack tried to avoid the condemnation of his superior, Sergeant James Knight, a man who was somewhat rigid. When Jack was preparing to send "the kids" by train to their eventual destinations, the orders could not be found. Jack was concerned that they might be imprisoned; however, he discovered later that Sergeant Knight really wanted to help them, not hinder them.

Because Jack was part of a Military Police (M.P.) unit, he was able to secure healthful food for "the kids" and they all survived and eventually settled in the United States and Israel.

In 1999 Jack was contacted by Gene Kamar (formerly Genec Kamarinsky), one of the survivors, and they were able to have a wonderful reunion in Cleveland with Jack and five of the ten survivors from the original group who could be located. They have stayed in touch with each other ever since that reunion.