

EDWARD LEMME  
Liberator

June 16, 1994

Interviewer: Steven Cohen

Notetaker: Ann Solov Walker

Cablevision, Peabody, MA

- 0:00 min. Born in Lynn, MA. Five years in the army. Went in January 17, 1941. I was 23 years old. I was in the artillery 94th medical, which was an infantry medical detachment. There were 33 men and 2 officers. I started in Normandy after D-Day. I was not aware of a concentration camp. April, 1944, I was in Germany. Came into Ohrdruf, where there was an underground communications nearby. Small camp. Went through the main gates, 20 or 30 bodies, shot in head and neck; bodies were still warm. I felt them. They wore stripes black and white, hard to tell their age, very run-down condition, heads shaved.
- 10:00 min. Went into barracks (two tiers on straw), one person locked up, I gave him a cigarette, it fell out. No idea who the people were. They had tattoos. Before entering the camp, met a Greek person who was swearing about the Germans, sensed the hate he had for them. Saw a huge pile of clothing, stacked in a pit, blood, clay color and bodies. Near the pit, railroad irons. The survivors did not speak, just laid there. We were there in the camp for two to three hours.
- 20:00 min. We saw a lot of displaced persons at the end of the war. Nowhere to go, maybe carrying a pot, some people had a star on their clothing. At the camp, I saw a pile of eyeglasses scattered on the ground. Went into the army officer's building and saw lampshades. After we left, General Patton came in and sent someone down to the town of Ohrdruf to bring back the people of the town to come to the camp and see it. Later the mayor of the town and his wife hung themselves. Went into Prague from there and the war was over. I've seen many injuries, but never have I seen bodies like this.

EDWARD LEMME (continued)

- 30:00 min. Bodies outside the barracks looked very similar to bodies in the barracks. Beds were made of lumber, slates, straw and a blanket thrown on them. Pile of civilian clothing stacked very high, maybe eight feet high. Another area, a pile of naked bodies, maybe 40 or 50 with lime on them. Looked like they were dead for a while, all male, very thin. There were new photographers with us. The village was one mile from the camp.
- 40:00 min. People in the village said they didn't know about the camp. Germans were very good at burying their own. I was at north Stalag 3.