

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

OF

DR. PAUL G. EGLICK

Transcript of Audiotaped Interview

Interviewer: Philip G. Solomon

Date: November 11, 1993

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Holocaust Oral History Archive

Gratz College

Melrose Park, PA 19027

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PE - Dr. Paul G. Eglick [interviewee]

PS - Philip G. Solomon [interviewer]

Date: November 11, 1993

Tape one, side one:

PS: ...Europe and in what unit you were serving?

PE: At the end of the war?

PS: At the beginning.

PE: At the beginning of the war?

PS: Yeah.

PE: I was in the 508th Parachute Infantry, part of the 82nd Airborne Division.

PS: And you were a med--was there a medical battalion or...

PE: It was a, I was a battalion medical officer.

PS: All right. At that point you landed in France?

PE: Yes.

PS: You began in...

PE: D-Day.

PS: Yeah, all, on D-Day. In your advance through France, Dr. Eglick, did you at that time see any evidence of atrocities by the Germans against the French people or French soldiers or any evidence at all that led you to believe that, of what lay ahead that you were to see later?

PE: No.

PS: Not at that time. When you were, you then crossed into Germany?

PE: Well, we landed in June...

PS: Yeah.

PE: Of '44. And we were in Normandy fighting until the 15th of July, '44. And we went back to England and we left England again the 17th of September, 1944, for the airborne invasion of Holland, which took place in three parts. The part that I was with took the town of Nijmegen, which was on the Waal River, W-A-A-L, which is part of the lower Rhine River. That kept us in Holland for two months. Then we went back to France and we were put in barracks in France in various places. And we were called out on the 16th of December, 1944, for the Battle of the Bulge.

PS: Yeah, the Battle of the Bulge.

PE: And we moved forward by truck into Belgium and disembarked on the trucks and participated in ground fighting until the 15th of January of 1945, when I was wounded and sent back to the hospital. I finally ended up in a hospital in Wales, England, and at this time I was pretty well recovered and I was sent to the replacement depot in England and took a detachment of paratroopers back to France with me and then joined my unit as we approached the entrance to Germany. At that time the, at that time we were

holding down the area of Cologne and a little below it, notably the town of Brühl, B-R-Ë-H-L.

PS: And that was in Belgium, Doctor?

PE: No, that was in Germany.

PS: Oh, oh, oh you had crossed into...

PE: Yeah we crossed into Germany. That was in...

PS: So you crossed the French-German border or...

PE: We crossed the...

PS: Bel-...

PE: Belgian.

PS: Oh, the Belgian border.

PE: Yeah. And then we...

PS: That was immediately after the defeat of the Bulge? The German forces at the Bulge?

PE: No, that was a little while later because I didn't get back to my unit until several months had gone by.

PS: That would have been...

PE: I was in the hospital.

PS: Yeah, that would have been into January of 1945?

PE: No, it would have been in, January I was wounded. That would have been into...

PS: Oh, oh.

PE: To the beginning of April.

PS: Yeah. So you were wounded toward the end of...

PE: January.

PS: The Bulge, the Battle of the Bulge.

PE: Right.

PS: Then, while in Germany, before you actually saw the first concentration camp, at that time were you, were you aware of what was going on in Germany? That is the, were you aware of the concentration camps, of the gas chambers, that millions of people had been transported in boxcars to the death camps? Do you recall if you actually knew anything before, prior to your seeing it yourself?

PE: We knew that there were concentration camps. We had no idea, no idea at all of the accurate mechanism and the coordination of this method of exterminating people that the Germans had developed, no idea at all. It was, [pause] it was unbelievable. But, anyway, we got our orders to advance into Germany and we went across the Elbe River. This was now end of April, beginning of May.

PS: Right.

PE: We crossed the Elbe River, and I can't remember the name of the town. It might be in here. And we just started to advance toward Berlin. And we went about thirty

miles, and we got orders to hold up, to stop. In the meantime, about 150,000 fully armed German troops surrendered to us, because the Russians were right behind them. And at that time, which is around the 7th of May, I got a call to report to a specific map coordinate in the province of Mecklenburg, near the *Hauptstadt*, the capital, which was Ludwigslust. The name of the town was Ludwigslust. I loaded up a three-quarter ton truck with my men and some provisions and material and we started out for this map location. We got there, it was a barbed wire enclosed area, with shacks. And there were 700 people incarcerated-- 350 of whom were dead and liter--just laying like skeletons--and 350 living skeletons walking around. We tried everything we could to give them intravenous fluids and plasma and fluid and so forth, to try to save them, and ship them out to the hospital. In the meantime, the mayor of the town, and his wife and daughter, committed suicide by taking cyanide. They were afraid of the repercussions. And then we had the people from the town come out to the camp and walk through it and look at what had been going on. And then we ordered them to bury the dead in the town square. They dug the holes and buried the dead in the town square of Ludwigslust.

PS: You would estimate about 350...

PE: Yeah.

PS: Dead and approximately 350 still living?

PE: Yeah. Now this was just a small camp [shows photos], and [pause] these are the Germans trying to surrender, O.K.? This is the Wöbbelin concentration camp.

PS: The Wöbbelin...

PE: The Wöbbelin...

PS: Can you spell...

PE: W-O-B-...

PS: Oh.

PE: E-L-E-I-N. [Wöbbelin]

PS: Wöbbelin Concentration Camp.

PE: Yeah.

PS: The date of, do you recall the exact date, Dr. Eglick?

PE: It was about the 7th of May.

PS: Yeah. That was really at the very end. I think the official...

PE: The 8th of May was the end of the war.

PS: Yeah, the 8th of May.

PE: Yeah.

PS: Right.

PE: There they are here, the German citizens carrying shovels. They were required to dig the graves. This was in the town square. That's a picture of it.

PS: Now these bodies were all unburied? Just scattered...

PE: Here they are, right here.

PS: Yeah, oh yes.

PE: You see, in this photograph.
PS: Yeah.
PE: They were just...
PS: Had they been executed, do you think or had just died of...
PE: No, they starved to death.
PS: Yeah, yeah.
PE: They starved to death. And...
PS: Was that a labor camp? Were they performing...
PE: A labor camp.
PS: Like, yeah.
PE: Yeah. Now, everybody, well, everyone looked at it and no one could believe what they saw. This was my general, General Gavin, James Gavin.
PS: He was the Commander of the 82nd Airborne.
PE: 82nd Airborne, yeah.
PS: This is a coincidence. I was attached to the 101st Airborne.
PE: You were?
PS: Yeah. Out of this 101st cavalry, reconnaissance, we did the reconnaissance for the 101st Airborne.
PE: Oh. Well, o.k., they were a good unit. They were almost as good as we were.
PS: [chuckles] Yeah we [tape off then on]
PE: Experience was, with the concentration camp.
PS: Yeah, when you entered the camp, Doctor, were you, was that at the point of the liberation of that particular camp?
PE: Yeah.
PS: In other words, those, the survivors, you would estimate about 100, about 350 survivors?
PE: Yes.
PS: And they were incarcerated until the moment your unit entered the camp.
PE: Yes.
PS: Were there any German guards still on the spot?
PE: Any what?
PS: German guards were [unclear]?
PE: I don't think so, because our men, our ordinary line soldiers, were so [pause] touched by this that if there were any, they killed them immediately.
PS: Yeah.
PE: They were simply, it was more than they could absorb. I put them, more than a human being could take if you hadn't had any experience with this kind of thing and didn't expect it. It was a, even though they were hardened combat veterans--our unit was hardened combat veterans--it still was absolutely, it took your breath away.

PS: And I guess at that point, Dr. Eglick, you had at that point already treated many of your own battle casualties... [Tape is impaired at this point. Hissing: impossible to hear the conversation.]

PE: Yes.

PS: With serious, who were seriously wounded and whatever the injuries were.

PE: Yeah.

PS: So you were hardened to that end of it, as far as seeing sights like that.

PE: Yes. Oh, I had seen a lot of casualties among my men, among my friends, among some of my very good friends. And I had put tags on some of them when they were dead and [pause] it's [pause] not to be compared with this experience.

PS: No.

PE: It's not to be compared with seeing people brutally starved to death and just [pause] just, it just can't be described.

PS: Yeah.

PE: I don't have words to...

PS: No.

PE: To describe.

PS: Doctor is this...

PE: And not only me, but the men, our men...

PS: Yeah.

PE: Were so shocked that they were, I can't accuse anyone, but I have a feeling that they were a little bit harsh in their dealing with the German military in that area.

PS: Do you think that this camp was set up as a labor camp?

PE: Yes.

PS: They were performing labor...

PE: Yeah.

PS: And probably as most others they were really programmed to die, probably underfed and overworked.

PE: Exactly.

PS: Yeah.

PE: Yeah.

PS: Doctor, you've described your own emotions, that you had almost beyond words. Even as bad as it was, did you in your wildest dreams think that this one site that you saw could be multiplied by thousands and thousands?

PE: I could not, it was beyond my conception that any human beings could do this to a whole group of other human beings. And remember, that some of the people in this camp were kids. As you see, there were some youths in this camp, and from the picture that I have here. It was a...

PS: Were the age, did the age spread cover pretty well from youth to elderly?

PE: I don't think there were any elderly.

PS: Yeah, they didn't...

PE: Couldn't last long.

PS: They couldn't last that long.

PE: No.

PS: Did you, were there any women?

PE: Yes.

PS: There were women there also.

PE: Oh yes, yes.

PS: And among the dead there were women and young...

PE: Yeah.

PS: What is the, what do you think was the youngest age, generally the youngest that...

PE: Oh, 12, 13.

PS: Really? That old, that young? The condition, now here was approximately 350 already dead, but unburied. Were there any graves there of those who had died...

PE: Not that I saw. Not that I saw.

PS: I know some of the decomposed bodies were, you would estimate had been there for, unburied for quite a while?

PE: I don't know.

PS: Yeah.

PE: I, when I walked in there I was immediately overwhelmed and working and working and working to get these people in decent enough shape to ship them out. And as soon as we had that cleared up, I left.

PS: Yeah. You went in there with a medical detachment?

PE: I went in there with a couple of ballistic men.

PS: Yeah. Medical...

PE: I never...

PS: Medical aid men?

PE: Yeah, I never dreamed that that's what I was getting into.

PS: When you, on your way to those coordinates, that's all you knew.

PE: Yeah.

PS: Just to get to these coordinates.

PE: Yeah.

PS: And you did not know what was there waiting for you.

PE: No.

PS: And you had never seen, heh, you know, the shock, I went through it myself. I mean, in another area south, into this was pretty much up into northern Germany, wasn't it?

PE: Yes, this was up in...

PS: And...

PE: In the, you know, the, Ludwigslust is, it's not too far from the northern border of Germany.

PS: Can you spell it? Could you spell that, Doctor? Is it possible to...

PE: L-U-D-...

PS: L-U-D-...

PE: W-I-G-L-U-S-T.

PS: And the name of the camp you've already spelled out.

PE: Yeah, the Ludwigslust means "Lewis' Joy".

PS: [chuckles] Oh, joy, ay, ay, ay. Now, we can picture approximately 350 living, in a...

PE: Walking skeletons.

PS: Walking, yeah. Now the...

PE: Except the ones that were so debilitated they couldn't stand up.

PS: Now were you, not knowing what you were walking into, were you prepared with any kind of medical supplies?

PE: Well, we used everything that we had. We used all our plasma. We used fluids. We begged, borrowed and stealed whatever we could from any other unit.

PS: Yeah.

PE: And...

PS: There were other medical units in the field that did...

PE: They were in the area.

PS: In the area.

PE: Yeah, and the enlisted men, even the combat men, were trying to help.

PS: You had a, what, a company of, let's see, you paratrooper...

PE: No...

PS: Just a small...

PE: Medical detachment.

PS: Oh, oh, no armed soldiers from your unit with you?

PE: Well, they opened it.

PS: Oh, oh. Yeah.

PE: They got there first.

PS: Oh, oh, I see.

PE: And that's when they yelled for help.

PS: Oh, oh, I...

PE: And we came.

PS: Oh, now we're...

PE: Yeah.

PS: Yeah, now we have the total picture.

PE: Yeah, but the...

PS: Did you have, we spoke about medical supplies and plasma. How about food to feed these people? Did you have any, or did the other, to give...

PE: We gave them whatever rations we had.

PS: Yeah.

PE: We tried to avoid overfeeding them because...

PS: Right.

PE: You induce vomiting; that way you can kill them. And we gave them whatever rations we had, but diluted down and mostly things like clear soup. And, I don't remember that too clearly, but I know we were cautious about overfeeding them. And the ones that were not able to eat, we just tried to give them intravenous fluids.

PS: You were aware then, because we've learned through a lot of interviews that, well, the ordinary G.I. soldier would, his natural instinct on the C...

PE: Give him the K-rations.

PS: Yeah, K-rations, chocolates, and I think that many, many died because their digestive systems just couldn't take, even this, I interviewed this commander of a medical battalion and I think Mauthausen was liberated May 8th or May 9th, deep in Austria, really after the German surrender. And he said they still had received no information as to the critical cases that had been lost because of overfeeding. He said they learned too that if, they had to be brought along very, very slowly. Were you in a position, Doctor, to operate on, did you find you had...

PE: I wasn't in a position to do anything...

PS: No.

PE: Except try to get some fluids into them, and ship them out to the nearest medical facility.

PS: Yes. In fact, were there facilities to, with which to evacuate them?

PE: Yeah.

PS: Like, ambulances or converted jeeps with stretchers or...

PE: Well, we used our vehicles.

PS: Yeah. And, of the 350, roughly 350 that were still living, did most of them require medical treatment?

PE: Yeah, practically all of them.

PS: All, yeah, and there...

PE: There were a small percentage that didn't, but I don't know exactly, because I only took care of the group that I was taking care of.

PS: Yeah.

PE: Other people were called in from other units, and they were taking care of some of them, and...

PS: And among...

PE: It became a combined effort of several different medical units.

PS: Yeah. So there were other medical officers there beside, not just medical aid men, but M.D.s such as yourself? So most of the, most of these people did require extensive treatment. How long after you saw them and treated those who required treatment were they all, did you, were they evacuated as you worked with them? Or were they held there for some...

PE: Some of them were. I, there was no way I could keep track of..

PS: No.

PE: And I wasn't interested in keeping track of what was going on.

PS: Yeah.

PE: I just did as much as I could, and then when we had them shipped out, that was it.

PS: [tape off then on] Doctor, I don't suppose you had any record of what happened with these people after you evacuated them.

PE: No.

PS: No record of, or you heard nothing. But you, in your judgment do you think many of them survived?

PE: Yes.

PS: Oh, good. Going back a bit, could you describe the emotional reaction of these survivors when you entered the camp?

PE: Most of them were too pathetic to do anything except to plead for help.

PS: There was no way they could express their joy, or at the moment of liberation...

PE: A few did, but, actually speaking, we were busy. I mean, we were busy. I mean, heh, it was a [chuckling]...

PS: Ah, I can imagine.

PE: An overwhelming task

PS: So you stumbled on this, you're accustomed to battle, you're accustomed to casualties, but this, I know having experienced and having interviewed oh, about 50 other liberators, you know, it's, well, the shock factor is beyond belief. So you--there was no way you could follow the progress or lack of progress. By this time I guess all combat had ceased.

PE: Well, in that area it had all ceased, except that the Russians were coming in, and they were right behind the Germans that were fleeing, and they hooked up with us the next day.

PS: Then you were close to the point that they referred to as the meeting at the Al--at the Elbe?

PE: Oh yeah, I was right there.

PS: That's where you were.

PE: Yeah. I was in a town called Grabow. The Russians were there and I went up there. It was a different kind of experience, though.

PS: At that point, Doctor, your, you had completed your internship, your residency and you were...

PE: No, just an internship.

PS: Oh, oh.

PE: Yeah.

PS: Well, a completion of internship would be today what they consider what, residency?

PE: Well, an internship's only one year.

PS: Oh.

PE: Residency is...

PS: Where...

PE: Several years in most situations.

PS: You've described your emotions and, oh, one thing I wanted to ask you, did you notice, or was there any way of telling whether this camp was say especially set up for Jewish prisoners?

PE: No.

PS: Did you see any ethnic diversity or...

PE: It happened so quickly. We just really didn't have any way to check. Now at that time I spoke German fairly fluently. But, I don't remember whether or not I did question these people as to whether or not they were Jews. I'm sure some of them were, but I'm not sure this was a camp that was set up on an ethnic basis. There may have been other nationalities there.

PS: Then, I guess you were starting to hear at that point of the, some of the major death camps, the Buchenwalds, the Bergen-Belsens, Dachau...

PE: Afterwards.

PS: Afterwards.

PE: Yeah.

PS: Yeah, we, did you, in the course of your action and the time you were out of, you were in the hospital, was there any information coming through then, Doctor, about the discovering, discovery of concentration camps say when the...

PE: No.

PS: In Poland's...

PE: No.

PS: The, see there was no...

PE: No, there was no real information given to us and that was, in my opinion that was determined by the policy of President Roosevelt...

PS: Yeah.

PE: And his close advisors, Beauregard Hull, and those people, who I think were praying that all the Jews in Europe would be annihilated.

PS: Yes.

PE: And the guy that was the Secretary of State, what the hell was his...

PS: Um...

PE: Pope? He was a...

PS: This is Cordell Hull? Was that Hull?

PE: Cordell Hull, and there was another guy, who was a virulent antisemite, who would have nothing, oh, you know...

PS: You know, I was interviewed, I'm interviewing you for Gratz College. At that, at the time that I was interviewed, they had only, they had about 700 interviews with survivors. But they had never had an interview with a so-called, you know, like you and I, liberators. I was the first one, and I was asked the question, "After you were in Germany for a few weeks fighting within Germany, were you aware of," yeah, etc., etc., those camps and the transport of, transport--I said, "No," then I've made it a point to ask the same question to all 50 or 60 liberators I've interviewed, and every one said without hesitation, they knew nothing. See, before that I was thinking, oh, I must be wrong. I must have known it. [unclear]

PE: It was a well-concealed secret by the American military and by the American press at the assistance of Roosevelt, and of course, have you been down in the Holocaust Museum?

PS: No, we're due, we have a date to go with a group. Have you been there yourself, Doctor?

PE: I've been there a couple times, and I was just down there last Thursday. I was down there for a invited meeting of people that have contributed. I contributed a whole collection of books from the Nazi era that I took out of a home of a Nazi officer whose apartment that I occupied in Berlin. Because I was sent to Berlin.

PS: Oh.

PE: Our division was. And we were in Berlin until December.

PS: Now you had gone through medical school and internship, and you were dedicated to the saving of life, and you, I think the shock probably on a person such as you, dedicated to saving life, would be even harsher to see this total waste of, you know, the atrocities beyond belief.

PE: Depraved.

PS: Yeah.

PE: That's the only word I can say is depraved. Them depraved monsters and the, our government refused to help, refused to help. They were advised to bomb the camps, bomb the tracks going to the camps. See, I didn't know all this at the time.

PS: Yeah.

PE: Bomb the tracks going to the camps so they couldn't transport these people. And they refused.

PS: And then he had the...

PE: He could have saved a...

PS: He had to know...

PE: Million lives.

PS: They had to know, because we, I had some training in interpretation of aerial reconnaissance photographs. And even though certainly the cameras and equipment were not as sophisticated as now, we could interpret, you know, combat photographs, tell the depth of a, we could even spot mine fields. There's so much unbelievable you wouldn't think would show up on aerial photographs.

PE: Yeah.

PS: That they had to know, they had to know of the type of buildings, you know, the death houses and all.

PE: They knew what was going...

PS: However...

PE: They had people that got in and got out. They had people that got in, that told them what was going on. And, Rabbi Wise pleaded with them...

PS: Yeah.

PE: To bomb the camps, pleaded with them. You go down to that Holocaust Museum. You'll see what a *schmuck* that...

PS: Yeah.

PE: [blows his nose!] Roosevelt was.

PS: Oh, the stories of, take the Ship of the Damned, the St. Louis.

PE: Right.

PS: One of our speakers very often is Liesl Loeb, who was one of the passengers. She lives in the area.

Tape one, side two:

PS: This is side two, Phil Solomon interviewing Dr. Paul Eglick, for the Holocaust Oral History Archive of Gratz College, side two. Doctor, how long then did you personally remain in this camp?

PE: Maybe three or four hours.

PS: Oh, that's...

PE: Yeah.

PS: Then you rejoined your...

PE: My unit.

PS: By then I guess the combat itself, all German troops in your area had surrendered?

PE: As far as we knew...

PS: Yeah.

PE: They had surrendered. There was no actual fighting, but the Germans were just fleeing from the Russians.

PS: Then, so you remained, you and your outfit remained in that general area? Were you moved to, I think you said you went to Berlin?

PE: That was much later.

PS: Oh.

PE: We remained in that area until about, oh, the middle of June. And then we were shipped back to France to a place called Marmelone [phonetic]. We were there for about a month and then they put us on boxcars and shipped us up to Berlin.

PS: And there you were part of the Army of Occupation?

PE: Yeah, we were the official occupying troops for, service troops for Berlin District Headquarters.

PS: Were you aware of, during the time you were in Berlin, of any Jews who came ba--returned to their home in those areas, from concentration camps?

PE: Well I had, not from concentration camps, but I heard one very interesting experience. I made friends--acquaintances--with a couple who were, she was Jewish, not completely. She was a *Mischling*, which means she was a mixture of Jew and Gentile. Her husband was German. They wanted him to divorce her so they could take her to a concentration camp. He was a banker, and he lost his job during the war because he wouldn't do that. He was sweeping the streets. They lived in an apartment. In the floor above them--they lived on the ground floor--in the floor above them was a couple, the woman was from Pomerania, which is a province a little further east than Mecklenburg. And her husband was in the Luftwaffe. And he had been in the Luftwaffe, he had been, had fought in Spain when they had the Spanish Civil War on the fascist side. But, he was an anti-Nazi. He could prove it, and I will never forget having dinner with these four people one night, and the *Mischling*, a woman that was half-Jewess, telling us how her neighbor

would take a bowl of food and put it under the stairwell so that they could survive. Because they would not give her a ration card. They only had a ration card for the husband. And in this way they were able to survive during the end of the war. And I met all these people. I had dinner with them, and I spoke German fairly fluently then and was able to come away with this rather beautiful story. The one sad part about it was, I asked this German captain, "How many of the Germans were anti-Nazi?" And he said, "Two percent."

PS: [chuckles] Yeah. Then you remained in Berlin for how long?

PE: Stayed in Berlin until the end of November and I came back to the States.

PS: That's, yeah, a good five months. Was your, was the entire 82nd Airborne in the...

PE: Right.

PS: Stationed in Berlin...

PE: Yeah.

PS: As, you had to these as Army of Occupation?

PE: Yeah.

PS: Then you returned to the United States?

PE: I returned to United States just in time to, I came back a little earlier than my division because I had points to get home.

PS: Oh.

PE: Yeah. And I came back just in time to go up to New York and watch my division parade down...

PS: Oh.

PE: Fifth Avenue. The Victory Parade was our division.

PS: Ah, the 82nd Parade.

PE: Yeah.

PS: The 101st Cavalry that I was in was actually New York National Guard. And so it was, until it was federalized. When we came back though we were on our way to the Pacific. We were being redeployed. Well, Doctor, I believe I've reached just about the end of my thoughts. Is there anything that you would like to add? Anything we didn't cover? Or anything that might be on your mind?

PE: Well, since you mentioned that, I think what I'm gonna do is show you a picture in this book of General Gavin addressing the troops. [pause] Here you are. This...

PS: Yeah, the book, Doctor Eglick, the book that you are holding...

PS: Is your regimental, your...

PE: No, no.

PS: Division...

PE: This was a book written by General Gavin.

PS: Oh, oh.

PE: *On To Berlin.*

PS: O.K.

PE: He made a speech to us. This was at Epinal, which is near Marmelone [phonetic]...

PS: Yeah.

PE: When we were back in France.

PS: Now just to go on record on the tape, General Gavin was the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division.

PE: Yeah, right.

PS: And you were part of the U.S. Third Army.

PE: Right. I really don't remember which army we were part of..

PS: Yeah. Yeah, I think it would have had to be...

PE: Yeah, O.K.

PS: Third.

PE: Well, anyway, Gavin made a speech to us at Epinal, and then he made another speech in Berlin, in which he was very informal. He had us, we had a review, you know, with the whole bit, and then he wanted us to come up and gather around the reviewing stand and he was standing on and he had us sit down, and he made a speech to us. He said in effect, "You've done a great job here. Now we're gonna send you over to the Pacific."

PS: [chuckles]

PE: And nobody cheered. Everybody went, "Ohhhhh!"

PS: And the date of this, Doctor?

PE: What?

PS: The date of this was...

PE: This was I think when we first got to Berlin. But, it wasn't necessary because within a matter of weeks after that...

PS: The bomb...

PE: Japan...

PS: In, yeah, we were on our way.

PE: Wait a minute. Let me think for a minute.

PS: I think August, about August...

PE: Wait a minute. I'm wrong. It wasn't in Berlin. It was at Epinal he told us that. And, I can tell you exactly. I was on a train in a boxcar with a few other officers going to Berlin. And we stopped, the train was a, it was a horrendous trip. The train would stop, they'd stay there for hours. All we had was K-rations. We didn't have adequate water to drink. We couldn't wash. It was terrible. But, we stopped near Cologne, Germany, and we got a *Stars and Stripes*, which said that the H--the A-bomb had been dropped. So that must have been the 5th or 6th of August.

PS: Yeah, yeah it was.

PE: O.K.?

PS: So your only knowledge of that was through the *Stars and Stripes*? The lack of, you know, the lack of communication was...

PE: We were on a train!

PS: Yeah, yeah, but even probably there was no...

PE: Is this still on?

PS: Yeah.

PE: Turn it off.

PS: Yeah. Well, before ending the taped interview, Dr. Eglick, I want to, on behalf of the Holocaust Oral History Archive of Gratz College, I want to thank you so much for your very fascinating, interesting, valuable testimony to another dimension in the realities of the Holocaust. So again on behalf of Gratz College and our Holocaust Oral History Archive we thank you very, very much.