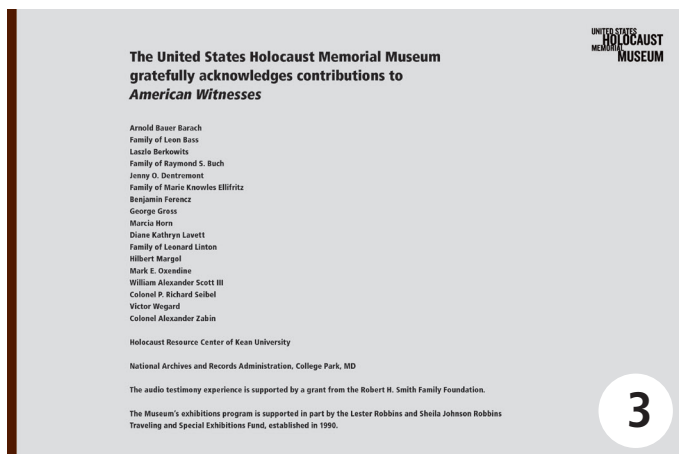
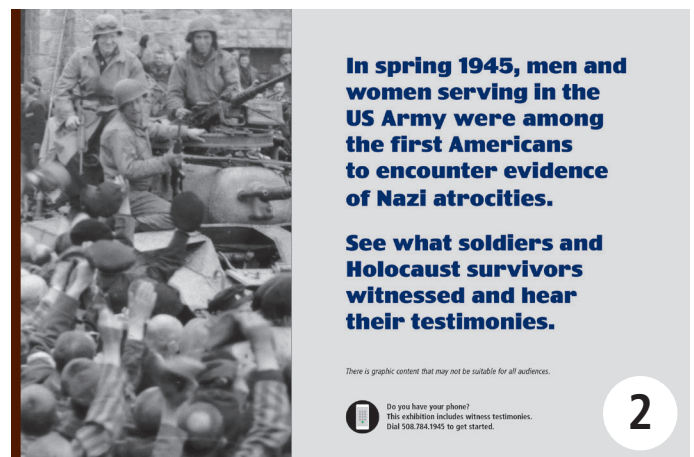
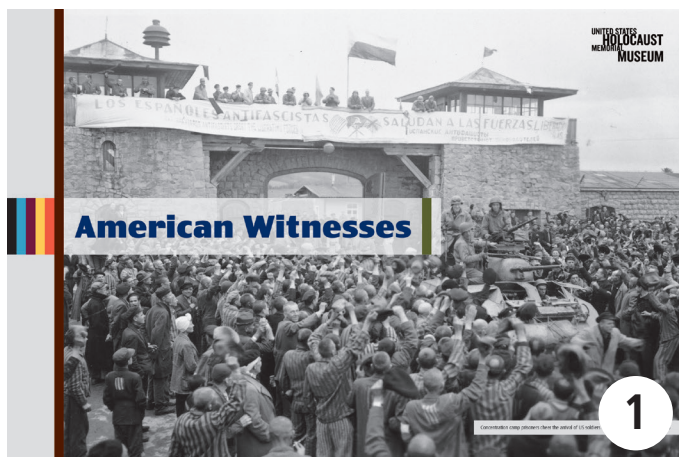


American Witnesses

Below you will find thumbnails of the full set of 18 posters. The call-in number for the audio testimonies is located at the bottom of each individual story poster. If you are outside of the domestic United States, or wish to print out the transcripts of the testimonies, you can find that information at www.ushmm.org/awposters under "Additional Resources."

It is recommended that the first 9 posters be printed if you are unable to print the full set of posters. Within the first 9 posters, you will find the title and introduction panels, the credit panel, as well as 6 individual story posters that share a wide variety of witness experiences, as well as one experience of a Holocaust survivor.



American Witnesses



Holocaust Survivor



Gina Rappaport

Following the occupation of Poland, German authorities ordered Gina Rappaport and her family, along with other Jews, into the Tanenbom ghetto. In 1943, the SS deported them to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany. As Allied troops approached in April 1945, the camp guards began evacuating some of the prisoners by train. US troops liberated Rappaport and the other inmates on the conveyer.

Photo: Former prisoners sit near the train from which they were liberated, Fardoben, Germany, April 1945.

Testimony 2
Dial 508.784.1945 and p.

5



Reconnaissance



Sergeant Leon Bass 183rd Combat Engineer Battalion

Leon Bass was born in Philadelphia and served in the US Third Army in a segregated unit of African American soldiers. He was 20 years old when he entered the Buchenwald concentration camp days after its liberation. William A. Scott III also served in his unit.

Photo: Liberated prisoners with American soldiers, Buchenwald concentration camp, Germany, April 1945.

Testimony 3
Dial 508.784.1945 and press 3

6



War Crimes Investigator



Sergeant Benjamin Ferencz US Third Army

Benjamin Ferencz studied criminology and enlisted in the US Army after he graduated from high school in 1943. As Nazi atrocities were uncovered, he was transferred to a newly created War Crimes Branch of the army to gather evidence of Nazi brutality and apprehend the criminals.

Photo: Uncovering evidence of war crimes near Flossenbürg concentration camp, Germany, April 1945.

Testimony 4
Dial 508.784.1945 and p.

7



Medic/Prisoner



Corporal Anthony Acevedo 70th Infantry Division

After entering the US Army in 1943, Anthony Acevedo trained as a medic. In January 1945, he was captured in the battle of the Bulge and taken to a prisoner-of-war camp. A few weeks later, the German camp leaders selected some 100 American soldiers, including Acevedo, and deported them to the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

Photo: US Army medics treat American soldiers who survived the death march from Bergen, Marktredwitz, Germany, May 1945.

Testimony 5
Dial 508.784.1945 and p.

8



US Army Nurse



Lieutenant Marie Knowles Ellifritz 130th Evacuation Hospital

Marie Knowles Ellifritz was deployed to the newly liberated Mauthausen concentration camp to aid the thousands of malnourished and ill survivors there. Lacking adequate medical supplies and the language skills to communicate with patients, the staff of the 130th Evacuation Hospital tried to nurse them back to health.

Photo: Liberated prisoners await medical treatment, Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria, May 1945.

Testimony 6
Dial 508.784.1945 and press 6

9



Combat Engineer



Sergeant Raymond Buch 116th Armored Division

Raymond Buch was inducted into the US Army at the age of 22. As part of the 116th Armored Division, he fought in the battle of the Bulge. On May 12, 1945, his unit of engineers was dispatched to the newly liberated Nazi concentration camp of Mauthausen to help bury the dead.

Photo: Civilians are forced to bury bodies, Mauthausen, Austria, May 1945.

Testimony 7
Dial 508.784.1945 and p.

10

American Witnesses



Paratrooper



Corporal Leonard Linton
82nd Airborne Division

Born in Japan of Russian parents, Leonard Linton went to school in France and Germany before settling in the United States. Drafted into the US Army, he became a paratrooper and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In early May 1945, the 82nd Airborne Division entered the Wöbbelin concentration camp.

Photo: Starving and ill former prisoners await medical transport, Wöbbelin concentration camp, Germany, May 1945.

Testimony 8
Dial 508.784.1945 and press 8

11



Unit Photographer



Sergeant William A. Scott III
183rd Combat Engineer Battalion

William A. Scott III was drafted into the US Army in 1943 while attending Morehouse College. He joined the 183rd Combat Engineer Battalion, which was a segregated unit of African American soldiers. When he arrived with the second wave of Americans to reach the Buchenwald concentration camp, Scott was tasked with documenting what they saw.

Photo: Bodies of prisoners piled up near the crematorium, Buchenwald concentration camp, Germany, April 1945.

Testimony 9
Dial 508.784.1945 and

12



US Army Nurse



Lieutenant Beatrice Wachter
51st Field Hospital

Beatrice Wachter enlisted with the US Army Nurse Corps at the age of 37. She entered the Nordhausen concentration camp shortly after its liberation in April 1945. She wrote to her husband, "I have seen the most horrible sights that I hope I will never see again as long as I live."

Photo: US Army medic transport a liberated prisoner to a field hospital for medical treatment, Nordhausen concentration camp, Germany, April 1945.

Testimony 10
Dial 508.784.1945 and press

13



Holocaust Survivor



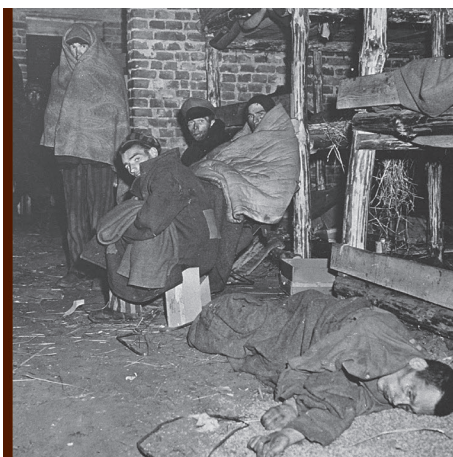
Lucjan Salzman

In Spring 1942, Lucjan Salzman and his family were forced into one of the many ghettos in German-occupied Poland. Over the course of the next three years he was imprisoned in ten different Nazi concentration camps across Europe. In April 1945, the SS transported 17-year-old Salzman and other prisoners to the Wöbbelin camp in Germany. There he was liberated by the 82nd Airborne Division.

Photo: Lucjan Salzman (second from right) with other freed concentration camp prisoners, Wöbbelin, Germany, May 1945.

Testimony 11
Dial 508.784.1945 and

14



Paratrooper



Private Jesse Osandine
82nd Airborne Division

A member of the Lumbee tribe, Jesse Osandine entered the US Army in 1944, following his graduation from an American Indian high school. During the Allied invasion of Nazi Germany, the 82nd Airborne advanced into the heavily defended Ruhr industrial region. In May 1945, 18-year-old Osandine entered the newly liberated Nazi concentration camp of Wöbbelin, near the German city of Lüneburg.

Photo: Survivors sit alongside a dead fellow inmate, Wöbbelin, Germany, May 1945.

Testimony 12
Dial 508.784.1945 and

15



War Crimes Investigator



Chief Warrant Officer Victor L. Wegard
War Crimes Investigation Team,
Unit #6832, US Third Army

Victor L. Wegard joined the US Army shortly after finishing high school. After serving in the military campaign in Italy, he was recalled into the War Crimes Branch. In April 1945, his unit came across the shallow graves of concentration camp prisoners murdered by SS guards in Hammelburg, Germany.

Photo: Former SS guards are forced to view the bodies of murdered concentration camp prisoners, Hammelburg, Germany, May 1945.

Testimony 13
Dial 508.784.1945 and

16



American Witnesses

**“Everything we’ve read and I write
is understatement....”**

**Believe me Dad, I saw it with my
own eyes today.”**

—Irving Phillip Esner, American soldier, in a letter to his father on May 15, 1945

17

**“I saw the bodies, I know it is all true,
every word I write here....”**

**Yet there are those who will still say,
‘It’s another one of those stories,
take it with a grain of salt.’**

**Well I’m sending some pictures to my
father that were taken by a friend of
mine as I stood by.**

Go look at them.”

—Lieutenant Margaret House, 91st Evacuation Hospital, in a letter home, April 18, 1945

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