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DR. DANIEL SPECTOR'S HOUSE

on the date(s) of 3-24-95
4/3/95 for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Daniel E. Spector
Interviewee's signature

1/20/95
Date

Address
1317 7th Ave NE 5ville AL
Phone 435 4798

J. M. Rosier
Interviewer's signature

1-20-95
Date

1307 Deerfield Lane NE, Jacksonville, AL 36265
Address
435-9131
Phone

ORAL HISTORY PROPOSAL

John M. Rosier
American History 202 T.T. 11:00

Dr. Daniel E. Spector
1618 Fairway Drive, SW, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Born December 19, 1942, in Pensacola, Florida

THE HOLOCAUST

Dr. Spector, a Jewish professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was born during the time of the Holocaust. He has done extensive research on this particular time period exploring his own heritage as well as those who suffered during the Holocaust.

Good plan
+
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1. Dr. Spector, I understand that you are an historian, recently retired from the United States Army Chemical School, and a professor emeritus at the University of Alabama--Birmingham. Would you care to tell me more about yourself?
2. The topic of our discussion today is the Holocaust. Being Jewish yourself and also an historian, your insight provides a unique opportunity for me to broaden my perspective of why and how something like this could happen. What was life like for the Jews in Europe, Russia and especially Germany prior to World War I?
3. Did the Bolshevik Revolution (1917) have an impact on the life of the Russian Jews?
4. The Versailles Treaty of 1919 was one of the most severe treaties ever imposed on a defeated nation causing great hardship on the German people for many years following World War I. Didn't German Jews suffer equally along with the rest of the German population during this period?
5. Why were they singled out for persecution?
6. In 1923, Adolph Hitler clearly stated his plans for the future of Germany should he ever come to power in his book "Mein Kampf." Did the German population fail to understand the implications of how he would achieve racial purity?
7. Do you feel Hitler's original intent was to enslave the Jews in an attempt to prosper at their expense or to exterminate them as a race from the beginning?
8. Why do you think the German people failed to resist the blatant injustice and atrocities committed against their fellow citizens?
9. Soviet troops were the first to stumble on the concentration camps in 1944 and were later followed by western correspondents. Why were their graphic depictions dismissed as propaganda?
10. How did the United States respond to these reports? And what attempt (if any) was made to stop this brutal persecution?
11. It is believed that Stalin and Mao Tse-tung were personally responsible for the deaths of millions more people than Hitler. Why does Hitler's Holocaust attract more world attention than the actions of these two men?
12. Do you find a correlation between Jewish persecution and persecution of other ethnic people throughout the world (including Bosnia, the USSR, and even the United States) today?
13. Finally, in your opinion, has the world learned from past history or are its lessons going unnoticed or being ignored?

*Exceeds
questions*

THE HOLOCAUST

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Injustices and atrocities

SIDE TWO

1. Hitler's quest in achieving a racially pure society
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Title

Dr. Daniel E. Spector is currently a part-time professor at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and a retired historian for the Chemical School at Fort McClellan. He was born in Pensacola, Florida, to a Jewish father and a Methodist mother. He grew up in East Tennessee and attended Oak Ridge High School. After high school, he attended George Washington University in Washington as a Political Science Major. After a few years, he transferred to the University of Florida under a fellowship for Political Science in Urban Administration. After resigning his fellowship due to boredom, Dr. Spector married and moved to Texas. He spent a brief time in the Air Force and the Reserves. In 1965, he went to work for the United States Army as a Department of Army Civilian. He spent a few years in Germany and served as a Man Power Analyst. He resigned from his position and returned to Texas. In 1971, he entered the University of Texas where he received his Masters Degree and his Ph.D. in History in 1975. He later went back into the Army as an Education Specialist and was appointed as a Historian for the Chemical Corp. at Fort McClellan. He was offered early retirement in September of 1995, and began teaching at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He teaches Military History, American and Western Civilization, as well as Middle East and Chinese History.

The Holocaust is the persecution and execution of approximately six million Jews under the Nazi Regime. In fact, it was a highly organized and industrialized process. It is a unique example of man's inhumanity. In Poland, the center of the Jewish religion, the population of the Jews were almost eliminated entirely. The Jews were persecuted long before Hitler's ^{rise} raise to power. After World War I, Europe was in an economic depression that partially caused the resentment towards the Jewish population. The Jews in Western Europe were more assimilated to the cultures of their countries than those in Eastern Europe and suffered less. Many of the Jews were prominent members of society before their extermination. With the enactment of the Versailles Treaty in 1919, which punished Germany for their involvement in World War I, the Jewish people were singled out and used as crutch [?] for the defeat of the German Army.

Before Hitler's ^{rise} raise to power, he expressed his ideology towards the Jewish religion and the punishment that they should receive for the interference in the war. He expressed a plan for a supreme race with world dominance. Only the elite is fit to rule society and this elite should fit his criteria. Hitler's anti-Semitic ideas allowed him to build his empire and almost entirely wipe out the entire Jewish religion in Western Europe. Although he almost achieved his mission, his book, Mein Kampf, was never taken

seriously by the German people during the period prior to his dictatorship. It was merely dismissed as propaganda.

Hitler's original intent is not understood. Prior to World War II, Hitler was more interested with the "removal of the French out of the Rhine land, dismantling Czechoslovakia, and to merge with Austria." In the beginning, the Jews were primarily used as labor^{ers} or slaves. Towards the end of the war, the German Army began to ^{the}entire population with the gas chambers. Ironically, after the war, a German Jew named Fritz Haber, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. This man is know as the Father of Gas Warfare. The German people were aware of the atrocities, yet felt that it was in their best interest to ignore the murders and "ride it out."

The concentration camps or "death camps" had not gone unnoticed by the world. Intelligence reports, as well as reports from Jewish prisoners who had escaped, graphically depicted the terrible injustices and atrocities committed by the German Army against this once prominent culture. Worldwide attention was drawn, but responses seemed to vary. In the United States, the descriptions of the "death camps" were so unbelievable that they might have been dismissed as propaganda. In a militaristic sense, it seems as though some leaders in the State Department were anti-Semitic and were aware of the atrocities. They felt that if the German

Army was reallocating their resources for their extermination of the Jews and not participating as heavily in the war effort, it might bring about the defeat of the German Army. This idea brought about tension between the State Department and the War Department and whether (of) not to accept the reports at face value.

What makes this tragedy unique from others of its kind is the percentage of deaths. In the Holocaust, by percentage, there were more deaths belonging to a particular ethnic group than any other war. Leaders such as Mao Tse-tung and Stalin were responsible for more deaths, but did not single out a particular ethnic group or race. The deaths that they caused were war related and not anti-Semitic. In this sense, Hitler can not be compared to either ^amen due to the nature of his crime. The single-mindedness of Hitler and his ideology that nearly caused the extinction of an entire group of people. No single institution or person will ever compare to cruelty and inhumanity created by Hitler and the Nazi Regime.

When asked, "Do you feel the world has learned from past history or does its lessons remain unnoticed," Dr. Spector replied, "No! Unfortunately the world has not learned from past experience." There still remain^s problems in places such as the Middle East and Central Africa. Unfortunately, there are still those who possess Hitler's

ideology, and practice Genocide of what a particular races or ethnic groups. Although the Holocaust has long since ~~passed~~ past, the anguish and pain still remain. This year commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Holocaust. As written in the book, The World Must Know, "In memory of those who were consumed in the Holocaust, may their memory serve as a blessing -- and a warning."

Written well
would be more
goals from your interview
and material of
interview

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Introducing

DANIEL E. SPECTOR

Historian

PERSONAL DATA

Born December 19, 1942, at Pensacola, Florida

Married 1964 to the former Esta G. Rappaport

Two married (and employed !) children, ages 28 and 25; both college graduates

Home Address: 1618 Fairway Drive, SW, Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Telephone: (205) 435-4798

EDUCATION

Public schools, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; left for college at beginning of senior year in 1959

BA in political science, The George Washington University, 1963

Graduate work in political science at The University of Florida, 1963-1964

MA and PHD in history, The University of Texas at Austin, 1972 and 1975

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

National Honor Society

Finalist, National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Phi Alpha Theta

Lebanon-American Society Award for Excellence in Arabic Studies

Alumni Scholarship, The George Washington University

NDEA Fellowship, The University of Florida

NDFL Fellowship, The University of Texas

LANGUAGES

I have college level training in Hebrew, Arabic, Farsi, Spanish, and Chinese; I am now functionally illiterate in all five!

PUBLICATIONS

Book Length

Doctoral Dissertation: *A History of the Persian Jews*, The University of Texas at Austin, 1975

MA Research Paper, "Anti-Americanism in China, 1945-1949," The University of Texas at Austin, 1972

United States Army Chemical School Annual Historical Review, 1 January through 31 December 1988, Fort McClellan, Alabama, 1989

United States Army Chemical School Annual Historical Review, 1 January through 31 December 1989, Fort McClellan, Alabama, 1990

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United States Army Chemical School Annual Command History, 1 January through 31 December 1991, Fort McClellan, Alabama, 1992

United States Army Chemical School Annual Command History, 1 January through 31 December 1992, Fort McClellan, Alabama, 1993

Articles

"The Arabs in Israel," *Paisano*, University of Texas, 1974

"SQT," *The Detective, the Journal of Army Criminal Investigation*, Fall 1975

"MOS Test and SQT: What's the Difference," with Donald Readell, *Military Police Law Enforcement Journal*, Summer 1977

"Skill Qualification Testing for Law Enforcement Soldiers," *Military Police Law Enforcement Journal*, Spring 1979

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"Chemical Corps Hall of Fame: Major General Amos A. Fries," *Retorts*, December 1989

"Heroes of the Chemical Corps; Profile: Major General William L. Sibert," *Retorts*, March 1990

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"Peace. Is It Here? What Does It Mean?" *McClellan News: Chemical Corps Special 72nd Anniversary Issue*, June 22, 1990

"Corps Recognizes Four Distinguished Members," *McClellan News: Chemical Corps Special 72nd Anniversary Issue*, June 22, 1990

"Six Inductees into the Hall of Fame," *McClellan News: Chemical Corps Special 72nd Anniversary Issue*, June 22, 1990

"Heroes of the Chemical Corps; Profile: Distinguished members of the Chemical Corps," *Retorts*, September 1990

"The Chemical Corps and Desert Shield," *Retorts*, December 1990

"Origins of the Chemical Corps," *CML, Army Chemical Review*, July 1993

"The Chemical Corps Goes to Sea," *CML, Army Chemical Review*, July 1994

Several articles pending publication in *The Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, Columbia University and MacMillan

Papers Presented

"The Marranos of Persia," Graduate History Symposium, University of Texas, 1974

"Use of Video-Tape in the Military Police SQT," Military Testing Association, 1977

"The MP SQT," Second International Learning Technology Conference and Exposition, 1978

Book Reviews

"Ben Gurion, State Builder: Principles and Pragmatism, 1948-1963," *History: Reviews of New Books*, October 1974

"America and the Arab States: An Uneasy Encounter," *The History Teacher*, November 1977

"A History of Jewish Literature, Volume V, The Jewish Center of Culture in the Ottoman Empire," *History: Reviews of New Books*, January 1975

"Modern Turkey," *Perspectives: Monthly Reviews of New Books on Government, Politics, and International Affairs*, May 1975

"A History of Jewish Literature, Volume VIII, The Berlin Haskalah," *History: Reviews of New Books*, December 1976

"Palestine: Retreat from the Mandate, the Making of British Policy, 1936-1945," *History: Reviews of New Books*, January 1979

"Palestine Jewry and the Arab Question, 1917-1925," *History: Reviews of New Books*, August 1979

"The Shaping of 'Abbasid Rule," *History: Reviews of New Books*, July 1980

"The Rediscovery of the Holy Land in the Nineteenth Century," *History: Reviews of New Books*, May/June 1981

"Terror in Ireland," *Military Review*, February 1982

"The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800-1914," *History: Reviews of New Books*, March 1982

"Mystics, Philosophers, and Politicians: Essays in Jewish Intellectual History in Honor of Alexander Altman," *History: Reviews of New Books*, August 1982

"Roots of Confrontation in South Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and the Superpowers," *Military Review*, September 1982

"Fellah and Townsman in the Middle East," *History: Reviews of New Books*, February 1983

"East Central Europe: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," *Military Review*, March 1983

"Land and Revolution in Iran, 1960-1980," *History: Reviews of New Books*, April 1983

"From Agadir to Armageddon: Anatomy of a Crisis," *History: Reviews of New Books*, September 1983

"Religion and Politics in Iran: Shi 'ism from Quietism to Revolution," *History: Reviews of New Books*, April 1984

"Ben-Gurion and the Palestinian Arabs: From Peace to War," *History: Reviews of New Books*, October 1985

"The Jews under Roman and Byzantine Rule: A Political History from the Bar Kokhba War to the Arab Conquest," *History: Reviews of New Books*, May/June 1986

"The Jews of Egypt: A Mediterranean Society in Modern Times," *History: Reviews of New Books*, Winter 1988

"Extremist Shi 'ites: The Ghulat Sects," *History: Reviews of New Books*, Fall 1989

"Chemical Weaponry: A Continuing Challenge," *Military Review*, April 1990

"Domestic Implementation of a Chemical Weapons Treaty," *Military Review*, September 1990, and *CML: Army Chemical Review*, July 1991

"The Land that Became Israel: Studies in Historical Geography," *History: Reviews of New Books*, Winter 1991

"The Eagle and the Dragon: The United States Military in China, 1901-1937," *Military Review*, March 1991

"After Tienamen Square: Challenge for the Chinese-American Relationship," *Military Review*, November 1991

"The Future of Biological Weapons," *CML: Army Chemical Review*, January 1992, and *Military Review*, February 1992

"Desert Mirage: The True Story of the Gulf War," *Military Review*, June 1992

"Doomsday Weapons in the Hands of Many: The Arms Control Challenge of the 90s," *CML: Army Chemical Review*, July 1992

"The Middle East from the Iran-Contra Affair to the Intifada," *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, December 1992

"Powder and Propellants: Energetic Materials at Indian Head, Maryland," *The Public Historian*, Spring 1993

"Syria Unmasked: The Suppression of Human Rights by the Asad Regime," *History: Reviews of New Books*, Winter 1993

"Chemical Soldiers: British Gas Warfare in World War I," *Military Review*, October 1993

"Land and Power," *History: Reviews of New Books*, Fall 1993

"The Clandestine Building of Libya's Chemical Weapons Factory: A Study of International Collusion," *Military Review*, January 1994

Experience

United States Army Chemical Corps Historian, United States Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; August 1988 to September 1994; as the Chemical Corps Historian I research and write on topics of nuclear, biological, and chemical history of interest to the Army, other Federal agencies, the Congress, and the general public; I develop and teach courses in military history and the history of the Chemical Corps and ensure that military history is integrated into all instructional programs; I maintain a historical preservation program to ensure that important historical materials are not lost to posterity.

Adjunct Professor of History, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama; September 1986 to present; I teach 3-4 courses each year, both graduate and undergraduate; the topics I have taught include Middle Eastern and Chinese history, Western Civilization, and the Civil War.

Deputy Director of Training and Doctrine, United States Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; 1984-1988; I was the senior civilian in the directorate with a wide range of educational administrative duties; these

included serving as Accreditation Officer for accreditation of the school by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and as the Army representative to the NBC Defense Training Working Group of NATO.

Chief, Standardization and Analysis Division, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, United States Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; 1982-1984; this consisted of supervising the evaluation and analysis of Chemical School programs.

Chief, Individual Training Design Branch, Directorate of Training Developments, United States Army Chemical School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; 1980-1982; I supervised the development of training objectives and tests for Chemical School training; I also directed the development of Skill Qualification Tests and Soldiers' Manuals for the Chemical Corps.

Chief, Skill Qualification Test Development Branch, United States Army Military Police School, Fort McClellan, Alabama; 1975-1980; I supervised the development of Skill Qualification Tests for the Military Police Corps.

Adjunct Instructor, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama; 1975-1977; I taught survey courses on American History.

Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin; 1972-1974; part time duties in the History Department and at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Various administrative positions in **civilian personnel and manpower management** for the United States Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Vietnam, and Germany; 1965-1971.

References available on request.