

INTERVIEW #11

Not on Tape

I11

Date: Jan. 17/75

Place: St. Jacobs

Participants: Orvie Shantz, Aaron Weber

Pre-War

- as war approached, the parents were concerned whether the sons would be forced to go; therefore, when they were taken to A.S.W., although they were sorely needed at home, the parents were satisfied that they were not going to war
- felt that they were sent up north to satisfy the public that they were doing something and to get them out of the public eye

War

- felt the experience to be one of real fellowship
- there were some whose commitment was not very strong and who decided to join the army; however, they were the exceptions and did not discredit the rest of them in the eyes of the government supervisors
- at first, were uneasy about speaking German for fear of what the government employees might think; but this did not turn out to be any problem
- felt the work to be rather insignificant; but this was overshadowed by their gratitude in accepting this as an alternative to going to war
- enjoyed the fellowship; for the most part, however, they remained within groups of their own
- words of praise for J. Harold Sherk - "they could not have sent a better man"