

INTERVIEW #13

Tape: 10 (B550-end) I13  
11 (AO-860)

Date: Feb. 6/75

Place: 73 Glenwood Dr., Kitchener

Participant: David Wiens

#### Pre-War

- family felt a leaning towards the German cause - impressed with their efficiency and know-how; also felt some affinity because of the language
- does not recall that nonresistance as such was specifically taught by the church or the family - was simply understood; thus, felt that it was not stressed as part of the entire life, ie. had not really thought it out in terms of relating to the enemy, etc.
- while the church was not instrumental in teaching nonresistance, it was important in setting up the A.S. program
- felt that there was some resentment against the CO's but never experienced any overt acts or statements

#### War

- felt that when he came to camp he was a little prejudiced, ie. rather narrow in his views; while there he learned to accept the wider group, ie. the wide variety of faiths
- but not everyone had a personal faith or were there because of Biblical convictions about nonviolence; felt that many were in camp who would not have been if they would have been made to go to court as the boys were in the West
- in retrospect, he sees the work as rather meaningless; but, at that time his attitude was one of unquestioning willingness to serve in whatever way the government dictated; realizes now, though, that the primary purpose of the government was to get them out of the public eye
- his mood was one of accepting the people and conditions as they were - making the most of the situation; in this way it became a broadening experience for him
- also broadening was his experience with the non-Mennonite family near Chatham - living and working with them