Henry Oertelt was born in Berlin, Germany, on January 13, 1921. When Henry was two years old, his father died, and his mother, Else, raised him. Henry had an older brother, Kurt. Soon after the Nazi rise to power in 1933, anti-Jewish laws came into effect in Germany; these laws directly affected Henry’s family. In May 1943, the family was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia. Henry and Kurt were later deported to multiple concentration camps and they were eventually sent on a death march. Both Henry and Kurt survived the Holocaust. His interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Henry was 18 years old.

Felix Sparks was born in San Antonio, Texas, on August 2, 1917. He was the oldest of five children. In 1936, Felix enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was discharged in 1938 but returned to active duty in 1941. In 1943, Felix was shipped to North Africa; after that, he participated in the July 1943 assault landing of Sicily. His unit helped liberate southern France and they fought in the Battle of the Ardennes and the Battle of the Bulge. Felix was part of the 7th US Army, which helped capture Nuremburg and then took part in liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. His interview was conducted in the United States. When the war began, Felix was 22 years old.

Note: captions for this video are available in English and Spanish.