

The Moment of Liberation

Friday, April 13, 1945



Near the end of the war, Jewish prisoners from the Bergen-Belsen extermination camp were being transported to another camp when the Germans abandoned the train. The U.S. Army came upon the survivors and the stories of horror the soldiers heard, which they previously thought were propaganda, became reality.



ABC News



CBS News



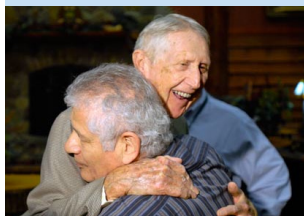
Each one of them was skeleton thin with starvation, a sickness in their faces and the way in which they stood-and there was something else. At the sight of Americans they began laughing in joy-if it could be called laughing. It was an outpouring of pure, near-hysterical relief.

There they came upon a long string of grimy, ancient boxcars standing silent on the tracks. As the American uniforms were sighted, a great stir went through this strange camp. Many rushed toward the Major's jeep and the two light tanks.

This had been-and was-a horror train. In these freight cars had been shipped 2500 people, jam-packed in like sardines, and they were people that had two things in common, one with the other: They were prisoners of the German State and they were Jews.

Excerpt from Wayne Robinson, *Move out Verify: the Combat Story of the 743rd Tank Battalion* (Germany, no publisher, 1945)

History Teacher, Matthew Rozell, brought together the survivors and their liberators from the U.S. Army for a reunion in 2009 at Hudson Falls High, NY.



Left above: World War II infantry veteran Carrol Walsh, top, hugs Holocaust survivor Paul Arato. **Right above:** Matthew Rozell **Below:** Reunion at Hudson Falls High.

