

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

As a lieutenant in military intelligence during World War II, Lewis Bloom (RC'42), 76, was seated in a Jeep that was the first to enter and liberate a labor camp in Geislingen, Germany. About 35 years later, a woman browsing a bookshelf at a temple-sponsored social in his home found a photograph of Geislingen and asked Bloom why he had it. After Bloom explained his involvement in the liberation of Geislingen, the woman told him that she had been a prisoner in the camp and had watched as his Jeep entered it.

It is dramatic events like these, recorded in the voices of those who lived through them, that Rutgers hopes to preserve in an oral archive of the memories of members of the Class of 1942. The project was conceived by Tom Kindre, class historian and president, at the class's 50th reunion. After getting approval from the Department of History in New Brunswick, the class raised the money to fund a two-year staff position to conduct the research.

G. Kurt Piehler (GSNB'85,'90), an adjunct professor of history and author

of *Remembering War the American Way*, will travel from Maine to California conducting interviews with the 220 living members of the Class of 1942.

"The archive will extend beyond the military to alumni and spouses of alumni who did not fight but contributed to the war effort," says Piehler. "The archive will reflect the impact the war had on their lives, their communities, and their long-term outlook."

If funding can be raised, the archive will be housed in the Alexander

Library.

"Students 100 years from now will be able to hear voices of people who lived through the defining event of the 20th century," says Kindre. "Imagine if we could have listened to soldiers from the Civil War on tape when we were in school."

