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| Interviewee: | <u>KUPTSOW</u> , Aaron | Date: | August 29, 1995 |
| Interviewer: | Philip G. Solomon | | |
| Audio tapes: | 2 English | Transcript | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None | | D 810 J4 G7 no. 133 |

SUMMARY

Aaron Kuptsow talks about his experiences as a radar navigation bombardier, 15th Air Force during World War II, especially his instructions in the event of capture, both as a Jew and as a radar operator.

He describes his capture, together with other crew members, after their plane was shot down near Hanover, Germany, on November 26, 1944, as well as a forced march to a *Luftwaffe* station at Detmold, then to an interrogation station at Wetzlar, near Frankfurt, Germany. There he experienced intensive questioning about Radar; solitary confinement, and an act of kindness by a German guard. He was transferred to STALAG I, a prison camp for air force officers, at Barth on the Baltic. He talks about conditions in the camp, the other prisoners, and different treatment by the Germans of officers and enlisted men who were prisoners of war. One day all the Jewish prisoners were put into a separate barracks in a secluded section of the camp. He explains how the prisoners organized their barracks and relied on Red Cross parcels for food. In fact, food was their main topic of conversation. News from the BBC (British Broadcasting Company) was distributed throughout the camp clandestinely every day. Although they were allowed to send and receive mail, none of the prisoners' mail was ever sent out.

The American prisoners took over the camp on April 30, 1945. He vividly describes the arrival of Russian troops on horseback accompanied by accordion music, and their behavior while in the STALAG. The Americans were flown to camps for liberated prisoners of war near Lyon, France. He describes some delays during his discharge from the service and how he entered medical school. Dr. Kuptsow again reflects on conditions at the camp and how being a prisoner of war affected him.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 Personal narrative - American prisoner of war
Prisoners of war
STALAG I (Barth, Germany: Prisoner of war camp)
Interrogation techniques