

Interviewee: SNYDER, Harry  
Interviewer: Phil Solomon  
No. of tapes: 1 English  
Transcript : 1 v (unpaged)

Date Dec.28, 1988

No restrictions

## SUMMARY

Harry Snyder served in Africa and Europe as a U.S. Army Quartermaster officer in the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry, beginning in May, 1943. He arrived at Dachau concentration camp in April 1945, the day after his division captured the camp from German troops. He relates that American soldiers, infuriated by the sight of the dead and the dying prisoners, had killed German guards, refusing offers of surrender.

While on detached service with the American military government, Mr. Snyder commanded two displaced persons camps. He was responsible for 18,000 former slave laborers and prisoners of war (POW) at Kaiserlautern and for 7000 others at the *Telefunken Kaserne* in Munich. These were East European survivors, mostly from Russia and Poland. Within each nationality group, the highest- ranking POW was chosen to supervise his countrymen.

Mr. Snyder's knowledge of Yiddish helped him communicate with local Germans and camp inmates. With no U.S. Army supplies available, he had to threaten local mayors to provide bread and he confiscated food and clothing from underground German warehouses. He left Europe in September 1945.

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#### SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 – 1945 – Personal narrative – American Serviceman

World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentration Camp – Liberation – Dachau

World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentration Camp – Dachau

Reprisal

Refugee camps: *Kaiserlautern* and *Telefunken Kaserne*, Munich, Germany