

Interviewee:	<u>WASSER</u> , Maurice J.	Date:	December 2, 1994
Interviewer:	Philip Solomon		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Maurice J. Wasser served as a 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force 325th fighter group, 317th fighter squadron, from 1942 to 1945. While stationed in Italy, he flew a P-51 Mustang, protecting B-17s bombing Germany. He was shot down in February 1945 near Munich, sent to a camp in Frankfurt am Main for interrogation, then to a Prisoner of War camp near Nuremberg. The prisoners later were moved to a prison in Moosburg on a 60-mile forced march. Mr. Wasser describes conditions, and mistreatment by S.S. guards who shot men who dropped out. However, some of the older German guards helped the POW's because they knew the war was almost over. In both camps, no Red Cross packages were received and food deprivation caused weight loss. No mail was received, no letters permitted to be sent.

In mid-May, 1945, Moosburg was liberated by General George Patton and the American 3rd Army. Mr. Wasser mentions briefly that he and other prisoners of war were invited to stay in German homes because the Germans were afraid of the approaching Russian soldiers.

He was shipped to a repatriation camp in Reims, France, then to Newport News, Virginia in June 1945.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945, Personal narratives, Jewish American
World War, 1939-1945, Prisoner of war camps - Germany
Prisoners of war – American
Prisoners of war – Forced marches
United States – Air force – Fighter Squadron 317th