https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

I'm Sally Weinberg. Today we are interviewing William McKee, Sr, prisoner of war survivor. The project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section.

Bill, we left off your story when you were prisoner of war in Krems, Austria. Could you continue your story and take us further into what happened to you?

Well, I believe I left off with how, basically, we were treated. I had got to the lazarette when this dentist, American dentist, told me he had no Novocaine. So just to show-- which we were well-attuned to by that time-- the superior race of the Germans, and to belittle anything, whether it be American or anybody else, they held me in a chair while they extracted my teeth. And I've never been able to sit into a dentist chair since that night.

It was extremely painful?

Yes. I would have died. I was in luck. I went down on a Wednesday, shot down and captured on a Wednesday. And the Monday before, I had my tetanus and typhus shots, which any former soldier hates to get. But if I hadn't had them, I often wondered where I'd be.

They had stolen all our military, or any supplies, medical supplies, the Red Cross. It was very limited supply. The Germans were suffering vast defeats. I had a radio-- which was very dangerous to have, a crystal set-- trying to keep up with information, particularly after the invasion. And we were waiting for American forces, but we were so far, being close to Vienna, compared to the fighting, the Russians were advancing. I think they call it the Carpathian range. They broke through. And at that time, they declared Vienna an open city.

When was this?

That was in the latter part of March, 1945. You could read a book with gunfire in and around that area. I mean, the sky was lit up. It's hard to describe. We can go into personal things. If you wanted to go to the bathroom, which was an outhouse there for 26 men. 26 stools, but there's 1,200 Americans in that one compound, so it was overflowing.

And when we dug a trench or a tunnel to escape, they'd use their labor and make us dig to fill the-- let the raw sewage fun into the tunnels, which, of course, backed up into the barracks. And a single outhouse, at the end each barracks, was far from adequate. Of course, we were always subject to body lice and everything else, besides not being treated for the wounds, the guys that were captured.

You recovered from the teeth extraction?

I did. It caused me a lot of pain. I tried to remember the old thing about salt water. And of course, you had no way of heating the water to any great extent. You'd have 40, 50 men trying to use the same stove.

But they got the Russian army broken through and they took the camp out of the hands of the Luftwaffe. Because originally, the way the Germans worked is they'd keep you in the camp of the type of service you were in, Luftwaffe or army. They segregated the military personnel that way. And we ended up in the hands of the infantry, which were very bad, plus--

Which infantry? What country?

The German infantry. And of course, you had the back and forth between the Italians surrendering and then the Italians going on the Allied side. So eventually, you'd see Italian prisoners coming in. We had Russian prisoners. They were captured, used as slave labor, back during the Finnish War, 1939, that they turned over and around our camp there.

The populants around there, irregardless of who you were, they regarded everybody as just animals. The Germans gave-- I'm trying to remember-- they only gave us three-hour notice, after living there, to get out of the camp. And I couldn't find my fellow crew members, who were in another barracks, because I had separate barracks from them.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

And I hid my radio in a normal place. I knew I better not take that with me, if they go and march out of there, because they strip search you. At the least you'd get beaten if you weren't shot. So I hid my radio and I got what little food I had and made a duffel bag, what bedding I could. I had used bed sheets or drapes from some opera house, very ornate. I'll never forget the color of them, with the tassels and all, to try to stay warm.

And I had basically American uniform, if somebody would recognize me. I had my RAF uniform, which felt they didn't have water facilities. I stepped out of the barracks to see what they were doing, and the next thing I know I had a bayonet in my back. They wanted to get these people out right now, and when they say right now, there's no ifs or buts about it.

Everybody had known, lived with, and associated with-- I just shoved out of that compound into another street next to another compound. I ended up in the first group. They kept you in 500-men lots, roughly. Theoretically, they're supposed to march you in columns of five so that if you're under air attack, they'd recognize you as prisoners of war, according to Geneva Convention.

When we started marching, we marched west. And each little town, Lienz or any place, we just zigzagged all over because we had to stay out of the way of military convoys and everything else that was going to the front, which was just behind us. They started picking up groups of civilians. Now, these groups of civilians, it's hard to recognize what they were.

We figured those of us who were in the front there, about 4,000 of them. And they were Jews and they were other nationalities, all being herded ahead of us, which we finally found Mauthausen, which nobody even knew existed. And I never even heard of it prior to this. I knew what it was.

How far do you think you marched?

Well, this was within three or four days after we marched, because they'd march you so far and then you'd stop. And of course, it was clear, and then in the Alps it was snow. And we had to take side roads. You had to take back roads so they can stay out of the way of the main military forces. We were going through the front.

And I did not get the name of Mauthausen. I had to keep asking, because you pass these different street signs or these road signs said Lienz, or this or that. Of course, they're Austrian. And then you zigzag and come back. You'd practically be right back where you started from and.

You go through these small, beautiful Bavarian towns, and the people would just turn out in droves to manhandle any of the prisoners in front of us or any of the Americans with us. They'd throw scalding water out of their second story windows.

These were Germans?

Yeah, Austrians.

Oh, Austrians?

Yeah. And these small side streets. And the Volkssturm was used primarily, except a few of our own guards, because we were so widely separated.

The what?

The Volkssturm. That's the People's Army. They were older men and disabled people. From town to town, you'd be going short distances, like maybe from, say, Bedford up to Shaker Heights. And each little town had its own militia, all depending on whose hands you fell into. We got outside of Mauthausen.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

How do you spell Mauthausen?

M-A-U-T-H-A-U-S-E-N, if I recall right. At Mauthausen, I didn't realize the vastness of it till later. It was actually 15 camps. When I spoke to Simon Wiesenthal several years ago, I agreed that there was at least 22 nationalities there besides American prisoners of war that were going in and out of Syria. We weren't kept in those camps. We marched all around it. Because these Jewish people, you'd get into these small towns. Many of them fell out. They were very weak. They were in bad or worse shape than most were.

Who was?

The Jewish people, the men and women.

And where did you see these people?

They were ahead of us, see, in this march, because we weren't allowed to stop or anything. It all depends. While you were completely exhausted, you'd go from one town to the next. And our guards would get dressed and everything. And these township people would pick you up and move you to the next town. Then they'd go back and you'd take from this town and go further. And of course, anybody who fell out, these civilians in front of us, were shot.

How did they were Jewish? Was there some way of telling that?

Well, some of them still had the star on them and some of them I recognized. I believe they were Orthodox, the older men with their beards and everything. And I kept asking the other ones and they said, stay away because we'll all get shot. There's nothing we could do, absolutely nothing. They'd go into these small towns and they'd seek help.

Bavaria is a gorgeous country. It's beautiful. But you're going on these mountain roads and you'd have springs to seek water. And even for one of us to go over there and relieve ourselves, you'd get the hell beat out of you, because you weren't dealing with the same people you were back in the prison camp. You're dealing with a totally new environment, and they're taking their wrath out on everything. The Jewish people in front of us are getting shot right and left. You could hear the shots. And you come up there and it was, well, over 1,000 of them.

After three days of this, we just stopped counting. You can't take 10 or 15 steps and just keep counting bodies because they would go to these beautiful, little cottages. They'd try and get out of the ranks and get help. They'd shoot them right on the front porch. You couldn't get a drink of water when you did get stopped because there'd be people shot and their bodies be lying when you got to get a drink of water at one of these springs. We'd figured out before I was there, most of them are gone now, possibly 400 of them left.

We went from Mauthausen, back and forth. We were all over the map. We often figured out that we probably marched 500 or 600 miles, but if we'd gone on direct route, we probably wouldn't march more than 135. But it depended on air attacks and everything. The Germans are using a flag, the American flag, way behind me, about five miles behind me is cover, because they're afraid of our strafing planes. And that flag didn't do me one little good because I was too far front. You wind around these mountain tops and you could see the other groups way up. We were scattered out for miles.

Did you actually end up in Mauthausen?

On the outskirts of it. And like I say, there were so many different camps. And I found out-- it wasn't from our group-- but in September 1977, as an example, the East German government issued a commemorative postage stamp for the victims of Mauthausen, which included at that time just one incident, with 47 uniformed United States Air Force fliers that were beaten to that in the quarry.

But your personal experience was what?

That I was all around that area, and wherever I went, all I did was see the death of these people, that they were moving

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
in towards that camps. This here photograph I got. A Dutch publication shows the crematoriums at Mauthausen. They know of it.

Where were you sleeping? In other words, where were you actually staying with your group?

On the ground, ma'am.

Where? Outside of Mauthausen?

Yeah. Well, wherever they bivouac, because we had no protection. When I ended up at-- went through Hitler's birthplace, Braunau. Went up into the Black Forest there, over the Enns and the Weser Rivers. We were cordoned off. They cut down sections of trees and just put you in there. There was all kinds of people in there, not only the Americans, but there was a lot of other prisoners, including some slave labor. And he'd post guards at these, more or less, like roads so they could have a field of fire. If anybody stepped out, they'd be shot.

We were up on this mountainside and there was, supposedly, a group of SS up on the other hills behind us. And we were getting word of mouth, because nobody brought their radios with them or anything, that we were very close to the American lines. Now, this is getting up-- the war ended May 8th, of course. And we looked across the river. You could look across. The rivers are all swollen with the melting snow and the ice from the Enns and the Weser Rivers there, junction. And those that managed to get out tried.

What rivers did you say?

The Enns and the Weser.

Can you spell that?

I believe it was I-N-N-S. And Weser, W-A-S-S-A-R, if I recall. I could see Third Army tanks lined up on the other side, and they had a near range of fire. And we couldn't notify him that we were Americans, let alone all these other people back in the hills behind us. All the Germans had destroyed all the bridges.

Did you have any knowledge of what Mauthausen was when you were in the area?

I found out in a hurry. I never even heard of the place, ma'am, prior to that. I knew, from what I'd heard, that there were various camps. And being at Krems, I assumed that they were all north in Germany, and here Mauthausen was the largest camp in Austria. There were other satellite camps, but this here was for slave labor and everything else, as well as an extermination camp, I found out after the war.

Oh, after the war?

Yeah. I didn't know what--

At the time.

I didn't know I was walking through.

At the time you weren't aware of what was happening.

I knew we were coming on to another camp, and I thought we'd all be interned there because the similarities between a POW camp and the guard towers and everything else.

Was there any strange smells or odors in the air that would have told you something was going on there?

I didn't notice any. It was, like I say, spring and we're going in and out of these snowstorms. You'd be warm one day and

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
next day-- the sky was always full of black smoke. And to the north of us, as you headed south-- and you'd always run, but you never knew whether that was an air raid from the night before. There was so much noise and confusion.

A Jeep, American Jeep, came over and had a major sergeant and a corporal. And the Germans guards had surrendered their weapons. And they told him, they said, well, you're going to be back in American hands the next couple of days. Of course, we basically didn't get back until two days before the war ended. This is the 3rd of May. We weren't to take any reprise on the guards, those that mistreated us. But of course, we didn't have any guns or anything, and the guys did pick up the guns. We just took care of the--

Did you see anything firsthand, any mistreatment in Mauthausen itself, or were there--

Oh, no, on these roads leading to there, they would beat and shove people. It was one thing after another. They turned the dogs. In these small towns, they'd turned the dogs on them and they'd turn the dogs on us.

And them meaning whom?

The Jews and everybody in front of us. I didn't actually believe that I'd ever encompass anything like that, because I'd seen so much from these different guys that came into prison camp, telling me what they cited in different areas. It's just unbelievable. This here, to verify, in 1978, I went to a convention of former prisoners of war in Orlando, Florida.

I wasn't even supposed to drive a car. I drove myself down there to try to tell various doctors that treated me in the VA that I witnessed this and everything else. They told me I was absolutely crazy. So I had four men sign this document, that it wasn't a figment of my imagination. I have men 22, 21, 60, and 22 months there. I went to a legal secretary. I had it all authorized and witnessed and notarized.

Because what gets me is other than one Jewish doctor that I met-- he was a survivor of a concentration camp-- in the VA system, they never would acknowledge what had transpired. It was kind of ironical.

What had transpired as far as what?

What we'd seen. They said, well, we weren't in a concentration camp. I said, yeah, but we were there and this absolutely happened. It's awful hard to be trained as a soldier and to understand that you're fighting the enemy with a gun, and you have a gun and everything else, but just see people slaughtered for no reason.

And these are the people you're talking about that were in the march with you?

Yeah. You just never get over that. Men and women, most of them you get right up to them, they were shot in the back of the neck or behind the ear. And most of them had the pictures of their families in front of them when they knew they were going to get shot. So I went down there, convinced that as an American soldier, even as a prisoner of war, I should find other guys that I knew and confirm this.

In 1980, after two years, VA did a study of former prisoners of war. And they allowed one section of a paragraph, on page 32, which refers to the prisoners of war that were actually sent to Dachau, Mauthausen, Buchenwald, and all these other places by the Germans, as undesirables. And they never acknowledged how many people that were slaughtered, other than in service. And I finally confirmed that with Simon Wiesenthal.

But to see what had happened-- to hear something from somebody else is one thing, but to see it is entirely different, because you never forget. I was 20 years old, and I don't know which hurt me worse, my own wounds and my teeth or put that gun to--

What is your feelings now about the Germans?

Well, I often thought of what Patton had to do after the Germans surrendered. The Germans had executed all the administrators, and there was no one. They had to use Nazis to form the local government and all that, let alone the ones

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
that came to the United States. This country would never understand what our men had seen and these people going through, under conditions like that.

That's why I offered to participate in this program. If I had one thing that I think of, I recall years ago, I contacted a doctor, Fred Crawford, at Emory University in Atlanta. He was a prisoner of war, P-38 pilot, shot down, taken at Dachau. And he was in charge of social research program at Emory University, a program called Witness at Holocaust. About three years ago, he killed himself. He was suffering terribly from cancer. I would recommend that, possibly, there'd be some more information there from American prisoners of war seeing these things.

And these are Americans speaking. These are not people that came out. These are native-born Americans that are trying to tell the truth in the United States government. Sure, the liberators seen it, but it was practically all over, except those who were dying when they were liberated, correct? But to see how these people were treated, because I wouldn't even dignify the animal kingdom by telling them that those Nazis are a bunch of animals.

Because there's 750 tons of records in Nuremberg. It would take modern computers years to compute. They kept records. They knew exactly, like myself, when my plane went down, what injuries. They tried to overlap one another and make themselves look good while they executed these people outside of Mauthausen, or wherever it transpired. The hell of that war, it only took 12 years for Hitler to do that, from the time he started to the time it ended. And then people in this country, they can look at their TV or they can look at some documentary and wonder why less than 40% of them are still alive today of that age group. 40%, 45% probably.

Did you have any permanent contact, or with any of the people, did any of them survive, any of the marchers ahead of you?

We weren't allowed anywhere near them, of course. They had their own guards and everything else. All we did was look at what was left of the people, because they picked up their bodies and threw them on a cart and hauled them away, and the German housewives just kept sweeping the porch steps. It'd be no more different than if somebody had an automobile accident in front of your house and there was glass there, even though there was blood all over the place and everything else. The total lack of understanding and compassion. They weren't even horrified. I mean, just every day--

You're talking about the people in the towns?

These Austrians. I'd never seen-- the kids. The kids would-- I'd heard about these Hitler Youth groups. They had different areas. They'd go out in groups like a bunch of Boy Scouts. And they'd go whack at those people and whack at us with sticks, and throw stones at us and sick dogs on us. And they'd taken a turn or shot at a guard, somebody faltering. And now those kids are now your adult citizens of that area today.

How do you feel about those people today? You're not yourself.

I realize in 12 years, he created a monster, an ideology. I know not all the Nazis are dead. We got a lot of them right here in northern Ohio. We got them within a few miles of here. And it's coming out now they were let in. If you don't learn from history, history will repeat itself. That's the way I feel. And I just wish to hell-- I know because I was going into the service when eight Germans landed on Long Island, a short distance from where I was born and raised, and the Japs shelled that refinery out there in San Diego.

I wished that the Japanese or the Germans had come into the United States and just held a portion of this country for six months so that these people would realize-- this is a virgin nation that's never been exposed, except to people it fought for. It's a virgin nation. It hadn't been invaded since the War of 1812. And these people don't realize what they have and what these other people have gone through. Just because of a religious background and the extreme cruelty, it just goes on.

Do you think your experience has made you have more compassion for people of other races and creeds than perhaps you would have otherwise?

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
Yes. I still have a note in my file, torn off back of a letter. My sister was in the United States Army Nurse Corps for 22 months. And I was in the first batch of 18-year-olds drafted in World War II at area, first 500 there. It was a long time. I went down March 1944. Sometime in July 1944, they sent a telegram. In those days, Western Union used to have the kids on a bicycle, and they'd ride over to your house and knock on your door and deliver your telegram.

Well, the people were deathly afraid of picking up those telegrams because killed in action and everything. You didn't know what it was. And you had a son in the service. But those people, especially this one Jewish lady in our apartment, she'd seen us-- my sister was released from the service to come back, and she took my mother out to do some shopping. And she'd seen this Western Union boy knocking on, ringing the doorbell, and couldn't get anybody because there's nobody in my apartment. And so she took a great, big letter and put it on the door. And she opened the account. It said, good news, I was alive.

People were there that I grew up with. I couldn't eat anything. I have a very poor digestive track. But they always were trying to help me. That one piece of paper, I tried to tell the various civic groups when I came back, before Japan surrendered-- I was supposed to be on a medical leave. Actually, I was supposed to be in a hospital, and they ordered me out to sell war bonds and then go to Kiwanis and rotary and everything else. You try and tell them about what transpired. They think that you're out of your mind. Because until the truth comes out, you're never going to understand.

Could we see when you were already out of the army? You have something there?

Let's see. I believe I put that aside.

They kept trying to feed me and I couldn't eat anything. This is dated June 27th, 1945.

You're already discharged?

No, ma'am. I was on medical leave because my records were all lost. I had an awful time receiving back pay and everything else.

"Sergeant McKee home from Nazi prison."

Yes. And the Kiwanis were just peacefully. I was asked to appear before a bunch of lawyers, who were having a Kiwanis meeting at the Wykagyl Country Club, same as Shaker Heights here in this area. And I told them what I had seen and they changed their whole theme of their meeting. But as far as our government was concerned, I just asked to go out and sell war bonds.

And when were you discharged?

I was discharged on November 5th, 1945. I was kept in a hospital for a month at Atlantic City. And after this medical leave-- I was never supposed to be more, according to the thing, 100 miles from home. And of course, I spent all my time in the Air Force when I wasn't in a prison camp. I reported to Middletown Field, which is at Harrisburg, capital of Pennsylvania, which is at maximum distance. They didn't know what to do with me. They sent me back to New York.

Within 24 hours, I was ordered to the United States infantry at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and I was put in the infantry with no records. Because in those days, you got out of the army by your points, your awards, and how many years you were in the service, how many years you served overseas. It's a very difficult thing to prove himself between the VA and everything else. That's why you had to go-- all our records were destroyed in 1973 in a fire in St. Joseph, Missouri, what records there were.

But in 1945, they weren't destroyed.

The only thing I have is what I kept myself because I worked as an army courier and I'd seen this happen. It's quite easy to say, oh he's-- World War I it was shell-shocked, battle fatigue. And World War II and then now in Vietnam, it's post-traumatic stress disorder. I don't care how many words they put behind it, it's all the same damn thing. But they totally

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
ignore it. I want to tell you, I'm very grateful that you took the courtesy and the time to listen to this. I hope I verified enough.

What made you decide to share your experience with us?

Because it's been so many things that's transpired since the war, my own problems, sleeplessness, and what happened, all these constant things for the last 40 years.

Are these sleeplessness due to your memories of the war?

Oh, yeah. They become extremely aggravated. I had to go for evaluation for my own disability before a VA doctor. It was a German doctor over in Brecksville. And he looked at my record. And they wouldn't mark our records prisoner of war, but he reviewed it and he said, you were a prisoner of war. And I said, yeah. He said, you know what they do, these psychiatrists? They ask, did you ever feel sorry for the German people because they had no food? That was quite a few years ago. I darn near busted a chair over there.

You get before different groups, different individuals in the government system, like the Veterans Administration. I had an Indian doctor that was born and raised in Bombay that listened to all the stories the British told him growing up during World War II, when India was controlled by the British. And the day I was supposed to visit him-- because I'd periodically go over there, though it was little good-- was in Jonestown Massacre, down in New Guinea.

So the Plain Dealer was on his desk, and he's sitting there and he's looking at the Plain Dealer. I had an early appointment. And these people-- the German doctor was one thing, but here's an Indian doctor. And he says, this is awful. He says, 900 people they terminated, they executed down here, Mr. Jones. He said, Mr. McKee, what do you think about that? How does that compare?

He said, I heard a lot of stories about what the Nazis were doing from the British, in and around India, where he was growing up. He said, how would you compare that, all this massacre down here, these people? He said it took a day or so. It wouldn't be a half hour's job for the Nazis, and that's the way I felt. Because you have to be there. You have to understand that people are never going to realize, in this country, what it was like.

I know that when you run low on ammunition or your oxygen is gone in different combat conditions that flew in, and your machine gun's frozen up at 60 below zero, they're all life-threatening and everything else. But I'd never even think I had that time, even when going down in a plane, when your shoes shot up and you can't bail out. That was life-threatening, what I seen with those people, because there's just no comparison.

Do you have any thoughts, Mr. McKee, as to how we can ensure that this type of thing would never happen again in the world?

Well, I often think back, because that's only in this nation here. We try to work with other nations. During the depression, those families in and around New York, they all work together. Everybody had responsibility. The father was the leader of the family. There was no boob tube. Was no television. It was conversation. It was rules. The cop on the beat was responsible and respected. All these things had gone by the wayside in the last 35, 40 years. And by documenting these various things, from these people and their experience, they should be put into some kind of chronological order and produced in the school system, I would say.

Are you married, Mr. McKee?

Yes, ma'am.

Do you have children?

Three.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.

https://collections.ushmm.org
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
Were they aware? Have you ever talked to your family and your children about your experiences?

They asked me from time to time, but they wouldn't bother me that much about it because they knew it hurt very badly. You go and you ask for different things and you don't get anything from the government. And that's what I understood. But they've been there two or three times. They've gone to hearings.

Been where?

The VA hearings.

Who has been there?

My oldest son, in particular.

VA hearings--

On my disability.

On your case.

My claims, yes. But you don't come out with a medical jacket. You don't come out with anything except statements of those who survived with you. I was banned after all these years. I was going to have a bunch of people supposedly working for the government, that weren't even born and raised in this country, tell me that I was out of my mind from what I've seen. At that time, they had me on heavy medication. I wasn't supposed to drive a car. I got in a car and drove 15 miles to Florida. I got the information. I came back and I showed it on a notice. That's one way. The documentation, in fact, is the only way I've been trying to work at this.

Because in 1971, I was in a crisis intervention clinic for a long period of time. I was working in Chrysler, and a guy through a chunk of steel. Another man hit me and severed all tendons in my left arm, and I had a nervous breakdown, aggravated by that, comparison of my own injuries, and I ended up in the VA clinic. I went before a woman doctor, Dr. Chernikoff.

And she reviewed what little record it was, and she had been a concentration camp victim. And she says, what do you do? I said, well, I try and write down paper. I try to get those that I know are there to verify it. And I try to produce some type of written record. I said I didn't have any camera or anything. The camera is my mind's eye, what I see. Her advice to me was to keep writing. That was 14, 15 years ago. She's retired from the VA system.

There is a professor in Chicago, I believe, who has tried to claim that this never happened. There was no Holocaust.

Oh, there's a group out there in California I've heard about, too.

And perhaps your story will show them and the world that, indeed, the Nazis were there. They were cruel to anybody they could get a hold of.

They just tried to outdo one another for better political recognition, for prestige, and everything like that. Saying that ideology isn't here in the world today, it's still here. You can't have all that youth movement that I've seen in different portions of Europe, especially in Germany and Austria, without having some of those people still exist, let alone the ones that survived the war and continue the policies.

Well, Mr. McKee, I certainly want to thank you for coming here today. You are a good witness to what really did happen. And your story will be taken on videotape and will be here for others to see for the future.

Thank you, ma'am.

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.