

Interviewer: State your name and your age please.

McCrary: My names Robert H McCrary and I'm 82 and a half.

Interviewer: Okay 82 and half. What branch of the service were you in?

McCrary: I was in the army 101st airborne.

Interviewer: 101st airborne

McCrary: Yeah well I was in more than that but that was the last one.

Interviewer: Okay now when you went to the army were you drafted or did you sign up?

McCrary: No I volunteered.

Interviewer: You volunteered how old were you?

McCrary: Twenty two went in on my birthday.

Interviewer: Okay so you had worked?

McCrary: April 24, 1941

Interviewer: Okay on your birthday.

McCrary: Yeah I was in seven or eight months before Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: Aw did you know we were going to war was that why you signed up or?

McCrary: Well it was pretty well at it then Hitler was running wild and taking those little countries Belgium and all them others. I was out of high school and had been for four years so I just thought it would be a good adventure. I wanted to see the world. Like the old saying used to be "Join the Army see the world from the back end of a truck." But I started on a horse and wound up on a glider. I went in the calvary.

Interviewer: Oh you went in the calvary.

McCrary: Horse calvary, am I getting off here?

Interviewer: No go ahead you were in the horse calvary now where were they out of?

McCrary: I volunteered at the draft board here, only two of us went at that time but they weren't calling many men. You know Carl Meadow maybe he used to work at the post office and had a funeral home here?

Interviewer: Oh yes sir

McCrary: Carl Meadow and I were the only two that left and we went together and I drove my car to Fort Oberthrope that's where we had to report.

Interviewer: Where is that?

McCrary: In Georgia just out of Chattanooga.

Interviewer: Okay I know where that is yes sir.

McCrary: And I was slated to go to Camp Stewart Georgia with the infantry and I knew a friend here that used to be with the agriculture department that was at Oberthrope had some job there officer of some kind.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And I saw him and I said can you pull any stings I'd like to stay in Oberthrope that was closer to home. We wasn't a long ways from the war you know we were starting with us. So he got it fixed and I stayed at Oberthrope and I went to the sixth calvary with the horses, horse calvary. And most all of the men were veterans they had been in anywhere from 10 to 20 years. So I had some good training from the experts.

Interviewer: How'd you like the calvary?

McCrary: Just fine.

Interviewer: Now how long did you stay with them?

McCrary: I stayed with them let's see now I got up there in April and we went to Louisiana maneuvers first.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: The summer of 1941 stayed three months down there from July to October. Came back then in October and they decided that they didn't need the horses and shipped them back to Texas and gave us little flight tags with staff stars and we were the 6th mechanized infantry. And in January or February of 42 they sent us to Camp Landing Florida to drag the tanks through the sand. Stayed at Camp Landing about a year then they moved us to Fort Jackson South Carolina that's right out of Columbia South Carolina. Stayed there about a year and the war was going pretty good then especially in Japan.

Interviewer: Oh okay

McCrary: In the Pacific it was so we left Fort Jackson in 1943 I left my identification cards in there we'll get to that. In October the 14th of 43 we went on the Queen Elizabeth and went to Ireland. And we didn't land in England because they were afraid the what's the name of that German plane that came right in

Interviewer: Stuccoes?

McCrary: I'll think of it in a minute maybe but we got off the Queen Elizabeth about 100 miles out this way and got on a smaller ship.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And off we went and when we went through the mess line there wasn't room for us to sit down we had to stand up and get back up on the deck. And the wind was blowing the bread everywhere off your plate so all you had to do to get another slice was just reach up and grab one. So we went to Ireland and landed in Belfast in October of 43 and we got on a train there and there was a 16 year old that was the engineer. We went to a town they call Tangragee about 15 or 20 miles from Belfast that's all in Ireland.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And we set up in an old Irish castle I'd say about five stories high.

Interviewer: And that's where y'all were gonna stay in the castle?

McCrary: And the ground floor was the administration offices and the mess hall. And we stayed in Ireland then mainly for physical exercises and map reading.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: The air force had photographed all of every inch of France and Germany and made maps out of it. And we spent six months studying maps and physical exercise and road runs we got to running 15 miles a day. We run three miles every morning before breakfast and we were really good we were built strong we could jump up over a ten foot pole maybe.

Interviewer: How many men were there with you at this castle?

McCrary: In the castle about 1500.

Interviewer: Wow that is a lot.

McCrary: But they all didn't stay in the castle a lot of them was with headquarters see.

Interviewer: Yeah

McCrary: And I had let's see I lived on the third floor and the officers were on the top floor. And you know what a _____ is? I was assigned to two officers to keep their shoes tied. If we wasn't doing something else but that wasn't much of a job you know we just gave ourselves that name. In cold weather they had little ole crates you've seen crates about that wide you couldn't put over five pounds of coal in there and we were restricted one bucket of coal a day because it had to be shipped from here to there. And we had a fellow named Jenkins from North Carolina and I was doing the same job and we stayed together well we went through and came back together. Well we got prowling around that castle and we found a trap door up on the fourth floor. And we did a search and we had a flashlight and we followed them steps to the bottom and come to the dungeon and the dungeon was the coal bin for the mess hall. And every day a truck would come in and unload coal in there. Well we got us some five

gallon buckets and every night we got in the coal business. Well the officers knew it because they worked in delivery and they were restricted too to just one bucket of coal a day. So we'd go down and get well we couldn't bring but one bucket at a time it was too heavy to tote up those steps so far you know. But we got several buckets every night and we sold it for 50 cents a bucket.

Interviewer: That's pretty good.

McCrary: And cigarettes were awfully high especially in France and England too and my officer my I was assigned to Captain Taylor he was from South Carolina. And his wife's father was in Jose Roseville's and she would mail him cigarettes every week and he told her to stop mailing them we can buy them here for nickel a pack and 50 cents a carton. Well they had an officer and the captain was afraid and I was just a corporal and they'd get me and go down at the pub and you'd take a carton of cigarettes and get a fifth of Bruce Mill Whiskey. If you had to pay for it it would cost you about two pounds. It was in cigarettes, cigarettes it was in whiskey. So you want me to go on after we felt Ireland>

Interviewer: Uh huh after you left Ireland. Now how are you going from France to Ireland? Are you going to go to France from Ireland?

McCrary: Now France was the last stop I left France and came home.

Interviewer: Okay then where did you go from Ireland?

McCrary: We left let's see, are you getting it oh you're getting it right now. I might say something somebody might not need to hear.

Interviewer: That's okay.

McCrary: Let's see where were we? We were in Ireland now that was in 1943 and the spring of 44.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And they had trained a dozen of us to do a special project down in England. The first sergeant down to from the corporal up to first sergeant twelve of us. The medics too they were there under the dispensary too. One of the boys sold a gallon of alcohol and made perfume. We used it to burn sterilizers to sterilize instruments.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: Well we put those instruments on the stove and drank the alcohol. Well before we got the gallon of alcohol another guy got a gallon of lemon juice. And we mixed them together and made two gallons 90 proof. Well there were just twelve of us so we got on the train in Belfast and went to Bangle by the Sea up the coast in Ireland.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: We'd get on a boat to go across the Irish Sea to England. Well the first sergeant was in charge of records. They didn't ship them then by mail or any other way he was assigned to get their ____.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: About that about that many high. Well we got to England got over there where we was supposed to go and where was the records. First sergeant looked around and said somebody else was supposed to have them take care of them he had assigned somebody else to take care of them, couldn't find the records. Well we was into it then over there and didn't have out ticket with us see. So they said well we're not gonna bust you down to a private not gonna fine you not gonna put you in the cattle post the guard house post you know. So we had to stay there until those records showed up you've got to find them and in about two weeks they were found on that train in Ireland. And we finally got the records and they put us up. Well and I got the mess hall fed about five thousand men a day coming from the states, big reception center. And they put me in charge of a potato peeling job. We peeled a ton a day but we had electric potato peelers.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: They were like washing machines them things in there would whirl. Put in about a pack at a time well I had to sit there you had to have two boys to do that and we'd peel those potatoes. Well finally when the records showed up then we got off that job. From there then I went to the 101st as a replacement. What they were doing our company was made double strength say from 200 men to 400 I don't know the exact number. That's where I met the 101st in England. So we were just doing what we were told to do then and I was

Daughter: Did they approach you first? Did they come up and ask you or did you say I want to join the 101st or?

McCrary: No no I didn't know anything about the 101st. I there was a 101st a 82nd too you know like the 30th division and all the rest of them. But that's where we went to and that's where I started with the 101st and glider training and you guide one like running a car or something else.

Interviewer: So you did your glider training in England?

McCrary: And then June come then

Daughter: Did you do your glider training in England?

McCrary: Yeah and then

Daughter: Who did that?

McCrary: Huh

Daughter: Who did your glider training?

McCrary: It was the 101st in England.

Daughter: Okay

McCrary: And the company that we went to they trained us to do what they were doing. And they had to do it fact too we didn't have much time.

Daughter: About how long did that take?

McCrary: Well let's now I guess that was in April of 44. See we went to Ireland in 43 spring of 44 when we got on the train and lost the records. And then we did training there for just a few weeks. Well May come and then June 1st come and we were talking about the invasion. So we were ready to go there was another set coming we were ready to roll. And it happened so that I happened to be in the new company. The old company went into Normandy and the second company that I was in we were on the airfield loaded down the weight had you falling on the ground. Planes were idling just ready to go and the telegraph come in or telephone or something told us we weren't going. And they had lost too many men in the first group and they didn't send us. They knew it would be they said it would be at least half of us wouldn't come back.

Daughter: Is that when the things was happening in Saving Private Ryan where they were coming in to Omaha Beach?

McCrary: Yeah that was about that time.

Daughter: And you were sitting on the runway when remember at the beginning of Saving Private Ryan at Omaha Beach when all those guys just got

Interviewer: Yeah

Daughter: And you were sitting on the runway where? In France?

McCrary: Yeah in England

Daughter: In England okay

McCrary: But we didn't go to Normandy. My discharge shows I did says the 326th went. Well they didn't know every man's name just ___ the whole company. But after things were getting better over there they had got a pretty good hold on the beaches there. The bad fighting was over with on them beaches. You know more about that than I do in history. So we went back to where we were camping out and we had a few and then we went to Holland. We had sky training going from England to Holland and the 82nd airborne the 101st airborne the 6th airborne and police brigade had about 25 air fields and about 4000 planes and gliders to carry us. And we started leaving England and we landed on the Rhine the tail in left England. We landed in a little town names Son. You ever heard of Son? That's where we landed and that was my first combat mission. And that was as a co-pilot we borrowed the pilots of the gliders were borrowed from the 8th air force. We didn't none of us especially the news ones have enough experience to be a real pilot. But I was a co-pilot in case he got knocked out. But you know he had a flight suit but I didn't have a flight suit or nothing of course we didn't have parachutes you couldn't get out ___ if you had one. So we landed we finally got there and I can tell you when we landed it was 15 minutes till 12 in Son Holland.

Interviewer: What day was that?

McCrary: Landed in a cow pasture and we landed there going about 100 miles an hour probably and scooted that thing through the field and through a fence and through a creek across there and turned upside down. And had a trailer with a jeep in the back and no men. We was strapped in there you know we did get out of the thing and didn't get a scratch.

Interviewer: You thought that was it before you got

McCrary: Well we got there and got the trailer out and then we got another glider close by had the jeep. We came into Son Holland and down the street just like coming into Waverly and sidewalks were just loaded with civilians. It was on a Sunday and they just covered us up with flowers.

Interviewer: Aw

McCrary: Just covered us up with flowers. And we stayed there the Dutch underground the night before we got there had evacuated a church.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: Of the pews where we could have headquarters. And but the Germans were running though and they weren't getting shot. But we were getting stronger all the time because we our men just kept a coming you know and we kept moving up the Hells Highway. And that's that little magazine you've heard the story about that too about going up that road. We went up Nimijin and Imia. And Eisenhower's theory was if we get up on the Rhine in Nimijin and Imia and cross the line just beeline to Berlin about 100 miles we would be there by Christmas and the war would be over and that was in 44. But it wasn't that easy we went up close to Nimijin or Namangan one and every evening about sundown the Germans started shelling 88s at us and continued solid all night. And I'll tell you how long we stayed there we got there we left we got up there about the 15th of September.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And we stayed till the first of December. That's stayed two weeks in September then on to October and on to November and the first of December they gave up on us and pulled us back to Reims France. We stayed 78 days in constant combat without any relief. And dug in had to stay in a hole in the ground.

Daughter: Is that when you were a medic?

McCrary: There was so much artillery coming in from the German 88s. They didn't want us to mess around because the shelling was getting us so we stayed underground every night for 78 days. And the first of December we left there and came back to Reims France they pulled us out of up on the Rhine came back to Reims. And that was the first of December and the 16th of December is when the breakthrough started the Battle of the Bulge.

Interviewer: Oh the Battle of the Bulge.

McCrary: We'd been there two weeks at Reims until they threwed us out again and we went up to Bastogne on trucks. Snow on the ground didn't have gliders anyhow couldn't get off the ground with

them. So there was thousands of GIs 101st and others too going up to make the try to stop the Battle of the Bulge you know. VonGermastat he was German you remember that name don't you?

Interviewer: You bet

McCrary: Well let's see I lose my train of thought where was I.

Interviewer: That's okay. Y'all were gonna leave the Rhine and go over to the Battle of the Bulge.

McCrary: Got on trucks they gave us about 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning they said you've got 30 minutes to get your stuff and get on these trucks we're going to Bastogne. Well we started out and on the way up there when we got just not very far I'd say ten miles before we got to Bastogne MPs directed us down this road and there was another road you know well the MPs directed. So we got there and the MPs directed us down that road and we went about miles and where we was gonna set up and unload it put our tent up and toss our bedrolls some of them about 15 or 20 of those doctors and dentists and various others and all the technicians. And there was four German tanks down there camouflaged and they waited until we got our tents set up and they had a truck load of k-rations PX rations. And they started shooting and I mean just spraying the ground. And I saw fellows going down and I said I better get and I crawled under there was a pile of bedrolls there ___ bedrolls you know what they are. Must have been at least a dozen maybe more. I crawled up under those things and escaped getting hit. And there was two a Captain Perl and a Captain Briar took out running and there was snow on the ground it looked just like rabbits running. I thought for sure they were gonna get killed but they made it.

Interviewer: How many got killed in that one?

McCrary: I don't know how many. Well they set that truck load of PX stuff on fire and our tents too everything we had we lost it all everything didn't have nothing. Then the German commander asked the American commander to come down we was up on a hillside. And the our commander was Colonel Gore form Atlanta Georgia. He went down and he said we'll give you 30 minutes to get your men that's the only way we will go that's not wounded and get on this truck. Trucks that didn't get burnt up load them up and some of them German trucks and carry us out of there and that's what that started the POW. Went about two miles from there or three and it wasn't very far from the Rhine it was Omiss. And it was about daylight by the time we got there. And we was crossing a bridge about daylight and American planes flying overhead. And we were scared to death they were gonna blow it and TNT tied to the piers of the side of that bridge. And we went to from there we crossed the Rhine at Koblenz. You've heard of Koblenz probably Koblenz Germany that's where we crossed the Rhine. And went to from there we had to walk about two miles down to a little town named Limburg. That's where we were interrogated. And one at a time we'd go in a big room like a gymnasium every man in formation every man take off his clothes lay them right in front of him shoes and all. Went in the next room of that big gymnasium we got in there and the officer asked me said what outfit you in? I said sir I'm just supposed to tell you my name rank and serial number. And he said well he kept on asking me and I wasn't gonna tell him. He said well if you won't tell me I'll tell you. I'll tell you your commanding officer is Major William E Barfield form Atlanta Georgia. When we left to go in there we had to take everything off if you had nay rings or watches them too. And then when they interrogated us I mean that's where we went in to be interrogated. And come back out well they kept asking us questions you know they said who's your commanding officer and we said well sir we were instructed just to tell you our name, rank, and serial number. And he said well I can understand that's your orders and all I can tell you Major William E

Barfield is your commanding officer from Atlanta Georgia. And they knew the names of our officers the Germans did.

Interviewer: Uh huh

McCrary: And then when we got through we went back and our clothes were gone.

Daughter: Your clothes were gone?

McCrary: Everything was gone. We left our boots you know pretty boots shined up and big ___ you know what they wear.

Interviewer: And what did you do?

McCrary: Got back there and the clothes was gone.

Daughter: So what did you do?

McCrary: Marched down to this room and they started throwing two sizes at us too big too little. Pair of pants and shirt and we went on down somewhere else and got a pair of shoes and no socks. And that was all our clothes they took everything we had.

Daughter: No socks? Just barley nothing.

McCrary: And they got my watch and pen set and got my money everything I had. Didn't have much money because they told us not to save it you can't spend it anyhow. So then we had to just do what they told us. They told us

Interviewer: Now did you see the rest of them when you went to get your clothes the rest of your buddies? The Americans that had been captured with you?

McCrary: Do what?

Interviewer: Did you get to see the Americans that were captured with you when you went to get your clothes?

McCrary: Saw a few of them.

Interviewer: Okay you just didn't know where everybody was then.

McCrary: Yeah but we left there then and we left there then we were in ___ they carried us over there. Then we left that's when we left what's the name I said where we were?

Interviewer: Limburg

McCrary: I lose my train of thought sometimes.

Interviewer: Isn't that what you said Limburg?

McCrary: Yeah but we well let's see that's when we that's when we got captured.

Interviewer: Okay well you said when they interrogated you and took you into that big gymnasium.

Daughter: You want to take a break? (Tape stopped then resumed) Did you lose a lot of close friends then when the Germans were shelling y'all and

McCrary: Yeah

Daughter: Did you tell them about remember the or maybe you did say this. Whenever the German guards dressed in American uniforms. Did you mention that?

Interviewer: Was that the MPs that directed you down the

Daughter: Was that the MPs that directed you down that road? He didn't mention that they were dressed in American uniforms did he?

Interviewer: No

McCrary: Yeah when we left before we got to Bastogne the guard Bastogne's where we got captured.

Interviewer: Uh huh

McCrary: When the MPs directed us down that road now they turned out to be Germans in American uniforms. You've heard that story haven't you?

Interviewer: Yeah I sure have.

McCrary: Well that happened right there just a mile or two before Bastogne. They directed us down that road then we got down there and that's where the Germans at Bastogne were hid out and they let us set up first. Burnt up everything we had tents and everything else. And then that's when they put us on well let's see no went on train there

Interviewer: Did they take you by truck where they interrogated you?

McCrary: We went to I can't remember the name of the town.

Daughter: Well he's already told this part hasn't he?

Interviewer: Yeah

McCrary: Let me see I can't think of the name.

Interviewer: Was it Limburg Germany?

McCrary: Limburg how'd you know? Limburg that's right. Sure was and then they put us on the train and we rode the train then for four or five days and nights. It wasn't that far but the American planes had messed up the tracks. And we finally got to

Daughter: Daddy back up to the train a little bit. About no food and how you got your water on the train with the helmets.

McCrary: Yeah they put us on the train and, pretty crowded,

Daughter: You would take turns

McCrary: And then we got strafed a little bit too American planes. But it didn't they had to stop the train had to fix the tracks for us to go on. And we finally got there close to what did we say it was Limburg?

Interviewer: Limburg yes sir.

McCrary: And that's where I believe that's where

Daughter: Did you have to take turns standing and laying down

McCrary: Yeah the vents on the train we tore those down and made a make shift rope out of some clothes somebody had took off that they got rid of. And we drug the ground to get some snow to have some for water.

Interviewer: You had no food?

McCrary: No we went four or five days and nights. And when we got, now we're back on track I think we're back where we left a while ago.

Interviewer: Yes sir

McCrary: When we got there they had black wash kettles of soup but we didn't have anything to eat out of. And they gave us we picked up a pile of tin cans where the kitchen had throwed them out and we picked those up and went through the line. And hold it and they would fill it in there it was so hot we couldn't hold it. And managed to eat it because we was starving to death and if you managed to eat it it took the skin off your tongue. And that's how we ___ to start with.

Interviewer: Now were you at the POW camp by this time?

McCrary: That's when we was on the way to the POW camp.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: In Brunswick Germany. Now that's close to the Polish border. Your familiar with that ain't you Brunswick? And we stayed there let me see we got there about Christmas Day I believe it was. And we stayed there well let's see we finally left there stayed there a good while and we finally let's see the Americans came in I believe and liberated us and carried us to Paris.

Interviewer: Now how long were you in the POW camp?

McCrary: We were in Paris the first night the lights came on in Paris after there was a blackout.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: When there was a blackout.

Interviewer: Were you at the hospital in Paris when that happened?

McCrary: No

Interviewer: Now how long did you stay at the German POW camp?

Daughter: Well he jumped around to a lot of different camps. Start on the camps

Interviewer: Oh you didn't stay at one?

Daughter: No

McCrary: We didn't stay very long at any one place.

Interviewer: So you'd go to Brunswick and you'd stay there about

McCrary: We were on the move. Now let me see I'm getting back now to thinking when we was liberated when we was at Brunswick.

Interviewer: Yes sir

McCrary: And was liberated at Brunswick. And that's when no that wasn't when we went on the trains. Yeah Brunswick that's right. And we came to oh where did I saw I was in the hospital? That was in ___ Germany or Brunswick one. It doesn't come back to me easy.

Interviewer: Okay well we kind of skipped from Brunswick to the liberation but I was kind of wanting to know where else you went to in Germany.

Daughter: You went to several different camps

McCrary: Yeah a dozen

Daughter: You don't have to name all don't try to name all the different camps. You can't remember all of that just don't try to name them all. But you were you said you never slept in a heated building the entire time.

McCrary: When we were liberated I've got all that stuff written down somewhere but I didn't find it at the house. I tried to keep all that stuff together. When we were liberated

Daughter: No before you were liberated. Go back to the time before you were liberated and they move you they walked you from one camp to another POW camp.

McCrary: Yeah I was in a POW camp in seems like it was in Brunswick.

Interviewer: Oh they'd make them walk make you walk from one camp to the other?

McCrary: Yeah

Interviewer: How far would the camps be apart about?

McCrary: well sometimes several miles,

Daughter: Why do you think they moved you form one place to another?

McCrary: I don't know.

Daughter: Mostly sleeping on the ground.

McCrary: Yeah

Interviewer: How many of you would move at a time about how many POWs?

McCrary: Probably about 50 at a time.

Interviewer: And about how many guards would they send with you?

McCrary: Well a half a dozen probably.

Interviewer: Were they pretty mean guards?

McCrary: Yeah

Daughter: Tell her the story about the guard that tried to steal your boots when you were sleeping one night.

McCrary: Yeah

Daughter: Remember when you were sleeping one night and the guard tried to get your boots off of you.

McCrary: Yeah

Daughter: And y'all got into t a fight and he kicked you remember?

McCrary: Yeah

Daughter: Okay well tell that story.

McCrary: Okay let's see go back to I remember now what you're talking about I just forget some of it.

Interviewer: That's okay. Let's stop for a second here take a little break. (Tape stopped and resumed)
The Tennessee 30th division liberated you?

McCrary: Yeah they was the ones that liberated us.

Interviewer: And how long had you been a POW a couple years at this point.

McCrary: No just a few about six months.

Interviewer: Just six months.

McCrary: See we got captured at Bastogne.

Interviewer: Oh that's right. Then the unit from Tennessee came in and liberated you.

McCrary: That's right we got liberated and what did I tell you before we was liberated they let us walk down this hill. It was easy going down and hard to get back up you just couldn't hardly walk.

Interviewer: Yeah I'm sure.

McCrary: And after we got when they finally liberated us then to go to Paris. And let's see I believe that's where went from Brunswick to Paris.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And we spent a good while before we got away to the states. Well now wait was it Brunswick and let me see

Interviewer: Daddy why don't you go back they might want to hear about the guards.

McCrary: Where's that map I brought in here? Let me see here (holding a map looking over it). Now there's where we got caught December the 19th 44 in Bastogne.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And then they carried us got on the train there and came back to Paris to Reims. No let's see here's Paris over here. I'll get it straight in a minute. And I'll tell you where we went we were in ___ France for two weeks near Nancy. And we got on a train there called a hell train and went to Reims.

Interviewer: Okay

McCrary: And then on trucks there we went to on December the 18th and December the 19th we went to Bastogne. And ___ and that's where we got on the train and went all the way to Borax all the way across to Borax. That's right on the Check border. Went there and that's where we went to walking. And when we left there and we walked for six weeks. Here it is right here we walked for six weeks from ___ that's where we were and we walked for six weeks and it was solid ice and we like to froze to death. And we slept ___ in a pile just had a blanket a piece. (Tape began skipping)

Interviewer: You just had your shirt and those shoes not socks.

McCrary: That's right

Interviewer: Your feet got frostbite?

McCrary: Yeah yeah I'm drawing 20 is it 20 percent on each foot now in addition to 100 I get 140 percent disability.

Interviewer: Now were they feeding you what were they feeding you on these walks like when you would eat?

McCrary: They didn't feed us much. Didn't have much.

Interviewer: Like what?

McCrary: We stopped at camp __ one day you know and had ___ but not much.

Tape began skipping and you could not hear what Mr. McCrary was saying.