

**Sydney Cole
Veteran**

**Wayne Clarke
New York State Military Museum
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Interviewers**

**Home Interview
April 9th, 2009**

Q: Today is 9 April, 2009. We are doing a home interview. My name is Wayne Clarke. I am with the New York State Military Museum and Veteran's Research Center. My assistant is Kathleen Matthews from the Buffalo Erie County Historic Society. Sir, for the record, would you please state your full name, and your date and place of birth.

SC: Sydney Cole. Date of birth 9/1/14 in New York City.

Q: And did you attend school in New York City?

SC: Yes. Grammar School and moved to Buffalo when I was young. My family moved to Buffalo.

Q: What kind of work did you family do?

SC: My father did architectural maintenance on buildings whenever they were in need of repair. He got a call from someone in Buffalo for a mansion on Delaware Avenue that needed work and he came here, and they kept repeating calling him here again and that's how we got to Buffalo.

Q: I see. Did you attend High School in Buffalo?

SC: Yes. (unclear)

Q: What year did you graduate?

SC: The year it was in the 30's. '32, '34. 1932, '34. I went to Buffalo State.

Q: And you graduated from Buffalo State?

SC: Yes.

Q: Do you remember where you were when you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941.

SC: Yes, that was 1941 I believe.

Q: Yes.

SC: Yes, '41, I was not at (unclear). I was trying to get in the military at that time. I registered for the draft and then immediately became 1A. I was not about to be drafted. I

was going to enlist. That's when I started my program of trying to get into the Air Force. Then it was known at the Air Corps. I tried to enlist because I knew about the war back in the 30's when they were bombing over Berlin and everything else in the late 30's. That's when the war started when they bombed Pearl Harbor.

Q: Where did you go for your basic training?

SC: I didn't get into basic training at all. I tried to get into the American Air Force, Air Corps rather, then. It was a big deal to get in and they told me I would have to go to New York City for your physical to be physically able to get into the Air Corps. I went to New York City and they said try to join the YMCA, get in the best shape you can. I went from there. I took the physical. There were about seventy people at that area from Buffalo, from New York, from New Jersey and Pennsylvania just everybody trying to get into the Air Corps.

I did pass the physical. Then they sent me to the University at Syracuse a couple of months later to take what they called (unclear) not your mental capacity just your knowledge and everything else. Again, it was about seventy or eighty from different parts of the country from New York and New Jersey. We all failed the test, couldn't comprehend it one bit, the mental exam. I didn't give up and that ended my career trying to get into the US.

So, I took a ride to Hamilton, Canada. They didn't know anything about getting me in. They sent me to Toronto. I took the physical and the mental exam in one day and passed everything. I think it was a month later they called me. I went there, got sworn in and started there and graduated from their flight school training.

Q: This is in Canada?

SC: In Canada. Then when the actual war broke out with Pearl Harbor, I as an American volunteer, signed a contract with the Canadian force that I could leave at my will. They gave me an extremely hard time because we had gone through this training which was very expensive, and I went through with a group that came from England because they were bombing around London and they were sending groups here to be trained.

Q: What kind of aircraft did you train on to learn to fly?

SC: These were fighter pilot training. We finished up with Spitfires graduated with Spitfire kind of training and I finally got through the paperwork and everything else. In the meantime, in the interim, when I was up there, I was called to the office one day and I had two FBI men track me to Canada. They thought I went to Canada to avoid the military which didn't happen. They left with joy in their arms because I was in the military and that helped me get back into the Americans and get through with my contract with the Canadians.

Q: So, you came back to the states...

SC: Came back to the states...

Q: Whereabouts did they send you?

SC: They didn't send me. I reported back into my draft board. Then I got a call from the draft board one day and they said they were looking for thirty power ship pilots to take glider pilot training. Of course, I was eligible, and I immediately accepted because in between being released from the Canadians and that I had nothing to do, stay home because I knew I'd be called. They sent me down to Miami Beach until they gathered the thirty. Then we started our glider pilot training.

Q: Now, were you commissioned as an officer at that point?

SC: Then I was a Flight Officer, yes, but that didn't have any bearing on my status here, so I went in as a Flying Cadet. That's all. I had power ship training, of course and I went through glider pilot training which I knew would be a disaster. It was so silent it was deafening to me. In the glider I was reaching for the throttle I just couldn't take it much anymore, but I got through with that. I became a flight instructor and did like that.

There was an opening one day. When I was officer of the day. Every so often the camp I was in had to have an officer of the day. This was from midnight until eight in the morning. A telex came though that the field artillery needed observation people and I went there.

I graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant from the glider pilot unit. I resigned my commission and went to OCS Field Artillery Officer and got my commission there so I would know how to be an observation pilot as I went through the artillery school. I was commissioned again and that's how I got (unclear) started my training.

Q: Once you completed your Officer Candidate School, where did they send you next?

SC: Where did I go? I got out of that. We went to California first. I was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma to graduate OCS. The latter part of training was in Victorville, California. Then I was assigned to the 776th Field Artillery, 155mm Battalion and went right overseas.

Q: Did you go over as a unit? The whole group went over at the same time?

SC: Oh yes. As a whole unit. We went over by ship. We didn't fly over at all.

Q: Did you go in a convoy or in a single ship?

SC: This was in the *Aquitania*; it was an English ship. It was a whole group, hundreds and hundreds of different groups going overseas. I was a 2nd Lieutenant.

Q: Whereabouts did you land?

SC: Normandy. At Normandy in France.

Q: OK. The ship you went over on landed directly at Normandy.

SC: Yes.

Q: Do you recall the date approximately when that was?

SC: It was '41, '42 somewhere in that area. I don't really remember. It was all so confusing then because when we had to go get our aircraft and everything else, we had to go to Orly Field in Paris in France to pick up our aircraft. I forgot where it was, but we met up with our own battalion. We were assigned just like the police where they have a unit they're called whenever there was a problem. Our unit went wherever they needed us when there was combat going on where it was severe. We had an engineering unit with us so we could build our runways and everything else. We flew all over the country. We wound up at the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne. We were sent there and that was my last mission there.

Q: What kind of aircraft were you flying?

SC: I was in an observation unit. There was no such thing as jet or anything else. These were specially built with a large cockpit and 360-degree unit to see all around you and at a low flying craft and it was a propeller craft. No such thing as jet fueled or anything else.

Q: Did you carry any weapons aboard?

SC: The only thing I carried aboard was a 45 issued. That was it.

Q: Your job was basically to spot for the artillery?

SC: That's right. That was it.

Q: Do you want to tell us about that last mission?

SC: The last mission that I flew and there were many, it was the coldest winter they ever had in Belgium and we were in Bastogne. That particular morning...many mornings before that when I was ordered up into the air, it was so cold we couldn't start the engine. We had to have the mechanics drain the oil, heat it, put it back in and then spin it by hand with the propeller to start it. Once you got it up, we were normal. It was very bitter cold. We were ordered up into the air then.

I was up and there was a major who directed us, told us what he wanted done and he kept me up in the air. When I called back and told him I was getting low on fuel and everything else he said stay there until you can come back within a twelve-minute period. All of the sudden, it was just impossible. We were hit by anti-aircraft fire. I lost control. Got control of it, put it in a glide position, ordered my co-pilot out. That day our parachutes issued were seat packs. We were sitting up high in the cockpit. It was very cramped. He got tangled up in his radio wires and he panicked. He lost control of himself and he couldn't get out. I opened the cockpit door and I got him halfway out. He was behind me. I had to reach back. I didn't want to lose control of the aircraft because I had no power and I put it in a glide motion to keep us airborne.

Q: Do you remember approximately what altitude you were flying at...at that point?

SC: Somewhere around eighteen hundred feet.

Q: OK.

SC: I finally got him out. I got him halfway through and just took my foot and shoved him out. The last I saw of him his parachute opened and that was it. (unclear)I landed on the enemy side. He landed on the American side. Coming down I could see not the anti-aircraft but people firing at me. I could see the bullets popping into my parachute. The parachutes were not like the modern ones today. The modern ones are canopies now. This was a silk with (unclear) and shrouds where you can maneuver yourself down. I landed on the German side and I was shot there also. I was shot. I was hit when the anti-aircraft was fired inside the cockpit. Then I was shot coming down with bullets.

Q: Whereabouts were you hit?

SC: My left arm and left leg. Both.

Q: You mentioned shrapnel first.

SC: Yes.

Q: Then you were shot.

SC: I was shot in the...shrapnel in my left arm is still there. Its twenty-six very small pieces of shrapnel in there. The calf on my leg from my ankle to my knee was split wide open with some kind of explosive. When they shot at us, I saw the holes popping up in the aircraft. I landed there. I was bleeding and was in a state of almost shock. I was losing altitude in the meantime. I was alone. I knew I had to get out of the aircraft immediately after I got him out. I laid there. I have no idea, three days, two days, one day. I had no idea. Finally, a retreating tank passed me laying at the edge of a forest. In the interim, I would gain consciousness every so often and it was bitter cold. It was about twelve, fifteen, twenty below zero on a snowbank at the edge of a forest. There were big roads going out through here.

The first time I remember gained consciousness, I got rid of my dog tags which had "H" on it for Hebrew. I did and I just flung it as far as I possibly could. I don't know how long I laid there. I know it was a couple of days, two or three days. Unbelievable. I wrapped myself completely in the parachute. That's all the cover I had, and I kept passing out.

This tank came by. It was all completely run by German officers. They stopped the tank, threw me on top of the tank, and we got maybe thirty miles, twenty miles I have no idea, unloaded me there and turned me over to a group of Hitler Youth. These are young kids from thirteen to the age of eighteen, born and raised in the Nazi era in the brown uniforms with the banners around their shirts and they were viscous and mean and unbelievable. They did feed me a little bit. Got me back. They threw me in a cellar. There were rotted potatoes there. It was horrible. Every so often, they'd take me out and keep me alive. I had no medical treatment either at the time. I was wearing the same clothes,

blood soaked, every night. Then they started. The second day they started beating me, kicking me. You bombed our beautiful Berlin. You ruined our buildings. They just had a hatred for pilots that I couldn't fathom.

Finally, they turned me over. Someone came and got me. Some German officers. It was the SS. I went to another town and that's where I got some treatment from a German setup like a first aid tent. He took all the Germans first. I was the last one this doctor treated me. I did get a tetanus shot. I started gaining a little bit. Then they put me on a train. There was a British medical officer on it. He started treating me and he was picking out some of the shrapnel that was in my leg and bandaging it and so forth and the arm also. I got transferred to a Stalag. It was Stalag IV-F.

Q: Any idea what part of Germany that was?

SC: I think it was on the German-Polish border somewhere in there. I never went back. Never even knew about it. I was one of three officers there.

Q: How was your treatment there at that camp?

SC: Every morning they'd have roll call. A group, they'd call out eight, nine, ten names. Normally there were quite a few Jewish prisoners there. They were marched and never came back. One day I asked the guard what happened to these soldiers that were picked up to go on a work duty. He said they are out doing work and they never came back and that was it.

The food was horrible, everything, all of the conditions, everything else. There were two meals a day, one in the morning which consisted of unbelievably poor coffee and some bread. Nothing good. Soup at night that was made of potatoes and grass, actual grass. I kept losing weight. It was a terrible, terrible experience. Beatings there too wanting to know. Being an officer, I had a little better treatment than the other prisoners.

Q: Did you receive any Red Cross packages at all?

SC: Not until the very end of our incarceration. We got a few at the end of it after we were liberated.

Q: How long were you in that POW camp?

SC: I was shot down January 2nd, 1945 and liberated somewhere...I got out of there...it was in May, April or May when the Russians came in. The Russians came in around 4:30 or 5:00 in the morning but the guards had left. They left the camp. All the guards and everything else and the Russians came in.

Q: How were you treated by the Russians?

SC: On a scale of 1 to 10, I would give them a 10. The major in charge of this unit – it was a medical unit also – graduated from the University of Minnesota and he could speak English and we got along very well. He took a liking to me and we became very close. Then, they were getting very low on medical such as bandages and all kinds of first

aid and everything else. They couldn't order it so he and I used to go out and break into pharmacies around the little towns there and try to get whatever we could, whatever we could gather.

One day we had a unit with us. We were driving along, and we came across Auschwitz which was sixty or eighty miles away. I have no idea how far or what the terrain was. I was not myself really completely yet physically or mentally. When we saw Auschwitz there, they had left the camp too. They were liberated. There were no guards and when I got to Auschwitz people were standing around in a daze not knowing what to do because every morning they were ordered to do something, you shower today, you do this, you do that, whatever. They were standing around doing nothing.

We had a group with us. We went in their kitchen and saw what was available. There were thousands. I have no idea. One young lady and older woman I had in my hands spoon feeding her. She died right in my arms while I was there. There were so many things in between I just can't bring them all up. Then I saw everything they had there, the rooms where they were told you were going to be showered now. They put you in there, click the door and the gas came out. They took, I saw how they took the dental work out just pulled out gold teeth out of the mouth. I can't even really describe it anymore. They had a grave at least two football fields wide and long with empty bodies in there, men, woman and children both male and female, naked lying there just like this one on top of the other. Unbelievable, thousands laying in there. It was a scene that I can't describe fully. It just boggles my mind right to this very day. The horrible, horrible conditions and it didn't improve my conditions either.

Q: How much time did you spend there?

SC: We spent three or four days there and told people now they are on their own. They can leave. They can do anything. They want whatever they were. They were all in the striped uniforms. It was just horrible. They were bewildered. They had no idea. Then I am sure that the American and the British people came in, the armies and start gathering them and the Red Cross came in and brought them back to life again.

Q: While you were there. Did they come while you were there? The Red Cross?

SC: Pardon?

Q: Did anyone come from the Red Cross or other places while you were in the camp?

SC: No.

Q: No.

SC: No. Nobody. They were bewildered.

Q: You told them they could leave but (crosstalk). So, they probably stayed.

SC: They were all bewildered

Q: So, after...

SC: We couldn't stay. We were limited ourselves.

Q: How many were with you? You said there was the major and...

SC: The major and myself and we had about five people.

Q: Then you headed back to your camp.

SC: To the camp we were at, to the Stalag.

Q: OK.

SC: We waited. The Russians...I was an American liberated in a Russian zone. We had Russians liberated in an American zone. Both the Americans and the Russians wanted a ceremony where we could meet and they would turn over the Americans to the Americans, to the Russians, blah, blah, blah. We had a big ceremony (unclear). In the meantime, the Russians really took care of me. They assigned one woman doctor to me. She treated me...a young lady out of medical school treated me unbelievably well.

Q: All of the other POW's in your camp, you were supplied with Russian food?

SC: Oh yes. They took care of us.

Q: You were told basically to stay there until the Americans came?

SC: I did stay there. I was doing very well there. It was a fine experience for me to be with the Russians. Then we met with the Americans and we had the ceremony and everything else.

Q: How long did that take before the ceremony took place?

SC: Probably a month and a half, two months.

Q: That long?

SC: Yes. It was done very well. We weren't prisoners anymore. We were free to come and go as we pleased. Of course, I had nowhere to go. I wouldn't know where to go.

Q: Was there any retaliation against the German people who lived around the prison camp or anything that you can recall.

SC: That I don't know. I don't know. I didn't get to see much of that either.

Q: So, all the guards...

SC: That was isolated...the prison camp. The Stalag I was in was isolated. It was miles away from the camp. It was isolated by itself. It was very well guarded incidentally and manned by guards that were taken out of mental institutions, jails and everything else. They really weren't high class people. They were mentally deficient and everything else.

Q: Did you learn about the death of President Roosevelt while you were in the camp?

SC: Yes, I did. That was the only news I had of the entire incarceration. That was the only news I ever received that President Roosevelt had died. Yes. Yes, that was the only thing and that was it.

Q: That must have been pretty devastating news wasn't it?

SC: Oh yes. Absolutely yes and then, of course, when we were turned over to the Americans, in the meantime I had a change of clothes of course. It was mostly rags and what was discarded from the guards or whatever. Then, of course, I went to a PX and just picked out whatever I wanted back into uniform and everything else in Germany. Then, they put me on a liberty ship.

Q: Once you were liberated by the Americans and went back with the Americans did they put you in a hospital first before they sent you...

SC: Yes, all medical treatment and everything else.

Q: Whereabouts was that? Was that in France?

SC: It was in France, yes. Then, they decided being one of the first prisoners of war liberated by the Russians they wanted to fly me back to get me back to the Pentagon to be interviewed by some of the generals about how the Russians treated me, an American officer, because we weren't really on good terms with Russia then like we are today. There's still an enigma there.

They put me on a liberty ship and every morning instead of flying me I could be home in twelve hours or whatever, it took seven days. They put me on the deck from eight o'clock in the morning to eight o'clock at night with the sun shining and everything else and brining me egg nogs and milk shakes and sandwiches and everything else. The food was so rich I couldn't eat it. A lot of it just toss overboard and leave it there. I drank some of it trying to gain back some weight. When I was shot down, my weight was 145 pounds. When I was liberated, I weighed 95 pounds. I never really got my weight back right to this very day. Right now, I am right at about...my top weight was 120. Right now, I'm about 115.

Q: Your family back in....

SC: There's another thing, yes. My family was here. My mother got a telegram. I've got this here. I'll show it to you that your son, blah, blah, missing in action, we'll give you further notice, blah, blah, blah. My whole family said he's gone, he's dead. They all believed I was dead. She's the only one who said he'll be home. He's coming home. She did get the telegram that I was a MIA, "missing in action".

Q: When did she find out that you were alive?

SC: Oh god. It must have been...probably when I was on my way home. Yes, I would say it was in there, right.

Q: Alright. Where did you land in the states?

SC: In New York and there were people waiting for us. I was taken right to Georgia. I don't know if you remember way back there was person who had a (unclear) quinine. They sent me to an estate that he owned in Savannah, Georgia

Q: You didn't go home first?

SC: No.

Q: OK.

SC: I had to go to be rebuilt. I was still in bad shape. Not in the greatest shape at all. They treated be there and brought me up, was hospitalized and everything else.

Q: How long were you down there for?

SC: I'd say about ten days, two weeks. Then I went for my interview and released home.

Q: Were you discharged at that point?

SC: No. Then I went back and they wanted me to hold POW meetings with soldiers that were going to go overseas. They kept me there for a awhile. How I was treated, how to be treated, how to treat the guards, how to talk to them, how to act if you are a POW.

Q: You said you had to testify at the Pentagon?

SC: Pardon?

Q: Did you testify at the Pentagon about your treatment?

SC: It wasn't testifying. It was just a meeting how I was treated. Yes. That was very brief. It was done and it was exceptionally accepted. I praised them. As far as I'm concerned, it was the best treatment I had with them. It was just unbelievable.

Q: When were you discharged?

SC: The end of 1946. I got a telegram and a letter and a phone call that I would be serving for the next twenty years in the Air Corps Reserves from the military for my flying status into the reserves.

Q: Did you continue on in the reserves?

SC: Yes, but I was never called. I did what I wanted to keep flying whenever I did. Yes. Then, that was it. I was never called for duty or anything, but I kept up my flying status in the reserves.

Q: What did you fly?

SC: Whatever they had available. Then, of course, when things were starting to taper down and the war was over and everything calmed down, they eliminated from the program and if you wanted to go you had to pay a fee to keep up your status. That was very, very expensive. That was it.

Q: Once the war ended, did you make use of the GI Bill once you were out of the service?

SC: Did I make use...?

Q: Make use of the GI Bill? Did you go back to school at all for more college?

SC: No. As a matter of fact, the GI Bill, no I did not take advantage of it because I had fulfilled one thing in my mind when I was young, when I was just starting high school, what am I going to do with my life when I finish schooling. Two things came to my mind. Number one was medicine. The second was aviation. Once I completed aviation, in the condition I was in when I came out, I had no desire to go back to school or anything else. What am I going to do with my life now?

Of course, when I got released, the first thing I did after I was out of uniform and everything else, I joined the downtown YMCA for a fitness program to get back in shape because mentally and physically I was still bad. I joined the YMCA. This was in 1946, yes, '47. I needed transportation. They were not making any vehicles then. Automobile business was suspended. There were no used car lots or anything else. I didn't know where to start or where to go. I needed transportation. I couldn't take a bus. There didn't have many busses or streetcars.

I decided one day to take a bus ride to Lackawanna. I got off at one of the residential stations. I was just roaming around the streets and I'd knock on the door of a house and I introduced myself and said I was looking for a used vehicle do you know where I can get one. Because a lot of these people, their husbands were drafted, went into service and a lot them, of course, didn't come back. One woman, yes, we have a car. I think it was a Chevy at that time. It had flat tires, everything else. Her husband was killed in service (unclear) went into service had a family and everything else. They didn't know what to do with the car, but I knew what to do. Flat tires. No battery. It couldn't start. In the meantime, I had lined up a mechanic that I knew, and I had the car picked up. They couldn't tow it. They had to put it on the lift, towed it in, brought it in. In those days, the tires had tubes in them. You couldn't buy tires. You couldn't but anything but there was a store on Broadway in Buffalo, (unclear) Auto Parts. They had tubes. I put the car in shape, cleaned it up, used it.

One day, there was a note on my car that someone wanted to purchase it. I called this number. I told him. He looked at the car. He had no idea what to expect or anything else and I didn't. Of course, I wouldn't sell it right away because I needed it. Then something clicked. Maybe this is something I should do. So, I went back to Lackawanna and through this woman and got her neighbor and gave me another person and I started buying cars and putting them in shape and selling them.

All of the sudden, it turned into a business. That's how I got started in the car business. I couldn't do everything myself. One of my fraternity brothers was back from service. I called him and asked him if he'd be interested in working for me. I sent him out to do what I was doing. We started. I rented a lot on Franklin Street to store these vehicles. It

was close to downtown. It was close to the YMCA where I was going every day. That's how I started my car business.

Then, of course, they started building cars again. Then I decided to go into the new car business when they decided to start to build new cars and I acquired an English Ford franchise – an English Ford. I flew to New York, met with the English people there and asked them about becoming a dealer for their English Ford and they said yes, they are contemplating opening up franchises in America. The English Ford was owned by Ford Motor Company, but it was all American style parts and not English parts, metric and so forth. So, I made a deal with them and they asked me what's your bank, how are you going to finance and pay for this. I said well we've got the price and everything else. I said how many can you put on a vehicle on a truck to transport it. He said we have a unit that has nine. We can put nine units on it.

The English Ford was built the size of a Volkswagen, small, like my Mini I have out there. I said I'll give you a check for the first batch, the first carload. He said no we've got to have a bank to do business with us. How I got this money, I hadn't been paid for about three years in the service and when I was released, I had a few, a little money. Of course, I put it in the Marine Trust Bank then. That was the number one bank. I talked to them they said sure they'd open my account. That's how I started in the car business.

Q: Let me just go back to your service time. When you got out, what about the veteran's hospitals? Did you have to go there?

SC: Yes, I did go there. Not for a while. Not for many years until later. Like I needed dental work. They broke a few teeth in my mouth. I never had them repaired. I had a terrible problem. I did that with my private dentist and how I started with the VA and this, perhaps, two, three years or four years after I was home and I was starting to get back on my feet.

One day I had my dental appointment with one and he says to me son I am the most expensive dentist in this area. Why are you coming to me? Why don't you go to the VA? They have very, very excellent dentists there. He knew about my previous experiences with the military. He said some of his colleagues are working at the VA hospital. He said I will call them and I'll have them call you. One dentist did call me. I said will you make an appointment with me. He said sure. That's how I got started at the VA. I went there and, yes, they took care of me. Then, of course, I had this metal in my arm. Then I started there with them, physical therapy and everything else. I did start with the VA and I'm still with them now. I go there periodically.

Q: That fellow that baled out of the airplane.

SC: I have no idea what happened. My entire squadron, every single one, including my major, my colonel, everybody else passed away. No contact whatsoever with them at all. They were all passed away.

Q: Did you join any veteran's organizations?

SC: No. I did not. Then, I'll show you one thing (gets up from his chair and goes off camera). Give me a minute.

I did go to a couple of meetings there but actually it depressed me a little bit. I could get nothing out of it. I did go through PTS – Post Traumatic Stress. That didn't help me at all. One or two meetings. I cancelled out there. I did it all on my own.

Q: Because of what you went through being wounded and being in captivity have you received any sort of veteran's compensation or pension?

SC: Yes, I did. I do. I do not pay any fees at the medical. Whatever I want done at the VA, I can have done. Yes.

Q: When you came back and you had a meeting at the Pentagon, and you said they released you to go home then asked you to go back and talk to other soldiers about being a prisoner of war. Did you do that for a long while or how often? You must have been traumatized and you were just back, and they asked you to speak to others about it over and over again. I find that strange but for your sake.

SC: They didn't do anything about POW's then especially with the Russians. No, I went back and told them what my experiences were. Yes.

Q: Did you meet with different groups over a few weeks or did you just go back one time and talk to soldiers?

SC: Just a few. Not too many because they know it wouldn't really work. No.

Q: You were definitely in a time of healing.

SC: I had my own problems, but they were more interested in knowing how the Russians acted towards me, if they were violent or anything. Of course, they tried to get information out of me how the Americans are. No, the Russians were excellent.

Q: Probably because the unit that liberated you was a medical unit not like an infantry or intelligence unit.

SC: The what now?

Q: Because you were liberated by a medical unit that's probably why you were probably treated better because I've heard other stories of people being liberated by infantry units. They were treated a lot differently.

SC: Treated by Russians. Is that right. I never heard of that. I was treated very well.

Q: Alright. Thank you very much for your interview.

SC: Glad to do it.