

## **Transcript of audio clip with Bill Aitkenhead**

Interviewer: How was it in Germany after the war ended?

Bill: Pretty dreadful. The conditions – the conditions of the population, you mean? Well, don't forget that twenty-six towns and cities in Germany were practically raised to the ground by the bombing campaign and people were living in cellars and ruins and there was a lot of – they lived on a low number of calories and so on, so on. It was pretty dreadful to be, especially, if you hadn't had anything to do with the war say the women and especially the children. They suffered, you know and I – I was at one time with a unit and we were guarding like – it was like a prisoner of war camp but they were civilians. It was a civilian internment centre because when the Americans had gone through the arrest – they had an automatic arrest category that is the automatically arrested, the burger – burgermeister, the trial chief, the police chief. They were automatically arrested and they were stuck into this place and with – they had to be de-nazified. We had to find out who the real Nazis were and that took time and you can only – you seen films of prisoners of war camps, towers around, the barbed wire, was just like that.