

Recorded experiences of Alice and Lillie, two Negro teenagers of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, jailed at Jackson, Mississippi, on Monday, June 14, 1965.

Lillie: Well, when we first got there, they put us in something that looked like a barn. Then they put us out and made us stand together so tight and we couldn't hardly move. They kept pushing us against one another, and I thought I was going to faint. We stayed like that for two hours. Then when we started singing, they started beating us worse. Kept on beating us. The more we sang, the more they started beating us. So we stopped. And we started trying to move about, and they would push us real tight together. It started raining and they had this thing open and they pushed us in the rain. And we stayed in the rain about thirty minutes and then we were pushed out. So they started taking us out by tens, over to the sergeant, and we'd give our name, age, and parents and stuff like that. And then we were made to sit up against the wall. So, we tried to lay down and they said "Get up, Get up against the wall." And they packed us up against the wall; made us get up there real close together, and stayed like that for thirty minutes. And we tried. And I asked the policeman if I could use the bathroom, and he said he'd have to go find out from the sergeant. So, he went and found out and he came back and said, "If you got to use it, use it just where you are." I didn't. I kept it. Some of the girls, they couldn't keep it any longer so they wetted on themselves up there. So, we were finally let to use the rest room, thirty minutes after they had charged us. And then we were made to get back in that corner. Some of us wouldn't move and started stretching out. We wouldn't move and they started pushing us and dragging us back into the corner. We stayed in that corner so long; I don't know how long it was before they would let us stretch out and then it was on the concrete and they wouldn't let us have any mattresses Monday night until about 10 or something I think. Then we got mattresses to lay on. And this morning they beat a colored lady; she was sick. I think Alice can tell that better for you, because they beat her.

Alice: I would like to say something. When we were first put there in the room, they were prepared for us because it came on the radio that we were coming. And they had a place alright. It was a little place with paper you can easily move off. And it was off and we were made to get in the rain. And the ones -- there were some in -- were singing. And the police would take their sticks and beat them. One man was hit behind the head because he was singing and the police told him to shut up because he wanted to say that they were singing for their freedom and for their rights. And the police said that as long as they stayed there, they were going to keep on being beaten. And when we were put into this room -- it was where the Fair was -- it was a big room and the boys were put in the architects' room. The girls were put into a room next to them. It had no name. The girls sat on one side -- the colored and white -- and the boys sat on the other side. And when we got through, they took the white girls to the city jail and the white and the colored men to the architects' room. And the colored women were left alone. And when we got back and when we knew what was happening, the

police came in and they were going all around us. And we told them that we had to use the bathroom very badly and some of them got very smart, talking about that if we didn't shut up we wouldn't get to use it at all. But when the real trouble started, it was late at night. They were picking on old men and beating them up. Most of the old ones started praying and some of us tried to tell them to be quiet because they weren't going to do anything but upset the others. It was during Tuesday and Wednesday when they started really beating up the people. Wednesday they beat up a colored woman because she was sick and she told the police that she was sick. And we kept on behind the police telling them that she was sick and there were two colored girls who were sick and who needed medical attention. And we went and got the police and one told us that he would do all he could. About thirty minutes later they moved the first girl out. The second girl was still there and he wouldn't move her until one colored lady got up and started arguing and started calling him by name. Then he went and said he would see what he could do and told us that when the truck came back, he would have the girl transferred to a hospital. And after that, Wednesday when this colored woman was beaten, they took her because she was sick. And the policeman said that it wouldn't happen again. Wednesday, today, it happened again. They took whips and clubs and beat the colored women with them and then we started jumping on the police, telling them what we were going to do if it happened again because they kept promising it wouldn't happen, it wouldn't happen, and it kept happening. And the chief said, "Well I told you I'll fire the men who did the beating. That's all I can promise you." The men that they were getting in were men off the street -- taking them in and giving them clubs and whips to look over us. And we told them that we didn't do any real harm praying. There were three doors and there were about five or six policemen for the first door, three to the second door, two to the last. At night when we went to bed, they wired us in -- thought that we were going to run away, put wire around the whole camp. When we went there the first day they gave us a balony sandwich -- a thick piece with some bread. The second day, they gave us some hard grits and stuff like that and so forth. And the women which were beaten we asked our lawyer about and he said that they were taken to the jailhouse, to the city jailhouse. Question: "What did you ride to the fairgrounds in?" Some of us were riding in trucks and garbage trucks and some of us were riding in police cars. They were fastened up, you couldn't get any air. Question: "Did they beat anybody while the television cameras were around?" No, they didn't beat anybody because there were people singing and they couldn't jail us all because there were too many of us to go to the jailhouse.

Lillie: A colored lady was pregnant. They kicked her in the stomach and she was about three months. They kicked her in the back and there was a big knot on her back. She came in Monday with us, so she was sick. They wouldn't take her to a hospital to see a doctor. They didn't take her until Tuesday. They got a prescription filled for her and then later when she asked again to see a doctor he said, "I can't do anything for you, because you didn't take my medicine." And last night the policeman came back and said, "There's nothing wrong with her, she's just

pretending. Lady, you'd better hope to God there's something wrong with you." And then he stepped on her. Question:"A white doctor?" Yes, a white doctor. And so she was moved out today. They moved her out because she couldn't walk and she wasn't eating. And so they decided they would move her out today. I don't know what happened to her.