Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Vincent Speranza

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project

Interview # VR2-V-L-2015-039

Vincent Speranza, a World War II paratrooper with the 101st Airborne and a veteran of the Battle of Bulge, who reflected on his many experiences in the years following his visit to Bastogne, in 2009, was interviewed on the date listed below, as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 26, 2015 Location: Union Theater of Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library

Interview Format: Digital video

Moderator: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Sam Cooper & ALPM Systems Technician staff

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:31 / 1.52 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 20, 2016.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Vincent Speranza, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2015-039

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: This interview is a continuation of an interview series with Vincent Speranza, a 101st Division paratrooper and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. The interview was conducted in conjunction with a book signing for Vincent's autobiography *Nuts! A 101st Airborne Division Machine Gunner at Bastogne*. The evening started with a short PowerPoint presentation made by Mark DePue, followed by Vince talking about his wartime experiences to a packed audience in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's Union Theater. The evening concluded with a short question and answer period, where the audience heard several more stories from Vince.

Vince was born on March 23rd, 1925 in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, New York. He grew up on Staten Island in a large and extended Italian family during the depression, and was inducted into the Army in October, 1943. He served with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, and saw action at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, and in Germany.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division; Battle of the Bulge; siege of Bastogne, Belgium; growing up in Staten Island, New York during the 1930s and 40s; joining the Airborne; Airborne Beer; father's wine making; 101st Airborne Division reunions; Radbourne family of Brighton, England; Govaerts family of Bastogne, Belgium; Marco Killian of Bastogne, Belgium;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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