

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William Schimm

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Veterans Remember – WW II* Oral History project

Interview # VR2-V-L-2019-094

William (Bill) Schimm, a World War II infantry veteran with the 4th Infantry Division in Europe, 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: Dec 6 & Dec 16, 2019    Location: Illinois Information Service studio,  
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko, IIS videographer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Transcript  
being processed**

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:09 + 1:31 / 1.15 + 1.52 = 2.67 hrs

Session 1: Early life, military training, and duty as unit clerk in England

Session 2: Combat experiences with 4th Division and clerk duties in Paris

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 25,  
2020.

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

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## Abstract

William Schimm, *Veterans Remember—WW II*, VR2-V-L-2019-094

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** William (Bill) Shimatowsky was born on January 11, 1924 in Amazonia, Missouri, and grew up in Sioux City, Iowa, the only son of a single mother. His mother worked as a nurse, and often took in terminally ill patients to help with her finances. Bill graduated from Sioux City East High School in early 1942 and worked a variety of jobs until he was drafted in February 1943. He did his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he was trained in tanks. He soon was sent to clerical school as well.

In April 1944 Shimatowsky arrived in Great Britain and spent the next couple of months in London doing clerical work, while also enjoying the night life of the city. In mid June he was shipped to France, through Utah beach, as a replacement for the 4th Infantry Division. For the next month he served as an infantryman with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division, which was fighting near Cherbourg at the time. Following the Allied breakout from the Normandy region, he traveled with the 4th Division to Paris. Bill was then detailed as a clerk/typist and lived in Paris for the next several months, once again enjoying the night life of Paris while the 4th Division fought its way through northern France, including in the vicious battle in the Hurtgen Forest. When the Battle of the Bulge began, the 4th was holding the southern shoulder of the bulge. Shortly after Christmas Corporal Schimm rejoined his regiment, and fought with his unit as an infantryman for the rest of the war. The unit was near Berchtesgaden, Germany when the war ended.

Shimatowsky returned to the United States in July 1945 and was discharged that November. He attended school on the G.I. Bill, and married Doris Giggee in 1950. Bill later legally changed his last name to Schimm.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division; combat in Normandy, France; Utah Beach; wartime duty in London, England; wartime duty in Paris, France; Battle of the Bulge; clerical work during World War II; Berchtesgaden, Germany; pre-war Sioux City, Iowa

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