

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Cornelius Price

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2008-013

Cornelius P. (Pappy) Price, a WW II veteran who saw action in North Africa and the Mediterranean in a segregated unit, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 7, 2008 Location: Price home at 1207 S. 15th, Street in Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: C. Robert Young, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 13 pgs. Total Time: 41 minutes / .68 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 6/2/2008.

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

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Abstract

Cornelius P. (Pappy) Price, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2008-013

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Cornelius P. (Pappy) Price was born November 25, 1920 in Springfield, Illinois. Pappy was raised by his mother Thelma M. Price, (from Jefferson City, Missouri) as his father had passed away. Pappy was drafted in late 1942 into the Army, and took his basic training at Camp Pickett Virginia. After basic he was sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, for training on driving and repairing trucks. Pappy shipped out for Northern Africa in early 1943, arriving in Oran, Algiers. From there he served in both Sicily and Italy, driving trucks and performing other quartermaster duties with a Quartermaster truck unit, an all black outfit that often worked near the front lines. He was in the service for a total of thirty-eight months, thirty-four of which were overseas.

After the war Pappy returned to Springfield and went to work in a junkyard and drove a truck for a construction company. He retired from Fiat Allis after thirty-four years. Pappy was married three times in his life, first to Sarah Barnett who died in the early 1960's, then to Arrarta Watson, who passed in 2004. He is now married to Heardesteen Curb. He had two children, Harry deceased, and Frank who lives in Springfield. Pappy loves to bowl and was the first African American voted into the Springfield Bowling Hall of Fame. [Approximately 10-20 seconds of the interview's conclusion was inadvertently unrecorded.]

Topics Covered: U.S. Army Quartermaster truck combat section; Camp Lee; Camp Pickett; Segregation in the military; North Africa; landings at Anzio Beach; Sicily campaign; Freight; Fiat Allis; Springfield Bowling Hall of Fame; Spillway bowling alley, Springfield, Illinois.

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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