

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Vincent Speranza
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project
Interview # VR2-V-L-2012-049

Vincent Speranza, a World War II paratrooper with the 101st Airborne and a veteran of the Battle of Bastogne, 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* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 21, 2012 Location: IL Information Service studio, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support: Videographers Tony Bateman, Greg Lipe and Mark Suszko, IIS

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Janice Culp and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

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The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

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Abstract

Vincent Speranza, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2012-049

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Vincent Speranza 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.

This is a follow-on interview with Mr. Speranza, who was interviewed extensively in 2010 about his experiences growing up, his combat duty, and his life after the war. This interview focuses on the many experiences he has had since his first trip to Bastogne in 2009, some sixty-five years after the Battle of the Bulge. Since that time, Speranza's life has evolved in ways that he could not have imagined. As one of the last surviving members of the 101st who is able to attend reunion events at Bastogne, he carries the banner for his generation. He has been able to reconnect with people he knew and touched not only in Bastogne, but also in England. He has been treated as warmly by all those he meets, and has become a spokesman for all those who served in the 101st during the war. Vince talks at length about these experiences, and about how his life has changed since that first visit in 2009.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division; Battle of the Bulge; siege of Bastogne; 101st Airborne Division reunions; *Band of Brothers*; Kelly Ann Sproul; Radbourne family of Brighton, England; Govaerts family of Bastogne, Belgium; Marco Killian of Bastogne; visiting Pearl Harbor in 2011;

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