

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Marvin E. Farmer

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2012-003

Marvin E. Farmer, an infantryman with the 116th Infantry Regiment during WW II, 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: Feb 3, 2012      Location: Marvin Farmer's home in Springfield, Illinois

Date: Feb 21, 2012      Location: Marvin Farmer's home in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 67      Total Time: 2:02 + 2:05 / 2.03 + 2.08 = 4.11 hours

Session 1: Farmer's early life, army training & combat in Europe thru fall, 1944

Session 2: Service in Europe in late 1944, injury & recovery, & return to U.S.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 30, 2012.

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

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# Abstract

Marvin E. Farmer, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2012-003

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Marvin E. Farmer was born on June 19, 1924 in Waverly Illinois, and spent his earliest years growing up on a small farm near Marvin Waverly where he attending a one room schoolhouse. The family moved to town during his 4th grade year. Farmer graduated from Waverly High School in 1942, and was drafted into the Army. He attending Basic Training in March, 1943, and received anti-aircraft artillery training at Camp Hulen in Texas. By the time he shipped to Europe he had been reassigned to the infantry. Upon arriving in France, Farmer was assigned to Company C, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. He talks extensively about his combat experiences in and around Aachen and many other incidents as the 116th Regiment fought its way deeper into Germany in late 1944. He was injured during a patrol just days before the Germans launched their winter offensive, the Battle of the Bulge. Thereafter, he recovered from a concussion in Liege, before being sent to England when the Germans threatened to occupy Liege.

Farmer returned to Fountainebleau, France, but performed non-combat duties for the remainder of the war. Following the war, he was posted to a camp in Shrivenham, England, where he served as chief postal clerk for a makeshift university where American troops awaiting shipment to the United States went to school. Following that, the camp was used to out-process war brides of Americans who had already returned to the states. Farmer has written two books about his experience, *Angels in Combat Boots*, which covers his own experiences, and *Shadows of Combat Boots*, which includes stories from friends and family.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** U.S. Army infantryman in northern Europe during WW II; Company C, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division; combat in Aachen, Germany; combat at Jülich Sports Platz, Germany; growing up on the farm during Great Depression; Waverly, Illinois; post-war Europe and war brides; German POWs in post-war England; Fountainebleau, France during WW II; temporary university at Shrivenham, England following WW II; *Angels in Combat Boots* by Marvin Farmer; *Shadow of Combat Boots* by Marvin Farmer

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