



## Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kermit L. Harden, Jr.

Part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois  
World War II Stories project

Interview # VR2-V-D-2007-053

Kermit L. Harden, Jr., a World War II veteran who served in the United States Army, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois World War II Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 26 October 2007

Location: Illinois Public Media, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Harriet Williamson, Illinois Public Media affiliate

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 58 min/ 0.97 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (   date   ).

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

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# Abstract

Kermit L. Harden, Jr., *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-D-2007-053

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Kermit L. Harden, Jr. was born in Maquon, Illinois on October 26, 1924. After three semesters at the University of Illinois, Harden enlisted in the Army in December 1941. He served in Company K, the 301<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, of the 94<sup>th</sup> Division. Harden received basic training in March 1942 at Camp Robeson, Arkansas and engineer schooling at Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Harden returned to training in Camp McCain, Mississippi. From Camp McCain, Harden was shipped to Europe via the Queen Elizabeth.

He continued with training in Chippenham, England before moving into Lorient, France. Harden and a portion of his division were patrolling in Lorient, France when they were surrounded and captured by German soldiers. In Lorient, Harden was imprisoned and interrogated for a week. He was then boated to the island of Ile de Groix where he was held captive for forty-five days. He was extremely malnourished, losing forty pounds by the conclusion of his imprisonment. He was finally released when German troops started exchanging American prisoners for able-bodied German prisoners of war. He returned to his Division only five days after his release.

Harden also fought on the front lines of the Battle of Bulge. The European Theater ended while Harden was in Rhineland. He was discharged from Camp Fort Sheridan, Illinois and returned home in December 1945.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Maquon, Illinois; University of Illinois; Camp Robeson, Arkansas; Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Camp McCain, Mississippi; Queen Elizabeth; Edinburg, Scotland; Chippenham, England; Lorient, France; Brassiere, France; Ile de Groix; Battle of the Bulge; Rhine River; Rhineland; Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

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