

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Frank Moscardelli

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2016-033

Francis (Frank) Moscardelli, an infantryman with the 89th Infantry Division during the last year of WW II 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: Jun 28, 2016    Location: Moscardelli residence in Springfield, IL

Date: Jun 29, 2016    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

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

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

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:50 + 2:20 / 1.83 + 2.33 = 4.16 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, military training and shipment to Europe in Jan, 1945

Session 2: Combat in Germany as an infantryman in 89th Division in Third Army

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 4, 2016.

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

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## Abstract

### Frank Moscardelli, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2016-033

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Francis (Frank) Moscardelli was born on October 25, 1925 in Springfield, Illinois, and except for a few years in Chicago as a young child, grew up in Springfield where his father worked as a coal miner. Frank started grade school late, and spent most of his school years older than his fellow classmates. He was almost kicked out of middle school, and dropped out of high school when he was seventeen in 1942, intent on joining the Marine Corps. Because of an encounter with a Marine recruiting sergeant, he decided instead to wait to be drafted, which he was in December, 1943.

Moscardelli did his Army Basic Training at Camp Fannin, Texas, and stayed there for a short time as a 'demonstration troop.' In July, 1944 he was assigned to the 89th Division, then at Camp Butner, North Carolina. Specifically, he was assigned to G Company, 2nd Battalion, 353rd Infantry Regiment of the 89th Division. In January, 1945 the division shipped out from Boston and disembarked at Le Harve, France that same month. After a few weeks at Camp Lucky Strike, the division was trucked to Luxembourg near the front line, part of Patton's Third Army. The division crossed the Moselle River, then conducted a major river crossing over the Rhine River in DUKW amphibious vehicles in late March, an incident that Frank remembers well. His unit spent the next two months fighting their way west across the center of Germany, ending the war only miles from the Czechoslovakia border. After the war, Moscardelli was transferred to the 42nd Infantry Division, and did occupation duty at a prison camp near Linz, Austria, only miles from the border with Soviet occupied Austria. He returned to the states in early 1946, and soon received his high school diploma before starting his career, first in trucking and the moving business, and eventually in the nursery business as well.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** infantryman in western Europe during World War II; 353rd Regiment, 89th Infantry Division during WW II; growing up in Springfield during the Great Depression; Rhine River crossing; occupation duty at Linz, Austria; Camp Lucky Strike, near Le Harve France; Ohrdruf Concentration Camp

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