

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thomas Abram Varns

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

Interview # VR2-A-L-2009-035

Thomas A. Varns, a medic with Patton's 3rd Army in Europe 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: November 24, 2009      Location: The Varns home – Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Jerry Smith, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 25 pgs      Total Time: 1:40 / 1.67 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 03/01/2010.

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

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# Abstract

Thomas Abram Varns, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2009-035

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Thomas Varns was born in 1925 in South Dakota and moved to Springfield, Illinois with his parents at age two. He was drafted and inducted after graduation from Springfield High School. He reported for induction to Fort Sheridan in Northern Illinois and took basic training at Camp Barkley in Abilene Texas. He was assigned to the 415th Medical Collection Company of the 3rd Army and was shipped to the European Theater via Boston to Liverpool, England, crossed England by train to London and from there landed in Holland. His unit followed the 3rd Army providing medical assistance throughout their various campaigns until the war ended. Due to the rapid movement of Patton's army he was seldom aware exactly where they were at any particular time. He did participate in limited combat activities. He returned to Springfield, owned a custom home building company and is retired and living with his wife of over 60 years.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** WWII, 3rd Army, Basic Training, 415th Medical Collection Company, German Jet Airplanes

**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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