

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Vincent Speranza

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

Interview # VR2-V-L-2020-062

Vincent Speranza, a 101st Division paratrooper and veteran of the Battle of the Bulge talking about his life since 2009, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – World War II* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 11, 2020 Location: ALPL Multi-Purpose Room, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital Video recorded during a Facebook Live event

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Jeff Nevins and Kevin Cline, ALPL theater staff

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 8, 2021.

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

Transcript being  
processed

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## Abstract

Vincent Speranza, *Veterans Remember – WW II*, VR2-V-L-2020-062

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Vincent (Vince) Speranza was born on March 23rd, 1925 in the Hells Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, New York. He served as a paratrooper and infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division during World War II and saw action during the division's defense of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

Vince has been interviewed several times for the ALPL Oral History Program, beginning in 2009. In that year he visited Bastogne for the first time, sixty-five years after the battle. After that trip Vince's life has been transformed. He has returned to Bastogne every year since 2009, and also makes yearly trips to Europe for D-Day and Market Garden campaign remembrances. He has also traveled extensively throughout the United States, being a favorite of the 101st and 82nd Airborne troops, as well as to the Pentagon and West Point to meet with top brass to name just a handful of his visits. Since 2009 he has also made three tandem parachute jumps, although he was disappointed when officials would not allow him to jump solo. The focus of this interview, done during the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 as a Facebook Live event, was to highlight Vince's life since 2009. Joe Crain, the Museum's programming director, introduced Vince and Dr. Mark DePue, who has interviewed Vince several times since 2009.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Battle of the Bulge; defense of Bastogne, Belgium; Vince Speranza's beer story; tandem parachute jumps; Dr. David Govaerts of Belgium; Kelly Ann Sproul; the Pentagon; Freshfield Inn in Brighton, England; Blood on the Risers (Airborne song); Marco Killian, Johnny Bona

**Notes 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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