

Oral history interview with Edward J Gardner
RG-50.030.0672

Summary

- Born as Edward J Ogrodowczyk in Matrona, PA in 1927
- His father passed away when he was very young, but his mother came from Poland to the United States through New York
- Grew up in Natrona, PA and attended school there until the 8th grade, when he attended the Har-Brack High School, then he was drafted into the Army.
- First memory from the war was from when he was 13 years old playing with his friends, and the newspapers announced the war breaking out
- Originally wanted to join the Navy, but couldn't because he was colorblind.
- Went through 16 weeks of basic training at Camp Gordon. Had been drafted the day before Germany surrendered (~May 7, 1945), and was on his last few weeks of training when Japan surrendered. Was shipped to New York, to Le Havre, France, and then to Nuremberg, Germany, where he guarded the prison (~ November 1945)
 - While there he was stationed at the SS Kaserne
 - Guarded many prisoners, such as Fritz Sauckel (Plenipotentiary General for the Deployment of Labor), Albert Speer (Hitler's Personal architect and Minister of Armaments and Munitions), Hermann Goering
- While on R&R had an opportunity to visit Berchtesgaden and the cave that Hitler kept there
- Did observe one day in the courtroom - Admiral Doenitz
- Was then sent to Amberg, Germany where he was a squad leader
- When moved back to the United States Edward started working for a PPG Company, Industries, where he stayed for 40 years in the shipping department
- Eventually moved from Natrona to Carlisle