

War Era Story Project 2012

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Current home town: Toledo, Ohio

Age: 90

I graduated from Holyoke, Mass. High School in 1940, at the age of 18. There were very few jobs, at that time. I worked at a factory, making photograph books for \$15 a week!

When the war broke out, I started working at the Springfield Mass. Armory for about \$35 a week! My job was working on the Springfield Rifle, and it was piece work. My job was to sand the wooden part of the rifle on a machine. An inspector came around often to see if the wooden part of the rifle was very smooth. If he found the least little rough spot, he would pull it aside for more sanding. Sometimes, the rifles could pile up beside me, because the rifles were on a moving belt and I had to take them off the conveyor belt as they passed by me. There were very few men working at the armory because they were all going in the army or navy. I worked the 3 to 11 p.m. shift. We received gas coupons to get to work. I was picked up, at my home, with four others for the drive to Springfield from Holyoke.

I can well remember those war years!