



Eugene J. Westhues

Dates of service: September 1945 to January 1947

Rank & role: Private; worked in ordnance, helped set up an automotive parts warehouse for serving army vehicles

Units: Entered the army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, went through basic training and ordnance school at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland; then sent to Camp Stoneman in Pittsburg, California, and from there to Korea, where he spent nine months before honorable discharge

Familial link to William & Theresa: 3rd generation through John and Olive Westhues

Notable actions/deployments/stories:

In later life, when anyone said he belonged to the “Greatest Generation,” Gene was quick to point out that never saw action. He regarded his military service in the same matter-of-fact, unexaggerated way as other chapters of his life. Korea was desperately poor when he was stationed there, not long after the expulsion of the Japanese (but years before the Korean War). After seeing rice paddies fertilized with wheelbarrows of human excrement, Gene permanently lose his taste for rice.