

Werner Katzenstein

Werner Katzenstein was born Werner Walter Katzenstein in Wallensen, Germany on April 29th, 1922. When Hitler came to power in 1933, the Werner was kicked out of school and every Jewish man in the county of Hamelin was put in county prison. Katzenstein's father was released after 8 -10 days. In 1935, the German government began prohibiting Katzenstein's father from buying grain from his providers so he could not run his business of selling farming supplies. With the help of a relative, the Katzensteins were able to buy property in Holland and subsequently immigrate in 1937. Katzenstein's father continued to try and get visas for the family to immigrate to regions farther from Germany, starting first with places such as South America and England, before setting his sights on America. The family left Holland on June 9th, 1939 to immigrate to the United States where they bought land in Somerville, New Jersey and set up their farm. In the United States Katzenstein registered for the draft and was called to service in March of 1944. Katzenstein was deployed to Europe. He was wounded in combat (in November) and cared for in several hospitals before returning to his platoon in January. He later transferred to military government. On April 30th, 1946 Katzenstein was discharged and left Europe to return to New Jersey. Back in the states Katzenstein met Inge Eve Berg, who he married and had three children with. In December of 1998, the Katzensteins moved to Washington DC.