

C-HIST
MEL

Melillo, Anthony, 1921-
Interview with Anthony Melillo / interviewed by
Helen Dowdeswell. - Valley Stream Historical Society,
July 16, 1998.
1 audiocassette.

NOTE: Anthony Melillo, an Italian Prisoner of
War, tells of how he became an American and of his
career as chief technician of the Egyptology Dept.
of the Brooklyn Museum.

1. Melillo, Anthony, 1921- . 2. Valley Stream
(N.Y.) - History. I. Valley Stream Historical
Society. II. Dowdeswell, Helen.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- 1) Outline of Interview - Prepared by Helen Dowdeswell.
- 2) Photograph of Anthony Melillo, July 16, 1998. *

* Original Photograph is filed in the Valley Stream Historical
Photograph Collection.

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

ANTHONY MELILLO

7/16/98

Born Padula, Salerno Italy 8/1/21

Parents: Pasquale, Carmela

American mother- reason for going to Italy and for return to U.S.A.

Children remained in Italy

Youth and education in Italy

1941 - drafted to Signal Corps

Sent to North Africa- First night on duty

1943- Captured by British

Transfer to Oran, Algeria to custody of Americans

To Port Battalion in Italy

1945- To Leghorn- personnel office

1946- discharge from Italian Army

Troop ship to States- to New York Jan. 14, 1947

Rejoined mother in Brooklyn

Job in Emerson Radio and Phonograph

Meeting former American guard

Married Adele - Oct. 1948

To California and back

Job at Brooklyn Museum-1968-display technician

Installation of Museum in Luxor, Egypt- other exhibits

Travel with precious objects - security precautions

June 1969 coming to Valley Stream- new house in west end

Joining Historical Society 1994- Becoming President 1989-1991

Retirement from Brooklyn Museum - part time work in insurance

Other anecdotes of POW in Africa- problems with censorship

Learning English

Sons and their families

SIDE TWO

Family continued

Further details of work at Museum - meeting VIPs

END

MELILLO, ANTHONY, 1921-

An Italian Prisoner of War tells
of how he became an American and
of his career as chief technician of
the Egyptology Dept. of the
Brooklyn Museum.

(Interview July 16, 1998)



ANTHONY MELILLO