



Photograph, Tinted and Framed, Corporal Edward Polin Jr., ca. 1943

Edward Polin Jr., of Springfield, Kentucky, was the first black Kentuckian to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Polin received a draft notice for the army in 1942. After reading in newspapers about the marines, Polin decided to enlist. Although unsure whether or not the marines accepted black recruits, he went to a local recruiting office in Louisville and signed up. Polin discovered that he was the first black Kentuckian to enlist in the Marine Corps at his swearing-in ceremony. Polin served in the Pacific theater during World War II as a supply sergeant.

Donated by Ed Polin Jr., 1993.61.02

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."