



Key Highlights for Elmer Reis and Milton Schloss

Elmer

- Provides the perspective of an American soldier from Cincinnati who fought in Europe during WWII.
- Elmer was not drafted into the U.S. Army. He enlisted at age 24.
- Belonged to a military police unit in the 4th Armored Division of the U.S. Army. He was a police officer before the war and continued a career in law enforcement after the war.
- Experienced Nazi atrocities during the liberation of Ohrdruf.

Milton

- Provides the perspective of an American soldier from Cincinnati who fought in Europe during WWII.
- Milton enlisted in the U.S. Army at 28 years old. Because he was Jewish, he felt it was his duty to fight for the Jews of Europe.
- Belonged to an infantry unit in the 4th Armored Division of the U.S. Army.
- Milton's unit liberated Ohrdruf. Milton spoke German and he listened to some of the survivors at the camp share their stories.

Additional Resources

USHMM Holocaust Encyclopedia: U.S. Army 4th Armored Division

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-4th-armored-division>

USHMM Holocaust Encyclopedia: Ohrdruf Concentration Camp

[Ohrdruf | The Holocaust Encyclopedia \(ushmm.org\)](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/en/ohrdruf)

Artifacts for Elmer and Milton

1. Military Patch: U.S. Army 4th Armored Division Patch. Elmer and Milton were part of the 4th Armored Division.
2. Military Medal and Citation: U.S. Army Bronze Star Medal and associated citation presented to Milton. He received the Bronze Star for his participation in analyzing and identifying enemy targets that would weaken the Nazi military forces.
3. Combat Helmet: This helmet was issued to U.S. Army troops during WWII.
4. Military Jacket: Eisenhower jacket worn by U.S. Army troops during WWII.
5. Scrapbook Page: Contains photographs from Milton's military career during WWII.
6. Photograph: U.S. Army soldiers Elmer Reis and John Kerr wearing military police combat helmets in Belgium during WWII.
7. Photograph: U.S. Army troops crossing the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge.
8. Photograph: U.S. Army 4th Armored Division troops marching to receive a Presidential Citation for the Division in Landshut, Germany in 1945. Elmer is carrying a flag in the front row, second from the right.
9. Photograph: Military portrait of Elmer.
10. Military Order: Victory Order issued by U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower on May 8, 1945.



11. Identification Card: U.S. Army Identification Card issued to Milton on January 8, 1943.
12. Military Record: U.S. Army Certificate of Separation issued to Milton on March 5, 1948.
13. Photograph: Barracks at Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. This photograph was taken at the time of liberation.
14. Photograph: Watch tower and fence at Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. This photograph was taken at the time of liberation.
15. Photograph: U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Troy Middleton touring the newly liberated Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. General Eisenhower was Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe and General Middleton was Commanding General of the XVII Corps, Third U.S. Army.
16. Photograph: Liberated prisoners standing with a U.S. Army soldier at Ohrdruf Concentration Camp.
17. Map: Campaign map of the U.S. Army 4th Armored Division's travel through Europe during WWII.
18. Newspaper: The *Cincinnati Enquirer* published on December 12, 1941, reporting on the U.S. entering the war with the headline "America Declares War on Germany, Italy."
19. Newspaper: The *Cincinnati Enquirer* published on May 8, 1945, reporting Allied victory and the end of WWII with the headline "Peace Proclaimed."