

## **MAX EICHHORN PAPERS, 19xx-19xx**

**2019.60.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Max Eichhorn papers

Dates: 1939-1986 (bulk 1939-1950)

Catalog number: 2019.60.1

Creator: Eichhorn, Max, 1906-1986

Extent: 1 box, 2 oversize folders

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Max Eichhorn papers include correspondence, photographs, subject files, and writings documenting Eichhorn's World War II service as a Jewish chaplain. Eichhorn was one of the first Jewish chaplains to enter the Dachau concentration camp after liberation, and he led the first religious service in the camp. Correspondence includes letters between Max Eichhorn, his family, the families of servicemen, military authorities, and American Jewish organizations during World War II. Photographs depict Max Eichhorn in uniform and conducting religious services at Camp Croft and in the field in Europe during the war. Subject files include a calendar of Eichhorn's official activities, his citation for the Bronze Star, and files documenting Eichhorn's career before, during, and after the war. Writings include sermons and articles written and delivered by Eichhorn during and after World War II, including in the field in France and Germany and at the first religious service conducted at Dachau following its liberation.

Languages: English

### **Administrative Information**

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

Reproduction and use: The donor, source institution, or a third party has asserted copyright over some or all of the material(s) in this collection. You do not require further permission from the Museum to use this material. The user is solely responsible for making a determination as to if and how the material may be used.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Max Eichhorn papers (2019.60.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Mark S. Zaid donated the Max Eichhorn papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2019 by on behalf of the family of Rabbi David Max Eichhorn.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds film footage of Max Eichhorn taken by the US Army Signal Corps (RG-60.0008, RG-60.0123, RG-60.0661, RG-60.0842, RG-60.2017, and RG-60.2701). The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's library holds two copies of *The GI's rabbi : World War II letters of David Max Eichhorn*, edited by Greg Palmer and Mark S. Zaid (D769.375 .E43 2004). The Library also holds *Dachau and the Nazi terror 1933-1945*, edited by Wolfgang Benz and Barbara Distel, which includes Eichhorn's report on the first Sabbath service held at Dachau following liberation (D805.A2 D323 2002 v. 1-2).

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed. See archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, March 2023.

### **Biographical note**

Max Eichhorn (1906-1986) was born David Max Eichhorn on January 6, 1906 in Columbia, Pennsylvania to Joseph and Anna Eichhorn. He graduated from Hebrew Union College in 1931 and was ordained as a rabbi. In 1941, Eichhorn enlisted in the Army as a chaplain. He was stationed at Camp Croft in July 1942. He traveled aboard the Queen Mary with nine other American rabbis in June 1944 and served in combat units in France and Germany. He was among the troops that liberated Dachau and presided at the first Sabbath service at the liberated camp. After returning from the war in 1945, Eichhorn retained his active military status in the United States Army Reserve. He worked for the Committee on Army and Navy Religious Activities and served as president of the Association of Jewish Chaplains of the Armed Forces. He retired from the military with the rank of lieutenant colonel and served as Rabbi to Temple Israel in Florida. Eichhorn died on July 16, 1986.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Max Eichhorn papers include correspondence, photographs, subject files, and writings documenting Eichhorn's World War II service as a Jewish chaplain. Eichhorn was one of the first Jewish chaplains to enter the Dachau concentration camp after liberation, and he led the first religious service in the camp. Correspondence includes letters between Max Eichhorn, his family, the families of servicemen, military authorities, and American Jewish organizations during World War II. Photographs depict Max Eichhorn in uniform and conducting religious services at Camp Croft and in the field in Europe during the war. Subject files include a calendar of Eichhorn's official activities, his citation for the Bronze Star, and files documenting Eichhorn's career before, during, and after the war. Writings include sermons and articles written and delivered by Eichhorn during and after World War II, including in the field in France and Germany and at the first religious service conducted at Dachau following its liberation.

### **System of arrangement**

The Max Eichhorn papers are arranged in four series:

Series 1. Correspondence, 1943-1950

Series 2. Photographs, 1943-1946

Series 3. Subject files, 1939-1986 (bulk 1944-1950)

Series 4. Writings, 1940-1961 (bulk 1940-1948)

### **Indexing terms**

Dachau (Concentration camp)

Jewish Welfare Board.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation.

World War, 1939-1945--Chaplains--United States.

Military chaplains--Judaism.

Photographs.

Letters.

Sermons.

Registers.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1. Correspondence, 1943-1950**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.1	Eichhorn, Max, to family, 1944-1945 (include two photographs)
1.2	Eichhorn, Max, to family, V-mail, 1944-1945
1.3	Eichhorn, Jonny, to Eichhorn, Max, 1943-1945
1.4	Eichhorn, Max and servicemen's families, 1944-1945
1.5	Military, 1944-1945
1.6	General, 1943-1950

### **Series 2. Photographs, 1943-1946**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.7, OS 1	Photographs, 1943-1946

### **Series 3. Subject files, 1939-1986 (bulk 1944-1950)**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.8	Bronze Star citation, 1945
1.9	Cathedral of the Pines, 1947
1.10	Day by Day Account of Official Activities, 1944-1945
1.11	Flag Salute case, 1939, OS 2
1.12	Jewish Welfare Board, 1944-1945, 1950
1.13	Printed materials about the military, 1944, 1986
1.14	World Fellowship, Inc., 1947

**Series 4. Writings, 1940-1961 (bulk 1940-1948)**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.15	Writings, 1940-1944
1.16	Writings, 1945
1.17	Writings, 1947-1948, 1961