

**Summary of Oral History:** Zohn Milam

**RG#:** RG-50.045.0029

**This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [03/2022]**

Zohn Milam begins describing when he and a U.S. army comrade, Joe Bablo (son of Polish immigrants), were outside Flieden, Germany manning a roadblock for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 409<sup>th</sup> Regiment in April 1945 met a man, driving with his son, who claimed he had escaped a concentration death camp after witnessing the burning of his family. Milam continues describing his unit's travel into Bavaria where in almost every town they saw a slave labor work force; continuing towards Oberammergau, they came upon a factory hidden in the mountains manufacturing Messerschmitt airplane engines; capturing a man reputed to be an important regional Nazi official; battled a Nazi rear-guard on May 1-2 in a hay field where camp prisoners from Dachau were held in hay barns; describes the condition of prisoners there; describes the experiences of the U.S. 410<sup>th</sup> Regiment that came across a prison at Landsberg; the encounters they had with local ardently Nazi sympathizers; continuing their travel through Garmisch-Partenkirchen towards Innsbruck arriving in Schwaz on May 8 when the war ended.

Milam continues describing Dachau where he was sent as a marshaling area for U.S. troops and the impact on him and his comrades of what they saw of the layout and features of the camp; the creation of ash "cakes" from prisoners' remains; displaying photos and other items from the camp; leaving the area with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion to guard SS prisoners at Moosberg.

Milam nears the end of his testimony citing the impact that his personal witness and experiences had on him as a family man, teacher, principal, and probationary officer. He concludes by reading a contemporaneous letter he wrote to his sister about what he witnessed.