



## **Zingara Donation**

Robert Zingara donated his father's military uniform to the St. Francis Historical Society in 2016. Bob also made a generous gift of \$5,000 to the Society for the purchase a new display cabinet for the civic center rotunda.

Robert's father, Carmen Zingara, served in the U.S. Army Cavalry during World War II. Carmen Zingara was born in Milwaukee's Third Ward in 1917. He grew up on Milwaukee's east side and later lived on East Bottsford Avenue in St. Francis.

Carmen enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1941. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he spent 18 months in Panama protecting the canal. It was in Panama that he was promoted to sergeant.

In 1943, Carmen attended officer candidate school. After completion, he was elevated to the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Horse Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas. He had never ridden a horse before. But due to his athleticism and strength, he mastered the horse training and graduated at the top of his class.

In August 1944, Carmen was assigned to the Signal Information and Monitoring Company (S.I.A.M.). The Signal Company provided up-to-date information on the tactical situation on the army front much faster than through normal channels.

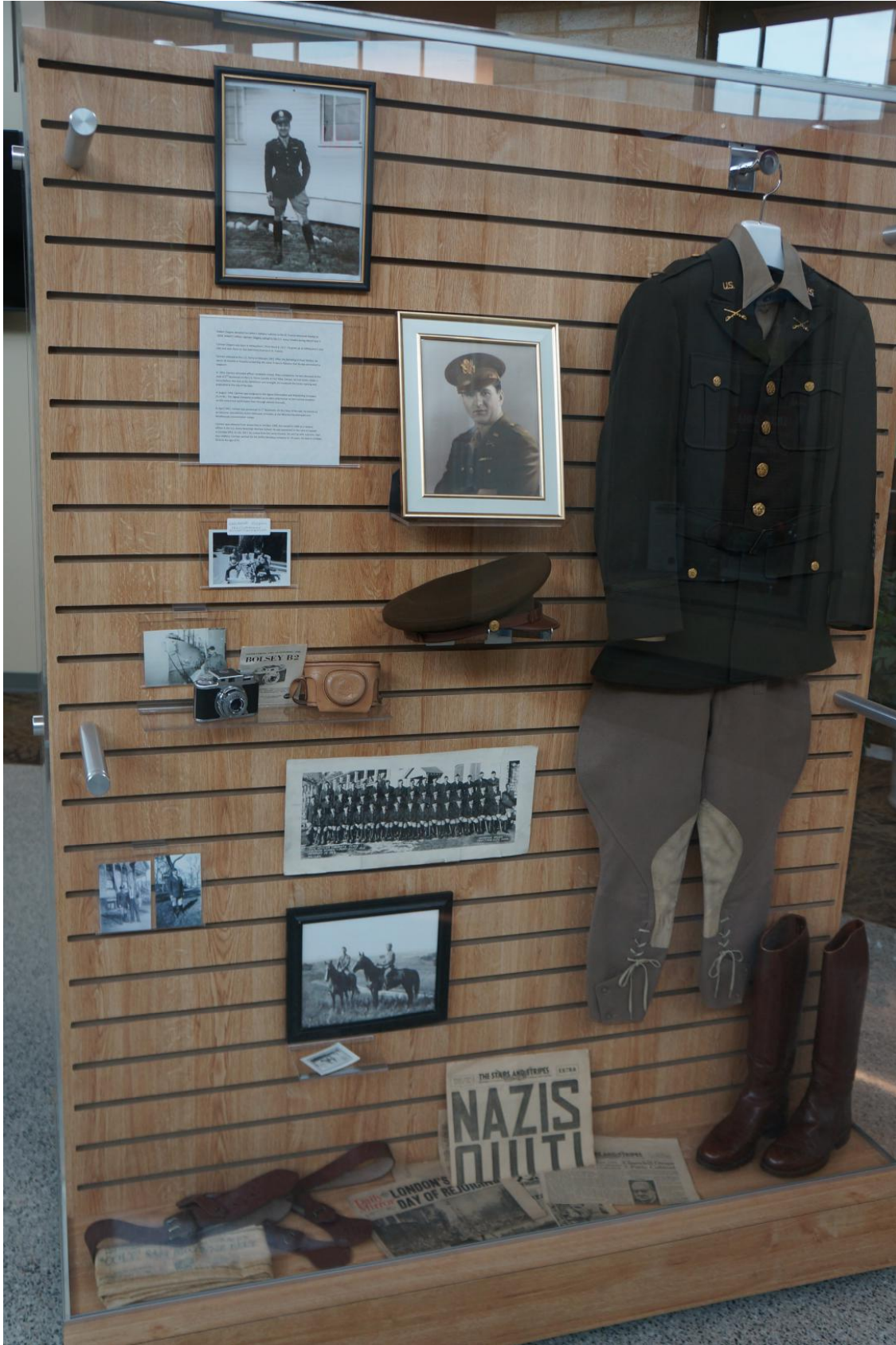
In April 1945, Carmen was promoted to 1st lieutenant. At the close of the war, he served as an observer and witness to the Holocaust atrocities at the liberated Buchenwald and Nordhausen concentration camps.

Carmen was released from active duty in October 1945, but served in 1946 as a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School. He was promoted to the rank of captain in October 1953. In July 1957, he retired from the army reserve. He and his wife, Lorraine, had four children. Carmen worked for the Schlitz Brewing Company for 35 years. He died in October 2014 at the age of 97.

Here are a few images from the display cabinet showing Carmen Zingara's items:



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