

SMS 1242  
4 April 2023  
Schreck, Christopher J.

**CECIL, ROBERT C.  
1943-1945  
LINEAR FT.: 0.2  
APPROX. NO. PGS.: 100  
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Robert Carl Cecil (1919-1959) was a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Force from Detroit Michigan. He was held at the Stalag Luft III prison camp from 1943-1945.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of a single journal, *A Wartime Log: A Remembrance from Home through the American Y.M.C.A.*, that belonged to Cecil during his imprisonment at the Stalag Luft III prison camp in Sagan, Germany (Zagan, Poland). It includes artwork, photographs, news clippings, and letters from his family. The photographs were removed from the diary and placed in sleeves in "Folder 2" for preservation purposes. Labels corresponding to page numbers in the diary are affixed to each sleeve.

The *Arrangement and Description* section includes a brief description of each page, with blank pages left out.

**Names:** Cecil, Robert C.; Kimball, Richard

**Keywords and terms:** World War II; World War, 1939-1945; Stalag Luft III; United States Army Air Force (USAAF); Prisoners of War (POWs); Diaries; Journals; Wartime Logs; Y.M.C.A.; Sagan; Germany; Zagan; Poland

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**ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION**

**SERIES ONE: SERIES NAME**

Folder 1	The Wartime Log of Robert Cecil. Title page states: "This book belongs to Lt. R.C. Cecil, 0664134, U.S.A.A.F., 1288 Stalag Luft III, Sagan Germany."
Page 3	"Waterloo" with artistic drawing of the Mediterranean Sea
Page 5	Drawing of an airplane
Page 11	Drawing of three airplanes

- Page 15 Artwork: depiction of Donald Duck at Stalag Luft III with the title “I Wanted Wings”
- Page 17-18 Artistic stylized poem titled “War” attributed to Kenneth Roberts’ “Oliver Wiswell”
- Page 21 Drawing of a face with the words “Ah hates war”
- Page 23 Drawing of a face with the words “In a measurable space of time”
- Page 25 Color drawing of a man in uniform, probably Joseph Stalin, with the words “We shall not pull hot chestnuts from the fire for others!”
- Page 27 Newspaper article written in German
- Page 29 Newspaper article written in German, with a photo of Adolph Hitler
- Page 31 Photo from a newspaper article, written in German
- Page 33 Photo from a newspaper article, written in German
- Page 35 Color artwork depicting the prison camp, horse droppings, and a Red Cross package. Titled “Preparing for Spring Gardens”
- Page 41 Drawing with caption: “South Compound, Stalag Luft III, Sagan Germany”
- Page 43 Drawing with caption: “Block 127”
- Page 45 Two drawings of the interior of the bunkhouses by “Wings” Kimball, probably referring to fellow prisoner Richard Kimball (see SMS 524)
- Page 47 Drawing of two prisoners sleeping in bunks, dreaming. Caption reads “Sack Time”
- Page 49 Drawing of two prisoners attempting to escape, with German guards about to capture them. Caption reads: “C’est la Guerre”
- Page 51 Drawing of a man with a cane smoking a cigarette, captioned “Stalag Style”
- Page 52-53 Two pages with various sayings, titled “Lager Lingo”
- Pages 55-61 Images of German propaganda, written in German
- Page 69 Drawing of a wolf in a suit and a woman by W.E. Allen

Page 71          Drawing of a prison camp wooden guard tower

Page 135-140   Names and addresses of fellow prisoners at Stalag Luft III

Insert (I) pages. This journal contains un-numbered pages inserted into the middle of the book, which held letters, photographs, and other items. Many of these items were removed from the journal (as noted in parentheses below) and added to Folder 2 for preservation purposes, while others still remain in the journal.

- I-1      Photo card depicting Jesus and a quote from the bible
- I-3      Cecil and fellow prisoners W.F. Wigger and T.B. Wilson (removed).  
Photo in 2nd slot is missing
- I-4      Caterpillar Club card (removed) and correspondence regarding admittance
- I-5      Photo: "Theater Gang" (removed). Photo in 1st slot missing
- I-6      Apostolic Delegation correspondence
- I-7      Photo: "Wings' P-40" (removed). Photo in 2nd slot is missing
- I-8      Pamphlet written in German
- I-9      Photo: "Yeah-Boy" (removed). Photo in 1st slot is missing
- I-11     Photos: "July 4th, 1944" (1) (removed) and "The Colonels" (2) (removed)
- I-17     Cartoon, stamps, and other glued-on paper items
- I-18     Letter from Dad (1) and letter from sister Margaret (2) (both removed)
- I-19     Letter from Dad (1) and letter from sister Margaret (2) (both removed)
- I-21     Customs tag and parcel tag
- I-23-29      Eight uncaptioned photographs (removed)
- I-30-31      Seven photos captioned "The Good Ole Days" (removed)
- I-38     News clipping in German

Folder 2          Wartime Log Removed Items (see Folder 1 for details)

Folder 3          Loose Items from Journal

- Hand-written promise to pay notes
- List of friends and contacts
- Stalag Luft III identification cards with photos