

SMS 757

31 March 2023

Schreck, Christopher J.

COOK, EMMET E.

1941-1945

LINEAR FT.: 0.2

APPROX. NO. PGS.: 160

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

1st Lt. Emmet E. Cook was a bombardier in the 301st Bombardment Group, 352nd Squadron, who was shot down over Palermo, Sicily. After crash landing he was captured by local Italian soldiers, turned over to the Luftwaffe, and taken to the Stalag Luft III prison camp in Sagan, Germany (now Żagań, Poland). While imprisoned he was involved in an escape plot when he created a map of the camp that was used by other prisoners to dig escape tunnels. Cook and his conspirators were caught, however, and transferred to another part of the prison camp before an attempt could be made. Just two months later, the "Great Escape" took place from the original compound. Cook was freed in April 1945 after two years, one month, and seven days as a POW. Cook returned to his home in Fort Worth, Texas and took a job with Globe Aircraft as a production test pilot for Globe Swifts.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of three folders divided into three series. Of note are two prisoner of war journals maintained by Emmet Cook during his confinement in Stalag Luft III. The first is a "war-time Log" provided by the YMCA that consists of artwork by Cook and others, poems, prisoner lists, and photographs of the camp and his fellow prisoners. The second notebook contains a short compilation of the major events of World War II, a list of letters sent and received by Cook, and a list of other prisoners in his compound. Finally, there is a short biography of Cook's experiences and some additional unidentified photographs.

Names: Cook, Emmet E.

Keywords and terms: Prisoners of War (POWs); Stalag Luft III; World War II; World War, 1939-1945; Bombardiers; journals; diaries; artwork; poems; Sagan, Germany; Żagań, Poland; 1940s

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ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE: JOURNALS

- Folder 1 War-time Log of Emmet E. Cook. Blue-grey notebook containing artwork, cartoons, and photographs maintained by Emmet Cook during his imprisonment at Stalag Luft III, 1943-1945.
- A note from the YMCA explaining the potential uses of the journal
 - Poems
 - Artwork
 - Autographs
 - Prisoner lists
 - North compound photo, 1943
 - Ration lists and information
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Prisoner photos
 - Family photos
- Folder 2 Blue notebook owned by Emmet Cook containing a short compilation of the major events of World War II, a list letters sent and received by Cook, and a list of other POWs

SERIES TWO: PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 1

- Folder 3 10 black and white photos believed to be taken at Stalag Luft III near the end of the war. Photos depict a guard tower, barracks, prisoners, and smoke from a nearby military battle

SERIES THREE: PRINTED MATTER

BOX 1

- Folder 3 Printed Matter. Includes a brief narrative written by Emmet Cook that describes his military assignments, when he was shot down, and his time as a POW at Stalag Luft III