

Robert Edgar Cecil Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78015453>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms011031>

Prepared by Lloyd A Dunlap and James Park

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2021 April

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Edgar Cecil Papers

Span Dates: 1942-1945

ID No.: MSS15453

Creator: Cecil, Robert Edgar, 1906-1961

Extent: 3,000 items

Extent: 7 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78015453>

Summary: Insurance executive. Correspondence, copies of minutes of meetings, reports of committees, notices and orders, camp publications, rules and regulations, financial reports, medical records, studies of food and nutrition, organization charts, and other papers relating to the administration of the Japanese prison camp at the University of Santo Tomás in Manila and also the camp at Los Baños in the Philippines where Cecil was interned during World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Cecil, Robert Edgar, 1906-1961.

Organizations

Los Baños Internment Camp.

Santo Tomas Internment Camp (Manila, Philippines)

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945--Philippines.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, Japanese.

Occupations

Insurance executives.

Provenance

The papers of Robert Edgar Cecil, insurance executive, were given to the Library of Congress in 1965 by his children, Robert S. Cecil, Victoria J. Cecil, Stefani C. Cochran, and Suzita C. Myers.

Processing History

The papers of Robert Edgar Cecil were arranged and described in 1966. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

The Robert Edgar Cecil Papers are described in *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* 24, no. 37 (13 September 1965).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Edgar Cecil in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert Edgar Cecil are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Robert Edgar Cecil Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Robert Edgar Cecil was born July 20, 1928, in Bluffton, Indiana. After graduating from Stanford University and its Graduate School of Business, Cecil accepted an import-export position with a firm in the Philippine Islands. In 1930 Cecil served as assistant manager of the Manila branch office of West Coast Life and became manager in 1935. In that same year, he married Sue Elizabeth Jurika. In January 1942 Cecil was taken prisoner by the Japanese when they took Manila. Cecil was held as a prisoner until the island's liberation by American forces in 1945. From 1958 to 1961 Cecil served as president of the Continental Life and Accident Insurance Company in Boise, Idaho, until his untimely death in a fatal car accident on June 17, 1961, near Lovelock, Nevada.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Edgar Cecil (1906-1961) span the period 1942-1945 and pertain to his internment by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during World War II. The papers relate to the internal affairs of the internment camps for civilians at the University of Santo Tomás, Manila, and at Los Baños. Under Japanese authority, the internees established a form of self-government operated under an executive committee. Cecil was secretary of this committee, as well as the director of the Department of Sanitation and Health in the camp government. The papers consist of manuscripts, typed and near-print copies of minutes of meetings, reports of committees, notices and orders, camp publications, rules and regulations, financial reports, medical reports, studies of food and nutrition, organizational charts, periodic lists of internees, memoranda and correspondence with Japanese officials, and other material relating to the conduct of the camp. The bulk of the papers documents life in the camp at Santo Tomás where Cecil was interned from January 1942 to May 1943, at which time he was transferred to the camp at Los Baños. The collection also contains liberation reports for the camp at Los Baños.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by name of camp and then by type of material and therein by topic.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Santo Tomás file
BOX 1	Subject file
BOX 1	Camp organization <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Chronology
BOX 1	Committee
BOX 1	General Committee minutes
BOX 1	Index
BOX 2	1942
BOX 2	Jan.-Feb.
BOX 2	Mar.-July
BOX 2	Miscellaneous committee reports
BOX 2	Finance and supplies
BOX 2	Food and rations
BOX 2	Internee lists
BOX 2	1942, Mar.-June
BOX 3	1942, Aug.-1943, Dec.
BOX 3	Miscellaneous
BOX 3	Japanese relations
BOX 3	News media
BOX 3	Broadcasts
BOX 3	"Campus Health"
BOX 3	<i>Greater East Asia War Bulletin</i>
BOX 3	"Internews"
BOX 4	<i>Manila Daily Bulletin</i>
BOX 4	<i>Manila Tribune</i>
BOX 4	<i>Red Cross Prisoners of War Bulletin</i>
BOX 4	"Stic Gazette"
BOX 4	Miscellaneous
BOX 4	Red Cross
BOX 4	Relief for Americans in Philippines
BOX 5	Rules and regulations
BOX 5	Sanitation and health
BOX 5	University of Santo Tomás, Manila
BOX 5	Miscellaneous
BOX 6	Articles and speeches
BOX 6	Bissinger, George, "Agricultural Future of the Philippines"
BOX 6	Clark, V. V., "World Trade with Latin America and the Reconstructed Monroe Doctrine"
BOX 6	Hebbard, William L., "Twenty-Four Propositions Relating to the Peace"
BOX 6	Holter, Don W., "The Shape of Things to Come"
BOX 6	Schier, S. S., "Some Basic Principles for Present and Future World Cultures"
BOX 6	"Church Community and State"

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	"Ideas on World Union"
BOX 6	"Individual In a Better World"
BOX 6	"Individual In the New World"
BOX 6	"Plan for World Economic Union"
BOX 6	"Problems of the Post-War Period"
BOX 6	"World Citizenship"
BOX 6	Los Baños file
BOX 6	Correspondence and memoranda, 1943-1945
BOX 6	Subject file
BOX 6	Administration Committee
BOX 6	Digest
BOX 6	Minutes
BOX 6	1943, May-Sept.
BOX 7	1943, Oct.-1944, Jan.
BOX 7	Announcements
BOX 7	Camp organization
BOX 7	Food and rations
BOX 7	Internee lists
BOX 7	Japanese relations
BOX 7	Liberation reports
BOX 7	Library
BOX 7	Mail
BOX 7	Monthly reports
BOX 7	Personnel Division
BOX 7	Recreation
BOX 7	Sanitation and health
BOX 7	Scholarship fund
BOX 7	Social activities
BOX 7	Welfare Department
BOX 7	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Santo Tomás file
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Camp organization
BOX OV 1	Organization charts (Container 1)