The Colonel Edmund J. Lilly collection is an open collection of papers relating to the military service and experiences of a P.O.W. in the World War II Pacific Theater. Col. Lilly was born in North Carolina and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1915. In 1917, he received a commission in the regular Army. In 1941 he was sent to Manila in the Philippines to serve in the U.S. Army's Philippine Division. He became the commander of the 57th Philippine Scout Regiment. The unit served on Bataan during the Japanese invasion. He became a P.O.W. in April 1942 when the Americans surrendered to the Japanese. For the next 40 months he was in various Japanese P.O.W. camps. To keep his sanity, he maintained a diary in tiny notebooks. In addition to the diary he wrote down poems, songs, recipes, rules for Bridge and everything he could remember. After his release from the camp, he spend 6 months in a hospital and eventually returned to active duty. He retired from the Army in 1953 and returned to North Carolina. His collection of diaries, memorabilia and other materials was donated to the Combined Arms Research Library in 1998 by his daughters, Elizabeth Ann Lilly Barrett and Victoria Lilly MacMillan.

Listing of material:

Box 1

A. Service Records
B. Inventories
C. Correspondence
   1941
   1942
   1943-1944
   1945
   1946
   1947-1949
   1950-1959
   1960-1969
   1970-1983
D. Topical files
   Decorations - copies of orders awarded
   Fall of Philippines
   57th Infantry Guerrilla Regiment
   Fort William McKinley
   Lilly, Edmund J.
   Post-liberation
   WW II - general
E. Photographs
F. Illustrations (prison scenes by Eugene C. Jacobs)

Box 2

G. Publications
   - Corregidor of Eternal Memory
   - Infantry Journal
   - The Fall of the Philippines, footnotes to by Louis Morton
   - Philippine Postscripts, 1944-1945
   - Prisoners of War Bulletin, 1943-1944
   - The Red Cross News (Distributed to U.S. Prisoners of War)
   - The Short Fuse: A Note on the Japanese Ex-Prisoner of War after Four Years, by Charles T. Brown, M.C., U.S. Army. (Inscribed by author to EJL)
   - The U.S. Army in WWII: The War with Japan, 3 vol. (Belonged to Lt. EJ Lilly, III, KIA in Korea 1950)
   - The XPW Bulletin, 1958-1959

H. Associations
   - American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor
   - Relief for Americans in Philippines

I. Boxtop and label collection

J. Speeches

K. Prisoner of War Camps
   - Church services
   - Notes and sketches

Box 3

J. Notebooks (links are to diaries available full-text)
   1. Diary, 26 December 1943 - 7 December 1944 (or with handwritten transcription or typed transcription)
   2. Diary, 8 December 1944 - 26 April 1945
   3. 27 April 1945 - 17 September 1945
   4. Prisoners of war, #1: May 10, 1942 - Oct. 9, 1942
   5. Prisoners of war, #2
   6. Prisoners of war, #3
   7. "The Battle of Bataan", by W.E. Brougher; etc.
   8. Claims against the U.S.; addresses; etc.
   10. Letter to VBL (copy), 19 November 1943; notes on mechanics
   11. Bottle turn-in; PX accounts; etc.
   12. Poems and songs
   13. Guitar; Bridge; knots; etc.
   15. Contract Bridge
   16. Calculus; notes of Bataan campaign, deaths, operations; etc.
   17. More songs and poems
Box 4 (Notebooks, cont.)

20. Notes re Asia; restaurants; dates
21. Pay data; property claims; bets; PW Info Bulletin
22. Ledger purchased at Hoten, 10 March 1945, with summaries, maps of Bataan, routes of prison ships, etc. (includes 5 pieces re song copyright)
23. Trip home from prison camp, October 1945
24. Handwritten report of Pearl Harbor bombing
25. Small photo, EJL diary on back with transcription (4 pieces total)
26. Food and cigarette labels

Box 5

K. Recipe file from P.O.W. camps 1942-1945

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