Biography
Roy Hilton was born in Greenwood, South Carolina November 7, 1892. He entered The Citadel in 1911. As a cadet he was a member of the Polytechnic Literary Society and held the position of Cadet Lieutenant of Company A his senior year. He majored in English and graduated in 1915.

On June 7, 1917, he entered the U. S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant and served in France and Germany. He was assigned to The Citadel from 1938-1941 as an assistant professor of military science. In 1941 he was stationed in Bataan, Philippine Islands. When the United States forces on Bataan surrendered to the Japanese on April 9, 1942, Colonel Hilton was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese until the liberation in 1945.

Scope and Content Note
The papers were donated by Colonel Hilton’s daughters Laura Hilton Starnes and Ruth Hilton Little in October 2010 and comprise .5 linear feet (one document box). The papers include diaries, an autobiography, book reviews, drawings and assorted articles on miscellaneous topics written by Col. Hilton during his captivity. Col. Hilton provided a title for the majority of his writings. The titles are italicized and listed in the inventory. The papers are arranged chronologically.

In his Personal Letter to his daughters, Col. Hilton described his family’s plantation in Greenwood County, South Carolina, his years as a Citadel cadet, his World War I experiences and his life as a prisoner of war. As a diversion during captivity, he wrote book reviews, kept bridge scores and drew floor plans for houses. Colonel Hilton used any paper available which included notebooks and even cigarette pack wrappers.

Folder 1  Letter 1940 July 18 from General Charles P. Summerall, President of The Citadel congratulating Hilton on his promotion.

Folder 2  Philippine Campaigns 1941-1942
Roy Hilton Papers
2010.26

Folder 3  Interesting Events, Philippines & Orient 1941-1945 written on Chesterfield Cigarette pack wrappers. 4 p.

Folder 4  Bataan Supply Situation 1942 March 31-April 9 (handwritten and typed transcription. 1p.)

Folder 5  March From Bataan to Camp O’Donnell 1943 April (Hilton’s notes recording miles, hours and conditions) 1 p.

Folder 6  
A Personal Letter Notebook A –1943/10/12 71 p.
A Personal Letter Notebook B pp.79-155
A Personal Letter Continuation Notebook C pp. 157-220 includes recipes for food and drinks, description of World War I activities and subsequent assignments
A Personal Letter Continuation pp. 221-266 (handwritten on notebook cover: Mukden, Manchukno 8/23/45)

Folder 7  My Life – Outline 8 p.

Folder 8  Diaries
Tarlac Concentration Camp, Philippines 5/10/42 – 8/10/42, Karenko, Taiwan 8/17/42-6/7/43, S.W. Taiwan 6/8/43 (Notebook No. 2, pp. 1-92)

Untitled – contains drawings and lists of officers (Notebook No. 3, 71p.)

Life at Camp Shira Kawa Karenko, Taiwan (Formosa) 6/7/43-11/7/44
Prisoner of War No. 53 (Notebook No. 8, pp. 7-79)

Life at Camp Hoten, Manchukno 11/9/44 – 10/27/45
(Notebook No. 9, pp. 1-39)

Folder 9  Book Reviews

Folder 10  Bridge Scores 1942-1945
Folder 11  *Index to Contents.* Untitled notebook with no cover page. Contents listed as follows: Calendar 1942-1943; Christmas, New Year and Monthly data; Health chart; Camera (movie); shot gun watch, pipes, etc.; Summary of foreign service; Exorbitant prices- distorted ideas, etc.; Combat training and tests outline; Ragged edge of humanity; Rumors; Mental gymnastics; Outline American campaigns history; Clothing and equipment needed replacements.

Folder 12  Map of Bataan – drawn by Colonel Hilton

Folder 13  *Prisoner of War Experiences* 1946 Jan. 8
(Typed; the document is incomplete as it ends abruptly on p. 7)

Folder 14  *Statement of Roy Hilton* 1946 June 8 concerning his mistreatment as a Prisoner of war of the Japanese government.
(Handwritten responses to 66 typed questions)

Folder 15  *Miscellaneous*
Questions with Japanese translations compiled by Hilton 1 p.
Bets made by Hilton and fellow POW’s 1 p.
Definitions of Vocabulary Words 1 p.
Army Navy Register 1945 Nov. 10 concerning Army Finance Matters. 1 p.
*In Appreciation* to people of Laurens from Roy Hilton 1 p. typed.
Notebook cover (no contents)

Folder 16  *Photographs:*
Cadet 1915 (original)
Hilton in W.W. II uniform (copy)
Hilton in dress uniform undated (copy)
Military ID stamped “Retired” (original)