

Research Guide

High Command



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This guide offers brief descriptions of material held in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives relating to High Command, World War Two. Further biographical information about each of the individuals named and complete summary descriptions of the papers held here may be consulted on the Centre's website (see contact details on the back page), where information about the location of the Centre, opening hours and how to gain access may also be found. New collections are being added all the time, so please visit the website regularly.

Individual collections

ADAM, Gen Sir Ronald (1885-1982)

Adjutant General to the Forces, 1941-1946

Reports on Army manpower, organisation, discipline and education, 1941-1945; reports on Adam's overseas tours as Adjutant General, 1942-1945, including visits to Middle East, India, West Africa, North Africa, Mediterranean, Ceylon and Burma; memoirs of service as Adjutant General, World War Two

BRIDGEMAN, Maj Gen R C, 2nd Viscount Bridgeman (1896-1982)

Director General, Home Guard and Territorial Army, 1941-1944

Printing proof of 'Despatches of the Operations of the British Expeditionary Force', by Gen J S S P Vereker, 6th Viscount Gort, relating to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), France and Belgium, 1993-1940, with corrections by Bridgeman; reports, 1940-1943, on the BEF in France and Belgium, 1939-1940, and the evacuation of the BEF from

Dunkirk, May-June 1940; reports and notes on training and equipment for the BEF, 1940

BROOKE, FM A F, 1st Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough (1883-1963)

Chief of the Imperial General Staff, 1941-1946

Personal diaries, 1939-1946; conference papers and meeting minutes for the Combined Chiefs of Staff conference papers and meeting minutes, 1943-1945; official and semi-official correspondence, 1940-1945, notably with: FM Harold **Alexander**, 1st Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1942-1943, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, 1943-1944, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, 1945; FM Sir Claude **Auchinleck**, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Norway, 1940, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1941-1943, Commander-in-Chief, India, 1943-1947; FM Sir John **Dill**, Head of British Joint Staff Mission, Washington DC, 1940-1944; FM Bernard Montgomery, 1st Viscount **Montgomery** of Alamein, Commander, 8 Army, 1942-1943, Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, 1944-1945; AF Louis **Mountbatten**, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, 1943-1945; Gen

Wladyslaw **Sikorski**, Commander-in-Chief, Polish Army, 1942-1943; FM Archibald **Wavell**, 1st Earl Wavell, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1940-1941, Commander-in-Chief, India, 1941-1943, and Viceroy of India, 1943-1947; FM Henry Maitland **Wilson**, 1st Baron Wilson of Libya and of Stowlangtoft, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1943, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, 1944, Head of British Joint Staff Mission to Washington DC, 1944-1945. Also copies of the diaries, 1941-1943, of Lt Gen Sir Ian Jacob, Military Assistant Secretary to the War Cabinet

BROOKE-POPHAM, ACM Sir Robert (1878-1953)

Air Commander in Chief, Far East, 1940-1941

Telegrams and memoranda between Brooke-Popham and the Chiefs of Staff relating to defence requirements in the Far East, 1940-1941, including requests for aircraft, Army battalions and General Headquarters staff, and defensive preparations in Singapore and Malaya; personal correspondence with Maj Gen Sir Hastings Ismay, 1940-1941, concerning the planned defence of Singapore; telegrams and letters, 1941-1942, relating to the replacement of Brooke-Popham as Air Commander in Chief, Far East, the outbreak of war with Japan, and the sinking of battleships HMS PRINCE OF WALES and HMS REPULSE, 10 December 1941

DAVIDSON, Maj Gen F H N (1892-1973)

Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, 1940-1944

Diary, December 1940 - June 1941, including notes on Davidson's official meetings with Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the possibility of German invasion, meetings with Polish and Portuguese delegations and with Gen Charles de Gaulle, Head of the Free French Forces, and the progress of the war; notes, written c 1944, on the organisation of Intelligence and the role of the Joint Intelligence Committee; correspondence, 1971-1972, with E E Thomas, Cabinet Office Historical Section, researching for the Official history of British Intelligence in the Second World War, (HMSO, London, 1981), concerning the Joint Intelligence Committee and the role of the Director of Military Intelligence

DEMPSEY, Gen Sir Miles (1896-1969)

Commander, 2 Army in Normandy and North West Europe, 1944-1945

2 Army intelligence summaries, January 1944 - May 1945

DEWING, Maj Gen R H (1891-1981)

Director of Military Operations, War Office, 1939-1940; Chief of Staff to ACM Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Air Commander-in-Chief Far East, 1940-1941; Head of Army and Air Liaison Staff, Australia, 1943-1944; Head of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) Mission to Denmark, 1944-1945

Diary, 1939-1941, relating to service in Military Operations, War Office, and on staff of ACM Sir Robert Brooke-Popham; diary of service as Head of Army and Air Liaison Staff, Australia, 1943-1944; diary as Head of SHAEF Mission to Denmark; account of Dewing's career written by his son, William Dewing, in 1979

DILL, FM Sir John (1881-1944)

Chief of the Imperial General Staff, May 1940 - December 1941

Official correspondence as CIGS, 1940-1941, with correspondents including: Lt Gen C J E **Auchinleck**, Commander in Chief, Middle East; Lt Gen A N **Floyer-Acland**, Secretary to the Secretary of State for War; Gen Bernard Paget, Commander in Chief, Home Forces; FM Jan **Smuts**, Prime Minister of South Africa; Gen Sir Archibald **Wavell**, Commander-in-Chief India

GALE, Lt Gen Sir Humfrey (1890-1971)

Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), 1942-1945

Diaries, 1942-1945; office files as Chief Administrative Officer, 1944-1945, including correspondence

ISMAY, Gen H L, 1st Baron Ismay of Wormington (1887-1965)

Chief of Staff to Minister of Defence and Deputy Secretary to War Cabinet, 1940-1945

Personal correspondence with senior Allied military figures, including: FM Sir Claude **Auchinleck**, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1941-1943, Commander-in-Chief, India, 1943-1947; Lt Gen Brocas **Burrows**, Head of British Military Mission to USSR, 1944; US Gen Mark **Clark**, Commander, US 5 Army, 1942-1944; Maj Gen R H **Dewing**, Head of Army and Air Liaison Staff, Australia, 1943-1944; US Gen Dwight **Eisenhower**; Officer Commanding US Army, Europe 1942; Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, North Africa, 1942-1943; Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, Europe, 1944-1945; AF R J B Keyes, 1st Baron **Keyes**, Director of Combined Operations, 1941; US Gen George **Marshall**, Chief of Staff, US Army, 1939-1945; Lt Gen Sir Frederick **Morgan**, Deputy Chief of Staff to Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, 1944; AF Louis **Mountbatten**, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command, 1943-1946; Lt Gen Sir Henry **Pownall**, Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, 1943-1944; Lt Gen Sir Harold **Redman**, British Secretary to Combined Chiefs of Staff, Washington DC, USA 1943-1944; Deputy Commander, French Forces of the Interior 1944; Deputy Head of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force Mission to France 1944-1945; US Lt Gen Bedell **Smith**, Chief of Staff Allied Expeditionary Forces Europe, 1944-1945; AF Sir James **Somerville**, Commander-in-Chief Eastern Fleet, 1943-1947; Gen J S S P **Verker**, 6th Viscount Gort; Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta, 1942-1944, Commander-in-Chief Palestine, High Commissioner Transjordan, 1945; FM Sir Archibald **Wavell**, 2nd Earl Wavell, Viceroy of India, 1943-1947; US Gen Albert **Wedemeyer**, Chief of Staff to Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command, 1944. Also correspondence between Ismay and Rt Hon Sir Winston Leonard Spencer **Churchill**, and with others, including material relating to Churchill's memoirs, 1940-1965

KENNEDY, Maj Gen Sir John (1893-1970)

Director of Military Operations and Plans, War Office, 1940-1943; Assistant Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office (Operations and Intelligence),

1943-1945 Diaries, 1939-1944

LIDDELL HART, Capt Sir Basil (1895-1970)

Military theorist, writer and publicist

Extensive correspondence with senior Allied commanders, chiefly postwar, concerning World War Two strategy and operations. Correspondents include: FM Harold **Alexander**, 1st Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1942-1943, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, 1943-1944, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, 1945; FM Sir Claude **Auchinleck**, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Norway, 1940, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, 1941-1943, Commander-in-Chief, India, 1943-1947; US Gen Omar **Bradley**, Commander, 1 US Army, North West Europe, 1944-1945; AF A B Cunningham, 1st Viscount **Cunningham** of Hyndhope, Naval Commander-in-Chief Expeditionary Force, North Africa 1942; Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean 1943; First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff 1943-1946; Gen Sir Miles **Dempsey**, Commander, 2 Army in Normandy and North West Europe, 1944-1945; ACM H C T Dowding, Baron **Dowding** of Bentley, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Fighter Command 1936-1940; Gen Dwight **Eisenhower**, Officer Commanding US Army, Europe, 1942; Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, North Africa, 1943, Supreme Allied Commander, Allied Forces Europe, 1944-1945; Lt Gen Sir Ian **Jacob**, Military Assistant Secretary to the War Cabinet, 1939-1946; FM Bernard **Montgomery**, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Commander, 8 Army, 1942-1943, Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, 1944-1945; MRAF Sir John **Siessor**, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Coastal Command 1943-1944; Commander-in-Chief, RAF, Mediterranean and Middle East 1944-1945; FM Sir Archibald **Wavell**, 2nd Earl

Wavell, Viceroy of India, 1943-1947. Also notes on conversations with senior British military personnel and politicians, including Gen Sir Frederick **Pile**, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti Aircraft Command, World War II 1939-1945, and AM Sir Richard **Peck**, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, 1940-1945

POWNALL, Lt Gen Sir Henry Royds (1887-1961)

Chief of General Staff, British Expeditionary Force (BEF), France, 1939-1940; Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office, 1941; Commander-in-Chief Far East, 1941-1942; General Officer Commanding Ceylon, 1942-1943; Commander-in-Chief Persia (Iraq), 1943; Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia 1943-1944

Diaries, 1938-1944

WILMOT, R W W ('Chester') (1911-1954)

War correspondent for BBC and ABC radio networks

Notes on interviews, 1948-1949, on Allied grand strategy, with MRAF C F A **Portal**, 1st Viscount Portal of Hungerford, Chief of Air Staff, 1940-1945, Maj Gen Sir Ian **Jacob**, Military Assistant Secretary to the War Cabinet, 1939-1946, and Gen H L **Ismay**, 1st Baron Ismay of Wormington, Chief of Staff to Minister of Defence and Deputy Secretary to War Cabinet, 1940-1946; extracts of communications between FM Sir Bernard **Montgomery**, Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, and Gen Dwight **Eisenhower**, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, Europe, August - October 1944; assessments, 1942-1951, of and by US and British military and political leaders, 1939-1945

Microfilm and Microfiche

MF 338-339

Potsdam Conference Documents, 1945: The Presidential Documents Series

Personal and official documents and correspondence of US President Harry S Truman during proceedings of the Potsdam Conference, 29 July-2 August 1945, relating to the reconstruction of Western Europe; German partition, denazification, demilitarisation and reparations; war crimes trials; Japanese surrender; the former Axis satellite states, Austria and Yugoslavia; withdrawal of Allied forces from Iran; retention of Allied forces in Italy; Lend-Lease liquidation; Bulgarian reparations to Greece; reconstruction of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Balkans; Anglo-Soviet rivalry in the Middle East

MICROFILM MF 111-160

Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, part 1: 1942-1945

Official documents of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1942-1945, including meeting minutes, memoranda and reports relating to grand strategic issues, the Pacific, Europe, and the USSR. Meetings covered include: the Casablanca Conference, January 1943; the TRIDENT Conference, Washington DC, May 1943; the QUADRANT conference, Quebec, August 1943; the SEXTANT Conference, Cairo, November-December 1943; the EUREKA Conference, November 1943; the OCTAGON Conference, Quebec, September 1944; the ARGONAUT Conference, Malta and Yalta, January-February 1945; the TERMINAL Conference at Potsdam, August 1945

MICROFICHE MFF 1

War Cabinet Minutes (HMSO) 1939-1945

Minutes of the War Cabinet Meetings, September 1939-July 1945, and Cabinet Conclusions and Confidential Annexes, 1941-1945, including: criticism of the military campaign in Norway, May 1940; criticism of the Allied propaganda campaign in France, May 1940; reaction to the Allied withdrawals in France and Belgium, May 1940; the decision to intern all enemy aliens in the United Kingdom; May 1940; the seizing of French warships in British and Egyptian harbours and the sinking of French warships at Mers-el-Kebir, Egypt, 23 June 1940; preparations for the possible German invasion of the Britain, 1940; civil defence precautions in Britain, 1940; British intervention in Greece, 1941; reaction over the fall of Singapore and Malaya to Japanese armed forces, Feb 1942; Anglo-American preparations for the invasion of North Africa, 1942; naval and air operations against France, 1943; reports on Allied conferences at Casablanca, January 1943, and Washington, May 1943; the Allied decision to invade France made at the QUADRANT Conference, Quebec, August 1943; the planning and conduct of Operation OVERLORD, for the Allied invasion of France, June 1944; post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation in Europe, Jul 1944; plans for the Allied occupation of Germany and Austria, November 1944; the establishment of the United Nations, 1945; arrangements for celebrating the end of the war in Europe, May 1945

MICROFILM MF 460-462

Wartime Conferences of the Combined Chiefs of Staff

Meeting minutes of the major conferences of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, 1941-1945, including: the ARCADIA Conference, Washington DC, December 1941-January 1942; the SYMBOL Conference, Casablanca, January 1943; the TRIDENT Conference, Washington DC, May 1943; the QUADRANT Conference, Quebec, August 1943; the SEXTANT Conference, Cairo, November-December 1943; the EUREKA Conference, Teheran, November 1943; the OCTAGON Conference, Quebec, September 1944; the ARGONAUT Conference at Malta and Yalta, January-February 1945; the TERMINAL Conference, Potsdam, July-August 1945

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Other titles in this series:

Far East

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North West Europe

Special Forces

Front cover: FM Alan Brooke

with senior French officers,

November 1939 (ref: Alanbrooke 13/2)