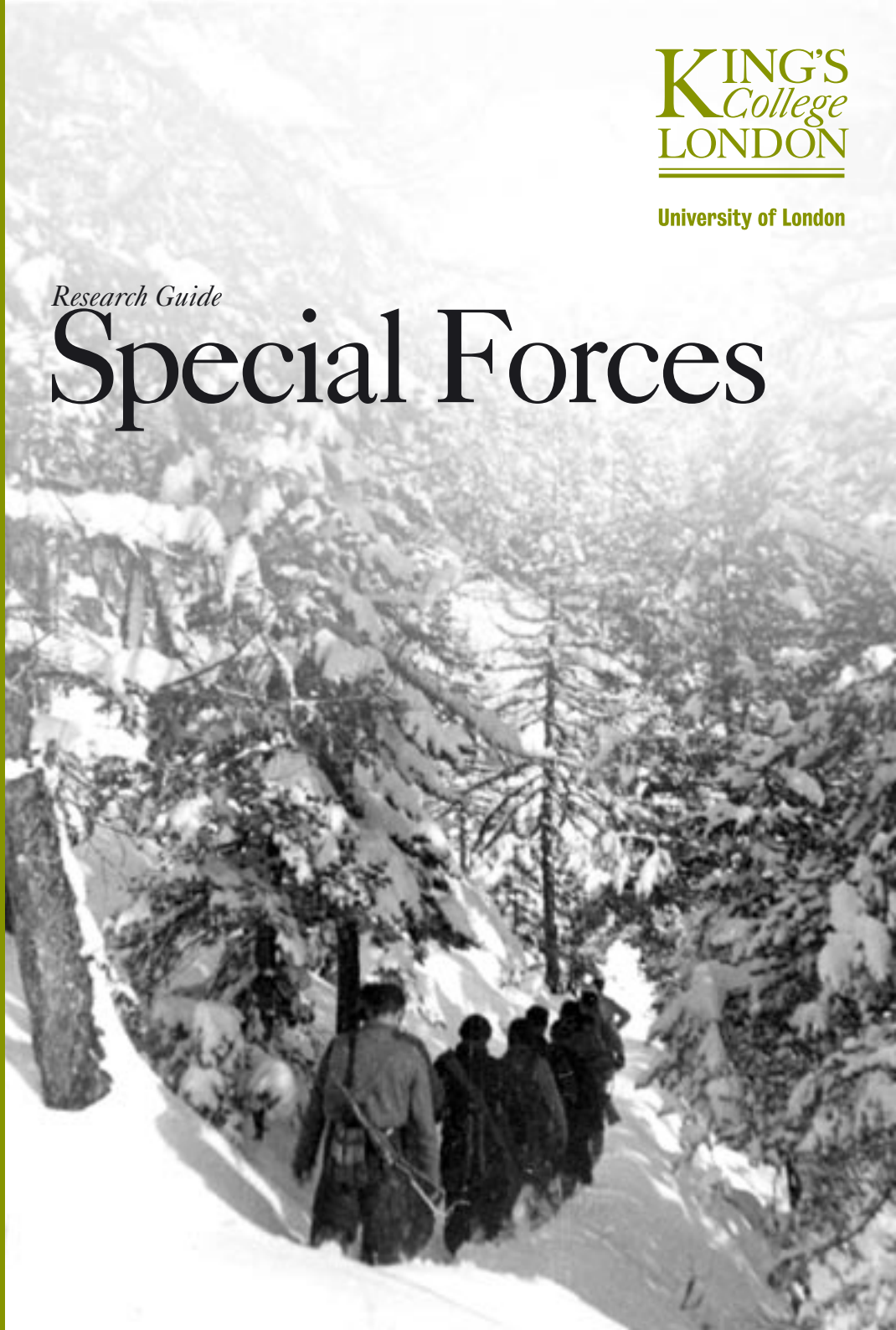


Research Guide

Special Forces



Special Forces

This guide offers brief descriptions of material held in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives relating to the role of Special Forces in 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

CARY-ELWES, O A J (1913-1994)

Served with the French Special Air Service (SAS), 1944

Article, 'Looking back to the French SAS in Brittany, 1944', written 1947; account of the French SAS, 1940-1947, written 1987; account of service with Cary-Elwes and the French SAS, Brittany, 1944, by Cpl Eric Mills

DOBRSKI, Lt Col Count J A, alias Lt Col J A Dolbey (fl 1939-1953)

Served with the Special Operations Executive (SOE), 1940-1945

Training manuals and memoranda relating to SOE operations in Italy, Greece, the Aegean and the Balkans, 1941-1945; memoranda and directives on SOE infiltration in Italy, recruitment of Italian agents and propaganda production, 1941-1944; diary of Capt R G Turrall during sabotage mission to Crete, 1941-1942; papers relating to Operation BASILIC, for the

infiltration of Scarpanto, Greece, and Operation ERRATIC, for the infiltration of Rhodes, Greece, 1943; reports on SOE activities in Crete, 1943-1945, including the kidnapping of German Army Maj Gen H G F Kreipe; correspondence of Force 133 Headquarters, Cairo, Egypt, 1944-1945, including reports on individual staff; diary of Maj John Mulgan, British Liaison Officer, Greece, 1944; correspondence concerning the ending of SOE organisation in Greece, 1944-1945

DODSON, Sir Derek (1920-2003)

Served with British Military Mission to Greece, 1942-1944, and with SOE mission to Northern Italy, 1945

Message books, notes, reports and maps relating to Greece, 1942-1944, and to Northern Italy, 1945

EVANS, Maj P H (1913-1994)

Trained with Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Palestine and Egypt, 1943; served with SOE Force 133, Greece, 1943-1944

Diaries, 1943-1944, detailing SOE training, service as instructor, Allied Military Mission Commando School, Pentalophos, British relations with Greek partisans, and SOE harassment and demolition activity in Greece; reports, 1944, on reconnaissance missions in the Vitsi area, West Macedonia, Greece, and on Operation NOAH'S ARK, Allied and Greek resistance missions during the German withdrawal from Greece; correspondence between Evans and other Allied officers, West Macedonia, Greece, 1944; captured German papers relating to operations in the Vitsi area, 1944

GAVIN, Maj Gen J M L (1911-2000)

Lt Col in charge of No 101 Special Training School, Singapore, 1942

Report on the work of No 101 Special Training School, 1941-1942, training all types of personnel, military, civilian, European and Asian, for irregular warfare

HAMSON, Professor C J J (1905-1987)

Special Operations Executive agent sent to Crete to plan clandestine operations and prepare for resistance in event of German invasion, 1940-1941

Memoir of his life and career, notably the Battle of Crete, 1941, written as a POW in Germany, 1941-1945

JOB, Cdr P D (1913-2003)

Commanded Motor Torpedo Boat operations, Norway, 1942-1943; served with 12 (Special Service) Submarine Flotilla, 1943-1944; reconnaissance work with 30 Assault Unit, France, Belgium and Germany, 1944-1945

Memoir of his life and career, 1913-1945

LAYCOCK, Maj Gen Sir Robert (1907-1968)

Commanded Special Service Brigade, 'Layforce', 1941, and Middle East Commando, 1941-194; commanded Special Service Brigade, UK, 1942-1943, for the organisation and training of Commandos; Chief of Combined Operations, 1943-1947

Completed application forms for volunteer Commando officers [1940]; papers on Commando training, 1940-1941; notes and memoranda on Commando operations, 1941-1942; papers on Operation BLAZING and Operation AIMWELL, for raids on Alderney, 1942; notes on the planning of Operation CORKSCREW for the capture of Pantelleria, Linosa and Lampedusa Islands, Mediterranean, June 1943, and the planning of Operation HUSKY, for the invasion of Sicily, July 1943; correspondence and reports on Operation TORCH, for the Allied invasion of North West Africa, 1942; personal accounts by individual commandos, 1941-1945, including account of 'Mission 204', Burma, 1941-1942, by Sgt Pryde, G Troop, 7 Commando

LINGEN, Capt A H (1915-1974)

Served with British Military Mission to Greece, 1943-1945, and with No 1 Special Force, Venezia, Italy, 1945

Reports, correspondence, signals and photographs relating to Greece, 1943-1945, and to Italy, 1945

MCLEOD, Gen Sir Roderick (1905-1980)

Commanding Officer Special Air Service (SAS) Bde, 1944-1945

Papers, 1944-1948, relating to the formation and operation of the SAS in France, World War Two; maps and diagrams relating to SAS operations, France, 1944; lectures on the SAS, 1944-1962

MILLS-ROBERTS, Brig Derek (1908-1980)

Served with No 4 Commando, 1942; Commanding Officer, No 6 Commando, North Africa, 1943; Commanded 1 Special Service Bde, North West Europe, 1944-1945

Account of No 4 Commando's role in Dieppe Raid, France, 1942; movement orders for No 6 Commando, North Africa, 1943; accounts by Mills-Roberts and others of 1 Special Service Bde operations, North West Europe, 1944-1945; account [1944] of No 6 Commando training; German propaganda photographs of the Dieppe Raid, 1942; photographs of Commando service, North West Europe, 1944-1945

MOCKLER-FERRYMAN, Brig E E (1896-1978)

Head of Intelligence Section, Allied Force HQ, North Africa, 1942-1943; served with Special Operations Executive, North West Europe, 1943-1945

Lectures, 1965-1975, on the planning and execution of Operation TORCH, for the Allied invasion of North West Africa, 1942, and on his SOE service, North West Europe, 1943-1945

MONTANARO, Brig G C S (1916-1979)

Commanded 101 Troop, Special Service Brigade (Commando Special Canoe Troop), 1940-1942; specially employed as Lt Cdr, R N, in command of MF Flotilla of submersible craft, 1942-1945

Orders and reports on the training and operations of 101 Troop, 1940-1942; diaries, including details of service with 101 Troop, 1941-1942, and as commander of MF Flotilla of submersible craft designed for anti-submarine work, 1942-1945; report on reconnaissance in Northern France, 1941; report on 101 Troop's sinking of an oil tanker, Boulogne Harbour, 1942

MYERS, Brig E C W (1906-1997)

Commanded British Military Mission to Greek guerrillas in German occupied Greece, July 1942-September 1943

Diaries, correspondence, signals, appreciations, maps, photographs and reports, 1942-1945 relating to operations in Greece, including Operation WASHING, for the destruction of the Asopos Viaduct, 1943; reports on the military and political situation in Greece by Myers, 1943 and 1945

NIND, Maj P F (b 1918)

Served with Special Operations Executive (SOE) Force 133, North West Greece, 1943-1944

Scrapbook relating to his service with Force 133, Greece, 1943-1944, including report on resistance activities, 1943-1944, essay on the political situation in Greece, 1942-1944; messages sent to Force 133 Headquarters, Cairo, 1944; photographs, 1943-1944

PRENTICE, Maj R R [1913-1980] and WICKSTEAD, Capt H A (1913-1989)

Both served in Special Operations Executive (SOE), Force 133, Greece, 1943-1944

Diaries and notebooks relating to SOE operations in West Macedonia, Greece, 1943-1944; reports on demolition, intelligence and reconnaissance mission, West Macedonia, 1943-1944; maps and photographs of West Macedonia, 1943-1944; correspondence between Allied Military Mission commanders and sub-area commanders, 1943-1944; German 1 Mountain Div operational orders and German propaganda, 1943-1944; Greek propaganda and political leaflets, 1941-1946

OLDFIELD, Maj P C (1910-2002)

Served in 'L' Detachment, Special Air Brigade, North Africa, 1942-1943, led by Maj David Stirling; POW, Italy, 1943-1944; escaped to Switzerland, 1944

Account of Oldfield's World War Two career compiled by his family, c 2002

O'REGAN, Capt P V W R (1920-1961)

Served with Special Operations Executive (SOE) in France and Italy, 1943-1945

Papers relating to O'Regan's service in France and Northern Italy, 1943-1945; Papers relating to SOE operations, Italy, 1944-1945

SCOTT, Lt Col K F (b 1918)

Royal Engineer officer in charge of demolition during the Special Operations Executive (SOE) attack on the Asopos Viaduct, Greece, 1943

Account of the Asopos Viaduct demolition, 1943, written 1993

STREET, Maj Gen V W (1912-1970)

Served with No 1 Special Air Service Regt (SAS), Egypt, 1942-1943; captured by Italians, 1942; escaped from torpedoed Italian submarine, Mediterranean, 1943; General Staff Officer Grade 1 and Second in Command, British Military Mission, Yugoslavia, 1944

Letters home, 1941-1944, including account of escape from submarine, 1943

WILLERT, Gp Capt P O (1909-1998)

Worked in propaganda, Paris and London, 1939-1940

Notes on the political situation in France, February - May 1940; brief diary, April-June 1940, kept while serving with propaganda mission in Paris, attached to the British Embassy; correspondence with the Political Warfare Executive (PWE), Electra House, London, with reference to Willert's secret service activities in France, May - June 1940; notes on individual members of the French Resistance, c 1944

WOODHOUSE, Col C M, 5th Baron Terrington (1917-2001)

Second in Command to Col E C W Myers, Head of British Military Mission to Greek guerrillas in German occupied Greece, 1942-1943; succeeded Myers as Commander of British (later Allied) Military Mission to Greek guerrillas in German occupied Greece, 1943-1945

Telegrams, operation orders, notes, minutes, report and memoranda, relating to operations in Greece, 1942-1945; intelligence report on the political and military situation in Greece, January-May 1944; nominal rolls of SOE Force 133 personnel, 1944; accounts, 'History of the Allied Military Mission in Greece, September 1942-December 1944', with printed maps of Greece [1945], 'Report on SOE activities in Greece and the islands of the Aegean Sea', 27 June 1945, and 'Personal reminiscences of the guerrilla war in Greece, 1942-1944'; account by US Army Maj G K Wines, Office of Strategic Services (OSS), 'A lesson in Greek', 1948

Microfilm collections

MICROFILM MF 204-211

OSS/London: Special Operations Branch and Secret Intelligence Branch War Diaries

Themed microfilm collection relating to US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) intelligence analyses and special operations in Western Europe, June 1942-June 1945

MICROFILM MF 494-509

OSS/State Department: Intelligence and Research Reports, part 1: Japan and its Occupied Territories during World War II

Themed microfilm collection relating to US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and US State Department intelligence analyses concerning Japan, and the occupied territories of Formosa, the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies, Borneo, Java, New Guinea, Sumatra, French Indo-China, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, Korea, and China, 1942-1947

2005

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Other titles in this series:

Far East

High Command

North Africa

North West Europe

Front cover: SOE personnel in the Alps,
December 1944. From the papers of
Capt P V W R O'Regan (ref: O'Regan 2)