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)
Adjudant 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 Bridgehem (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 P Veraker, 6th Viscount Gort, relating to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), France and Belgium, 1939-1940, 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 Stowlanought, 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 the 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 (1886-1969)
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, 1943-1944; 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 Humphrey (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
ISMA* 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 6 Army, 1942-1944; Maj Gen R H Dowling, 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 P Vereker, 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; 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, and Gen H L Ismay, 1st Baron Ismay of Wormington, Chief of Staff to Minister of Defence and Deputy Secretary to War Cabinet, 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 Crete, 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 Pownall, 1st Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Commander-in-Chief, 2 Army in Normandy and North West Europe, August-October 1944; assessments, 1942-1951, of and by US and British military and political leaders, 1939-1945

www.kcl.ac.uk/lhcm
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

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 British, 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

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