

Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives

Information for potential donors & depositors

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What is the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives?

The Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives serves as an archive repository for the papers and associated digital archives of senior defence personnel, authors and commentators on international security and defence policy. The Centre also collects archives relating to television documentaries made by independent production companies. Founded in 1964, the Centre was in the vanguard of repositories and museums which actively sought out private papers in the defence field, following early discussion with the Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office about how it should operate with regard to official secrecy.

Since that time over 800 officers and/or their families, including several Chiefs of General Staffs, have entrusted papers to the Centre's care and about 30 new named collections are added each year. The Centre actively collects material relating to events from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

The Centre is regularly used by historians, analysts, students and members of the public from all over the world and has a reputation for excellence in the field of military archives.

The Centre also undertakes a number of outreach activities to promote knowledge and use of the collections, including digitisation of selected original material to allow online access worldwide, and

themed presentations and seminars for groups of students and external visitors. An annual Liddell Hart lecture has been given since 1988 by notable speakers including Sir Max Hastings, Gen Sir Michael Rose, Professor Richard Holmes and Sir Jeremy Isaacs.

Why King's College London is an appropriate place for military archives

Established in 1829 King's College London is one of the oldest and largest colleges in London, with a staff of 8,000 and nearly 30,000 students. Military Studies have been taught in the College since 1927, and in 1953 a Department of War Studies, the first in the country, was established. It now enjoys an international reputation for excellence in scholarship and research. The Centre works with War Studies, the History Department, the Department of Political Economy and the cross-disciplinary internationally based African Leadership Centre, Lau China Institute and King's India Institute, supporting undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research in subjects including traditional military history, the history of empire, analysis of the arms trade, strategic theory, and international relations.

Why you should consider placing archives in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives

Archives are the raw material of history, the contemporary witness. As such they serve as the source to which generations of scholars, writers and others with a simple interest in what happened may return time and time again to seek understanding and to judge the appropriateness of interpretations offered by their peers and predecessors. As a unique and irreplaceable part of our national heritage they deserve the highest quality of professional care.

At King's this means that the archives will be carefully arranged and catalogued to facilitate the easy identification of information, including internet access, and will be stored in conditions which broadly meet the British Standard PD5454 for the preservation of archives. They will also be made available for consultation in ways which ensure that they are not damaged, stolen or misplaced. King's Archives was awarded Archive Service Accreditation by The National Archives in 2016.

Personal data and sensitive personal data in the papers are held and processed for archiving purposes in the public interest in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

What are the benefits to me, my family, or my organisation in placing archives in the Centre?

Apart from the confidence of knowing that archives will be well cared for and will be available for study in perpetuity, there are several potential benefits for you and your family. Disordered archives will be catalogued and information contained made more readily available to both you or your family. Access to papers may be provided without inconvenience to you, and letters from enquirers may be forwarded directly to the Centre for response. Both gifts and permanent loan arrangements are possible and the terms of both, including the handling of copyright, are set out plainly in deposit agreements. These are available for review, discussion and amendment by donors, depositors and/or their solicitors.

If you would find it helpful, the Trustees of the Centre are also willing to advise on issues of sensitivity. In some cases it may be appropriate to close papers for agreed periods of time to reflect the closures of related official papers and/or to protect the privacy of named individuals. The Centre's staff are also available to assist with transfer arrangements where this would be helpful, including visiting you to provide general advice, preliminary sorting *in situ*, actual collection or making arrangements for van hire.

**A Mark II male tank, Cambrai, November 1917
(Lt Col Sir Albert Stern papers)**



How do I know what you might be interested in?

The Centre's brief focuses on the military and naval affairs and broader aspects of international security of the twentieth century. It includes papers concerning the nineteenth century junior service of officers who achieved senior rank after 1900. It covers all the armed services, including the special services, and all wars, campaigns and peacekeeping initiatives in which British forces were engaged or acted as observers or specialist advisers. Also collected are the private papers of civilians concerned with defence policy and international security as either public servants or authors. Some indicative lists of our subject strengths and near contemporary interests are given at the end of this leaflet but these are by no means exhaustive.

The Centre holds many types of material: diaries, correspondence, including family letters where they contain information of military interest, working papers and files, texts of lectures, memoranda, unpublished memoirs, audio and video tapes of events and recollections, transcripts of interviews, photographs, maps and plans and collections of press cuttings may all be of significance and value. It does not necessarily matter that these may have survived as isolated documents since it is often the case that a composite picture will emerge when several related items are put together. Archive staff are also developing a secure preservation service for modern electronic data which will allow us to accept and provide access to electronic deposits where these form part of a collection.

We are aware that the subject matter of particular collections, on occasion, may extend beyond the military field. It is not

our policy to seek to detach papers which may form an integral part of a major family archive of chiefly local interest. Where, however, archives are of predominantly military interest (the majority of cases in our experience) and also contain some material relating to an individual's post-service career or interests, we would normally suggest that the archive should be kept together as a whole at King's.

Potential donors and depositors are welcome to telephone the Centre if some preliminary discussion would be useful.

Who will be able to use the archives and can I control use?

Excepting closed material, and unsorted material awaiting cataloguing, the archives are made available to anyone with a good reason for wishing to see them provided they supply appropriate identification. The Centre is open during office hours, Tuesday to Friday, except for bank holidays, a small number of extra days at Christmas when the College is closed, and for one week each in September and January when the Centre closes for stocktaking. Donors, depositors and their families will always be welcome to visit the Centre and use the material but we would appreciate some notice by telephone and some evidence of identity from members of the family whom we have not met.

The Centre's website, www.kcl.ac.uk/archives, gives freely available access to summary descriptions of virtually all the collections, and approximately 70 detailed catalogues of the largest and most significant.

The Centre does not charge for access nor for the provision of guidance about sources. It does, however, recover the costs of its reprographic services, and

reserves the right to charge for research support to commercial companies.

All readers wishing to quote material from the archives are required to inform the Trustees of the Centre of their wish to do so, with details of the collection and the type of material that they wish to quote. If the quotation does not run to more than 200 words, and does not relate to recent events or matters of enduring sensitivity it is now usual for the donor's/depositor's permission for publication to be assumed. Authors will automatically be required to seek permission of copyright holders for longer extracts. The Trustees will also wish to see relevant portions of finished texts which include recent or sensitive material. Whether donors and depositors wish to see texts citing older or more recent or sensitive material is for them to decide.

As an academic institution our guiding principle is straightforward: that use should be accurate and fair.

How is the Centre funded?

The Centre is an integral part of King's College London and part of Libraries & Collections within Students & Education Directorate. Core funding is therefore provided by the College. Additionally, the Centre has benefitted from the generous support of a number of grant awarding and charitable bodies, notably including:

- Esmee Fairburn Charitable Trust
- Ford Foundation
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Higher Education Funding Council for England
- John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation
- Joint Information Systems Committee

- Leverhulme Foundation
- London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange
- Museums Libraries and Archives Council

The Trustees of the Centre and College are most grateful to all the individuals and organisations who have supported the Centre's work by giving or loaning archives and providing support for the maintenance and preservation of this unique resource.

Further donations to support our work will always be welcome and put to good use. King's College London is a charity exempt from registration under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993.

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2020



Capt Basil Liddell Hart's autograph, 1951
(Gp Capt RB Ward papers)

Topics for which the Centre has major holdings of significance

Boer War, 1899-1902

FM Viscount Allenby
Capt John Archer
Maj Gen Sir George Aston
Lt Gen Sir Edward Bethune
Col H J Blagrove
Capt P A Clive
Maj Gen Hubert Isacke
Gen Sir Neville Lyttelton
Brig R M Poore

World War One: High Command

Lt Col Sir Reginald Benson
Lt Gen Sir Sidney Clive
Brig Philip Howell
Lt Gen Sir Launcelot Kiggell
Maj Gen Sir Frederick Maurice
FM Sir William Robertson
Maj Gen Sir Edward Spears

Western Front, 1914-1918

Brig C R Ballard
Gen Sir John Burnett-Stuart
Lt Gen Laurence Carr
Brig John Charteris
Lt Col K H Cousland
Col S L Cummins
Brig Sir James Edmonds
Maj Gen C H Foulkes
Gen Sir Francis Gathorne-Hardy
Lt Col A L Gracie
Gen Sir Charles Grant
Brig H E Hopthrow
Lt Col F H Lister
Col Sir George M'Crae
Air Cdre J M Mason
FM Sir Archibald Montgomery-Massingberd
Lt Gen Sir Lawrence Parsons
Sir Robin Rowell
Col Sir Geoffrey Vickers
Lt Col W T Willcox

Gallipoli, 1915

Lt Col E A Bray
Cdr E A Burrows
Capt E W Bush
Brig P H Cadoux-Hudson
Col Sir Henry Darlington
Gen Sir Beauvoir de Lisle
Gen Sir Alexander Godley
Gen Sir Ian Hamilton
Lt Gen Sir William Marshall
Brig Sir Hugh Simpson-Baikie
W E Slingsby

Tanks and armoured warfare, 1915 onwards

Lt Col J M Blakiston-Houston
Maj Gen J F C Fuller
Maj Gen Sir Percy Hobart
Capt Sir Basil Liddell Hart
AVM S W B Menaul
Lt Col Sir Albert Stern
Maj Gen Sir Ernest Swinton
Adm Sir Frederick Tudor

Palestine and Israel, 1917-

FM Viscount Allenby
Maj Gen J B Churcher
Maj Gen C W Dunbar
Lt Col Pierce Joyce
Brig G J de W Mullens
Gen Sir Harold Pyman
Gen Sir Hugh Stockwell
The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs
television documentary collection
Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs
television documentary collection

India, 1897-1947

Gen Sir William Bartholomew
Col A H Block
Maj Gen I H F Boyd
Maj Gen Sir Thompson Capper
Gen Sir Frederick Campbell
Maj Gen R B Darkin
Maj Gen W A Dimoline
Brig J W E Douglas-Scott-Montagu
Lt Col Sir Cyril Hancock
Maj Gen Hubert Isacke
Lt Gen Sir Wilfred Lindsell

Col H L Mostyn-Owen
Maj Gen Sir Ronald Penney
Lt Col V E O Stevenson-Hamilton
Capt S J Thomson RN
Maj Gen Fitzgerald Wintour

World War Two: High Command

FM Viscount Alanbrooke
ACM Sir Robert Brooke-Popham
FM Sir John Dill
Gen Lord Ismay
Lt Gen Sir Henry Pownall

North Africa, 1940-1943

Lt Gen Sir Charles Allfrey
Maj Gen Sir Alexander Bishop
Lt Col Herbert Blount
Lt Col J D Hignett
Maj Gen Sir Robert Laycock
Maj Gen A R Leakey
Maj Gen H M Liardet
Maj Gen J M McNeill
Wing Cdr James Morton
Gen Sir Richard O'Connor
Maj Gen Sir Michael O'Moore Creagh
Maj Gen P G B Roberts
Brig H M Stanford
Col J M Sym

Far East, 1940-1945

Brig W P B Ashton
Gp Capt P H Baldwin
Lt Col N A Barber
Lt Col N R G Bosanquet
Lt Col H R Carmichael
Maj Gen R H Dewing
AM Sir Gerald Gibb
Gen Sir Douglas Gracie
Maj Gen Desmond Harrison
Lt Gen Sir Thomas Hutton
Lt Col P F Kuhn-Regnier
Maj Gen J S Lethbridge
Gen Sir Frank Messervy
Lt Col T H Newey
Lt Col O B M North
AVM R A Ramsay Rae
Lt Col W L Slingsby
Wg Cdr T S Tull
C A Vlieland

British operations in Greece, 1940-1945

Sir Geoffrey Chandler
Brig H V S Charrington
Lt Col J A Dobrski
Maj Derek Dodson
Brig A F Hely
Capt A H Lingen
Brig E C W Myers
Maj P F Nind
Maj Ronald Prentice
Lt Col K F Scott
Col C M Woodhouse

North West Europe, 1944-1945

Capt E W Bush, RN
Maj Gen Sir Francis De Guingand
Gen Sir Miles Dempsey
Lt Col W A Ebbutt
Col G G Elliott
Lt Gen Sir Humfrey Gale
Gen Sir John Hackett
Sir Max Hastings
Cdr P D Job
Brig Derek Mills-Roberts
Brig E E Mockler-Ferryman
Cdr Hugh Mulleneux
Gen Sir Harold Pyman
Col G M Warrack
Chester Wilmot
Col A G Woods

Nuclear weapons and strategy, 1945 onwards

Sir Frank Cooper
E R Drake Seager
Sir Laurence Martin
Col W L M Messenger
Col W M McCutcheon
AVM S W B Menaul
Sir Michael Quinlan
Gen Sir William Scotter
The Nuclear Age, interview transcripts
for Central Television documentary
series

Suez Crisis, 1956

Maj Gen D A Beckett
Maj Gen J B Churcher
Maj Gen F W E Fursdon

Gen Sir Hugh Stockwell
Maj Gen N F Vaux

Falklands War, 1982

Sir Frank Cooper
Maj Gen F W E Fursdon
AM Tim Garden
Gen Lord D J Ramsbotham

Former Yugoslavia, 1991-2002

Death of Yugoslavia television
documentary collection
Maj Gen F W E Fursdon
Gen Sir Martin Garrod
Lt Col J C G Mackinlay

**Other topics for which
the Centre holds significant
material**

Russo-Japanese war, 1904-1905
Royal Flying Corps, 1914-1918
Royal Naval Air Service, 1914-1918
Anglo-French liaison, 1914-1918
Chemical warfare, 1915-1920
Battle of Jutland, 1916
Russia, 1918-1920
Propaganda in Ireland, 1921
Welfare of ex-servicemen, 1920s and
1930s
Anglo-German relations, 1920s and
1930s
Spanish Civil War, 1936
Test pilots, 1937-1959
Somaliland, 1938-1941
BEF in France and Belgium, 1940
Dunkirk evacuation, 1940
Battle of Britain, 1940
Italy, 1943-1945
Prisoners of war, 1940-1945
Commandos, 1940-1942
SOE, 1940-1945
Norway, 1940-1943
Battle of Crete, 1941
Arctic warfare training, 1941-1942
SAS, 1943-1945
Madagascar, 1942-1943
Jungle warfare training, 1943-1944

Concentration camps, 1945
War crimes trials, 1945-1949
Control Commission, Germany and
Austria, 1945-1949
Berlin airlift, 1948
NATO, 1949 onwards
SHAPE, 1951 onwards
Malaya, 1951-1959
Kenya, 1951-1955
Cyprus, 1955-1960
Iran's relations with the West,
1979-2009
Anglo-American relations
Army education
Army field manuals and doctrine
publications
Boundary commissions and surveying
Civil military policing
Cold War
Conscription
Détente
Disarmament
Medicine
Psychology of warfare
Recruitment
Training

**Major postwar topics
for which the Centre
particularly welcomes
further material**

The Centre already holds some collections
in the following areas, notably television
documentary research material and
interviews
Korean War, 1950-1953
Northern Ireland, 1969 onwards
Falklands War, 1982
Gulf War, 1990-1991
Former Yugoslavia, 1991-1996



**SOE personnel in the Alps, December 1944.
(Capt P V W R O'Regan papers)**

