

Research Guide

North West Europe



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This guide offers brief descriptions of material held in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives relating to operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945. 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

ANWYL, Rev R A (1911-1983)

Army Chaplain

Memoir of service, 1940-1945, including operations in North-West Europe, 1944-1945

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

Chief of the Imperial General Staff, 1941-1946

Personal diaries, 1939-1946; official correspondence as CIGS, 1941-1946, including extensive correspondence with FM Sir Bernard Montgomery, Commander of 21 Army Group, 1944-1945

BUSH, Capt E W, RN (1899-1985)

Senior officer, Assault Group S3, June 1944

Photographs of Allied landings at Sword Beach, Normandy, France, 1944

CHURCHER, Maj Gen J B (1905-1997)

Commander, 159 Infantry Bde, 1944-1946

Memoir, including service in North West Europe, 1944-1945, and the arrest of Hitler's appointed successor, Grand Adm Karl Doenitz (Operation BLACKOUT) in May 1945, written in 1984; photographs relating to the arrest of Doenitz, Germany, 1945

CRIBB, Col R D (1908-1986)

Served with 121 Medium Regt, Royal Artillery, North West Europe, 1941-1945

Unit diary, 121 Medium Regt, Royal Artillery; 5 Army Group instructions for Operation OVERLORD; training pamphlets for service in Normandy, France, with notes on calibration, waterproofing and routes through Germany, 1944-1945

CRICK, Dr A J P (1913-1995)

Served in Operational Intelligence, G2 Division, Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF), 1944-1945

Memoranda on the possible effects of Operation CROSSBOW (Allied countermeasures against German V-weapons), and on the strategic importance of the Ruhr industrial region, March 1944

DE GUINGAND, Maj Gen Sir Francis (1900-1979)

Chief of Staff, 21 Army Group, 1944-1945

Sketch maps of 21 Army Group progress, Normandy, France, June-September 1944; report on Operation BLACKCOCK, attack by 12 Corps at Roermond, Netherlands, January 1945; notes on surrender negotiations, Germany, May 1945

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

DRUMMOND, Brig John (1910-1997)

Second in Command, 1 Bn, Royal Ulster Rifles, 1944

Account of 1 Bn Royal Ulster Rifles' service during D Day, 6 June 1944, and subsequent service in Longueval, France, 1944

DYKE, Brig T H (1905-1995)

Served with 4 Bn (Hallamshire Bn), York and Lancaster Regt, North West Europe, 1944-1945

'Normandy to Arnhem, a story of the infantry', account of service with 4 Bn, York and Lancaster Regt, 1943-1945

EBBUTT, Lt Col W A (d 1987)

Senior Bombardment Liaison Officer, No 2 Combined Operations Bombardment Unit, 1944-1945

Diary, 1944-1945

ELLIOTT, Col G G (1909-1981)

Commanded 2 Bn, Essex Regt, 1944

Account of advance of 2 Bn, Essex Regt, through Northern France and Belgium, June-October 1944, notably covering the attack on Le Havre, 10 September 1944; notes on the allotment and loading of vehicles, Operation OVERLORD, June 1944; map of German defences at Le Havre, 1944; map showing position of 51 and 49 Div to the north of Le Havre, 7 June 1944

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

GRAY, Gp Capt Kenneth (d 1988)

Served with 320 Sqn and 98 Sqn, North West Europe, 1944-1945

Flying log book, 1931-1954, including record of bombing missions, North West Europe, 1944-1945

HACKETT, Gen Sir John (1910-1997)

Commanded 4 Parachute Bde, Operation MARKET GARDEN, Arnhem, Netherlands, 1944

Account of the Battle of Arnhem, 1944, and notes on the Dutch Resistance, written c 1958 by Dutch Army Lt Col Theodore Boeree; correspondence, 1958-1997, relating to annual memorial visits to Arnhem

HAMILTON, Adm Sir John (1910-1994)

Commander, Gunnery Div, Naval Staff, 1943-1945

Memoir, 'From bombardment to island kingdom', including account of planning naval fire support for Operation OVERLORD, for the Allied landings, Normandy, 1944

HARDY-ROBERTS, Brig Sir Geoffrey (1907-1997)

Chief of Staff to Gen Sir Miles Dempsey, General Officer Commanding 2 Army, 21 Army Group, 1943-1945

Two typescript copy letters home by Hardy-Roberts, written from the British Red Cross Commission, Netherlands, 6 May 1945, describing in detail the local reaction to the German surrender

HEAL, Maj W A (b 1912)

Served with 246 Field Company, Royal Engineers, 6 June 1944

Notes for a lecture to the Royal Engineers Officer Cadet Training Unit on the role of 3 Infantry Div during the Normandy landings (Operation OVERLORD), June 1944

HOBART, Maj Gen Sir Percy (1885-1957)

Raised and commanded 79 Armoured Division, 1942-1945

Operational bulletins of 79 Armoured Div on Operation OVERLORD, with photographs, June-August 1944; 'Final Report, 79 Armoured Division', published by 21 Army Group, July 1945

HUTTON, Capt M H, RN (1926-2003)

Sub Lt, HMS WARSPITE, 1944

Memoir of his life and career, 1931-1985, including account of bombardment of the Normandy coast, D Day, 6 June 1944

HNES, Brig W H (1893-[1972])

Commanded 9 Line of Communications Sub Area, British Liberation Army, North West Europe, 1944-1946

9 Line of Communications bulletins, October-November 1944; maps of France and Belgium, 1944; account, 'History of supply, transport and petrol events in 9 L of C Sub Area', 4 November 1944 - 4 February 1945

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 and political figures, including: Lt Gen Sir Frederick Morgan, Deputy Chief of Staff to Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, 1944, and US Lt Gen (Walter) Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff Allied Expeditionary Forces Europe, 1944-1945

JOB, Cdr P D (1913-2003)

Served with 30 Assault Unit Reconnaissance Group, Naval Intelligence, France, Belgium and Germany, 1944-1945

Memoirs, 'Special Service', including a detailed account of his service in North West Europe

JOWETT, George (fl 1944-2004)

Served in Troop 3, No 6 Commando, Normandy, 1944

Memoirs, 'My long journey: a true story of World War II as seen through the eyes of a former commando soldier' and 'D Day: before and after', written c 2004

LIDDELL HART, Capt Sir Basil (1895-1970)

Military theorist, writer and publicist

Extensive correspondence with, and notes on conversations with, many senior military commanders, including Maj Gen Sir Percy Hobart and FM B L Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein; interview transcripts, correspondence and notes relating to his book on the German High Command, *The Other Side of the Hill*; themed press cuttings relating to the North West Europe campaign, including Allied and German operations, armoured, airborne and amphibious warfare, tactics and logistics; maps of France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany

LINDSAY, Col T G (1901-1981)*Served with Irish Guards, 1944-1945*

Account of service with Irish Guards, North West Europe, 1944-1945; accounts of operations by 1 Commando Bde and 7 Armoured Div, Netherlands, January - February 1945

LINDSAY-YOUNG, Lt Col Evelyn Lindsay-Young (1893-1986)*Served with 4 Line of Communications, 1944-1945*

Account of service with Headquarters, 4 Line of Communication Sub Area, British Liberation Army, from Lille, France, September 1944, to Berlin, Germany, August 1945; memorandum on the reporting of German atrocities, Belgium, September 1944; procedures to be adopted if German forces advanced towards Brussels, December 1944

MCNEILL, Maj Gen J M (1909-1996)*General Staff Officer Grade 1 (Air), Headquarters 21 Army Group, North West Europe, 1944-1945*

Report, 'Notes on air support, June-October 1944', produced by Headquarters 21 Army Group, British Liberation Army, North West Europe, November 1944

MILLS-ROBERTS, Brig Derek (1908-1990)*Commanding Officer, 1 Special Service Bde (later 1 Commando Bde), North West Europe, 1944-1945*

Accounts by Mills-Roberts and others of the role of 1 Special Service Bde in the Normandy campaign, June-August 1944, and subsequent operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945; papers relating to the arrest of FM Erhard Milch, 1945; account of No 6 Commando training, 1943-1944; photographs of Commando service, including Normandy, June 1944, and Germany, 1945

MOCKLER-FERRYMAN, Brig E E (1896-1978)*Served with SOE, North West Europe, 1943-1944*

Lecture, c 1975, on his service with SOE, North West Europe, 1943-1945

MULLENEUX, Cdr H H H (d 1990)*Served with Combined Operations Command, Dieppe and Normandy, 1944*

Diary and signals relating to his service in Normandy, 1944; operational orders for Operation NEPTUNE, Normandy, 1944

MUSGRAVE, Gp Capt T C (c 1918]-1999)*Commanded 296 Sqn, September 1944 - May 1945*

Flying log books, including details of bombing and airborne support missions over North West Europe with 296 Sqn, 1944-1945, including Operation MARKET GARDEN, Arnhem, Netherlands, September 1944

NORTH, Maj John (1894-1973)*Historian*

Correspondence, notably with Capt Sir Basil Liddell Hart and FM B L Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, relating to his book, *North West Europe* (HMSO, London, 1953)

O'CONNOR, Gen Sir Richard (1889-1981)*Commander, 8 Corps, France, 1944*

Correspondence relating to his command of 8 Corps, 1944

PARKER, Lt Col R M (fl 1945)*Served with Royal Engineers, 8 Corps, Germany, 1945*

Account of the operations of 8 Corps in North West Europe, March - May 1945, 'The River Rhine to the Baltic Sea: a narrative account of the pursuit and final defeat of the German Armed Forces, March-May 1945'; account of the Finkenwarder U Boat pen, Hamburg, Germany, with site plan and description, and details of the intended method of demolition, by 224 Field Coy, Royal Engineers, and 8 Corps Troops, Royal Engineers, c 1945

PRAIN, Lt Col J M (1902-1985)*Served with Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, Territorial Army, World War Two*

Accounts, 'Precis of activities of 1st Fife and Forfar Yeomanry', British Liberation Army, North West Europe, October 1944 - February 1945, and 'Details of activities of 1st Fife and Forfar Yeomanry', 1-31 March 1945

PYMAN, Gen Sir Harold (1908-1971)*Brig General Staff, 30 Corps, for Normandy landing, June 1944; Chief of Staff, 2 Army, 1944-1945*

Planning studies, reports and maps relating to the North West Europe campaigns, 1944-1945

RIDLEY, Gp Capt L R (1907-1982)*Senior Staff Officer, 72 Wing HQ, Mons, Belgium, 1945*

'The history of 72 Wing', concerning the Wing's role in providing radar navigational and bombing aids for Allied forces in North West Europe, May 1944 - September 1945

ROBERTS, Maj Gen G P B (1906-1997)*General Officer Commanding 11 Armoured Div, 1943-1946*

Letters home from North West Europe, 1944; correspondence, accounts and notes relating to 11 Armoured Div operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945, notably planning notes and reports on Operation GOODWOOD, the 2 Army offensive south east of Caen, France, July 1944; typescript and manuscript accounts by personnel of 11 Armoured Div, written 1982-1993, relating to operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945

SPROT, Lt Col A M (b 1919)*Served with Royal Scots Greys, North West Europe, 1944-1945*

Memoir of service, 1942-1945

STONE, Brigadier J S W (1895-1983)*Commander, Royal Engineers, 2 Army 1942-1944*

Account of the Normandy invasion and advance of 2 Army to the Netherlands, July - October 1944

SUTTON, Wg Cdr J F (d 1995)*Served with 10 Sqn, 1943-1944*

Photographs relating to bomb-aiming, 1943-1944, taken by Sutton during raids on North West Europe

TALBOT, Maj Gen D E B (1908-1994)*Commanding Officer, 7 Bn, Hampshire Regt, North West Europe, 1944-1945*

Copies of 7 Bn Hampshire Regt's monthly war diary, June 1944 - May 1945; account, '7th Bn The Hampshire Regiment in the North West European campaign during the period 13th July 1944 to 17th June 1945'

THRALE, Ralph (fl 1944)*Member, Royal Observer Corps, 1944*

Account of service as a Royal Observer Corps volunteer with merchant shipping vessels, English Channel, June 1944

TILNEY, Sir John (1907-1994)*Commanded 85 (Essex) Medium Battery, 1943-1945*

'The diary of 85 (Essex) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery, 1943-1945', including operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945

TURNER GAIN, Maj Gen G R (1912-1996)*Commanding Officer, 1 Bn, Herefordshire Regt, 11 Armoured Div, 21 Army Group, North West Europe, 1944-1945*

Memoir, '1st Bn The Herefordshire Regiment route and battles from the Normandy bridgehead to the R Elbe in Germany, June 1944 to April 1945, including route maps and CO's pocket maps for specific incidents'

VERNEY, Maj Gen G L (1900-1957)*Commanded 32 Guards Bde, Normandy, France, 1944; Major General commanding 7 Armoured Div, France and Belgium, 1944*

Papers relating to role of 6 Guards Tank Brigade in Operation BLUECOAT, Normandy, July 1944; operations of 7 Armoured Div, August-November 1944

WALKER, Brig R H (1914-1982)

Served with 51 Highland Div Royal Engineers, North West Europe, 1944-1945

Diary of 51 Highland Div Royal Engineers operations, October 1944 and February - May 1945

WARRACK, Col G M (1913-1985)

Assistant Director of Medical Services, 1 Airborne Div, Battle of Arnhem, Netherlands, 1944

Diary, September - October 1944, of his service at the Battle of Arnhem, and subsequent escape from German forces, with related correspondence, 1949-1951

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

War correspondent for BBC and ABC radio networks

Notes, interviews and correspondence relating to the planning and execution of Operation OVERLORD and the Allied campaign in North West Europe, 1944-1945; SHAEF, 8 Corps and 30 Corps intelligence summaries, 1944-1945; Canadian Military HQ interrogation reports on captured German officers, 1945-1946; notes on Allied interrogations of captured German commanders, [1945-1946]; research correspondence with World War Two Allied commanders and intelligence officers, 1946-1951, for Wilmot's book, *The struggle for Europe* (Collins, London, 1952)

WILSON, Louis Edward (1884-1973)

Worked for B B Chemical Co Ltd, manufacturer of Bostik waterproofing compounds

Notes, instruction booklets and photographs relating to the production and deployment of Bostik waterproofing for tanks and armoured vehicles in preparation for the Normandy landings, 1944

WOODS, Col A G (fl 1943-1945)

Assistant Director, Mechanical Engineering for waterproofing, War Office, 1943-1944

Reports on the waterproofing of vehicles and equipment developed by No 1 Experimental Workshop (Wading), Weymouth, 1943-1944; 'The Army waded ashore', account of the role of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the preparations for D Day, 6 June 1944

Miscellaneous, microfilm and microfiche

MISC 24

Account of French Resistance Operations in Normandy and Brittany, 1944

Typescript account, in French, by Leonce Dussarrat, President, Société d'Entre'aide des Membres de la Légion d'Honneur, Section des Landes, concerning French Resistance operations in Normandy and Brittany, 1944

MISC 59

Allied maps of the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy during World War Two

World War Two maps, produced by the Geographical Section, General Staff and the Army Map Service, US Army, including 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 scale maps of Germany, including Kiel, Hamburg, Halle, Leipzig, Lubeck, Bremen, Frankfurt-am-Main, Hannover, Osnabrück, Magdeburg, Schwerin, and Munich; 1:200,000 road maps of France copied from 1939 Michelin guide including the Carcassonne-Nimes, Avignon-Digne, Auxerre-Dijon, Mons-Luxembourg, and Lyon-Geneve areas, 1943-1944; 1:100,000 map of Utrecht, Netherlands, 1:50,000 map of Arnhem, Netherlands, and 1:250,000 map of Amsterdam, Netherlands

MICROFICHE MFF 8

Armed Forces Oral Histories: US Army Senior Officer Oral Histories

Themed collection of 96 interviews of senior US Army personnel, made 1971-1986, including Gen Matthew Ridgway, with comment on his command of US 82 Airborne Div in Normandy, 1944

MICROFICHE MFF 7

Armed Forces Oral Histories; World War II Combat Interviews

Accounts by US Army personnel, supplemented by official US Army orders, reports, maps and statistics, including US Army operations in North West Europe, 1944-1945

MISC 9

D-Day and the role of the Meteorological Office

Typescript copy of Meteorological Office paper *With Wind and Sword: the story of meteorology and D-Day* by Stan Cornford, an account of the Meteorological Office's role in the preparation and execution of Operation NEPTUNE and Operation OVERLORD, June 1944, including weather pattern charts, weather forecasts, and memoranda and reports from the Chief Meteorological Officer, Meteorological Office, to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)

MISC 19

Documents relating to the Allied offensive at Arnhem, Netherlands, 1944

Collection includes five postcards, four of which are of British troops from 1 Airborne Div at Hotel De Tafelberg, Oosterbeek, Netherlands, during Operation MARKET GARDEN, 17-25 September 1944, and one of the Airborne Monument at Oosterbeek, built by Jacob Maris, 1946; and a personal account by Henk B van der Horst entitled *Paratroopers Jump, Fury over Arnhem* (Boekhandel Romijn, Oosterbeek, 1946), relating to the Allied airborne offensive at Arnhem, 17-25 September 1944

MISC 51

Letter relating to the Battle of Arnhem, Netherlands, 1944

Manuscript letter from Henri L C Teswindt, Arnhem, Netherlands, to Yona Lugg, Barnes, London, 24 December 1945, relating to the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944, and the suffering experienced by the citizens of the city during the German occupation of the Netherlands, World War Two

MICROFILM MF 204-211

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

Collection includes reports, January-September 1944, on military and strategic objectives relating to Operation OVERLORD, the Allied invasion of France, June 1944; summaries of Secret Intelligence Branch Operations, April-September 1944; reports from Secret Intelligence Branch operations in the Netherlands, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia; Germany; Secret Intelligence Branch liaison with the OSS; report from the Special Mission on German methods of demolition and sabotage, September-December 1944; reports on Polish resistance fighters in France, 1944; reports from military, demolition, intelligence gathering, and espionage missions in Western Europe, 1944; after action summaries from the OSS Reports and Registry Division, London, and the OSS Reports Board, Paris, France, 1 January -15 June 1945

MISC 14

Printed leaflets, 'No 1 Workshop Group, REME, Chillwell' and 'The part a British Oil Company played in the War'

Collection includes four copies of printed leaflets, 'No 1 Workshop Group, REME, Chillwell', relating to the organisational structure of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 1945; printed leaflet, 'The Part a British Oil Company played in the War', reprinted from the Petroleum Times, 28 April 1945, concerning asbestos compound waterproofing of Allied tanks and vehicles for Operation OVERLORD, the Allied invasion of France, 1944

MISC 63

Printed messages by FM Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, Commander in Chief, 21 Army Group, relating to the liberation of France and Belgium, 1944

Copies of official printed messages by Gen Sir Bernard Montgomery, Commander in Chief, 21 Army Group, to British troops relating to the establishment of an Allied bridgehead in France, 10 June 1944, and to the liberation of Belgium and France, 17 September 1944

MISC 11

World War Two Ordnance Survey Maps

Maps prepared by the Geographical Section, General Staff, and the War Office, for use by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), including 1:40,000 map of Antwerp, Belgium; 1:100,000 map of Brussels, Belgium, and 1:50,000 map of Northeast France. Also 1:300,000 map of the Netherlands with manuscript outline of German Army occupation districts, 1940-1943

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Front cover: tanks coming ashore
from landing craft, Normandy, 1944.
From the papers of L E Wilson
(ref: L E Wilson 11)