ALANBROOKE, FM Alan Francis, 1st Viscount
Alanbrooke of Brookeborough (1883-1963)
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Title:
BROOKE, FM Alan Francis, 1st Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough (1883-1963)

Date(s):
1906-1967

Level of description:
collection level

Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size):
65 boxes or 0.65 cubic metres

Context

Name of creator(s):
Brooke, Alan Francis, 1883-1963, 1st Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough, Field Marshal

Administrative / Biographical history:
Born in 1883; commissioned into Royal Artillery, 1902; served in Southern Ireland, 1902-1906; India, 1906-1909; Royal Horse Artillery (Northern Battery), Royal Artillery, India, 1909-1914; served in Western Front in World War One, commanding Canadian and Indian troops; proceeded to war in France with Secunderabad Cavalry Bde; landed Marseilles, Sep 1914, in command of ammunition column; Adjutant, 2 Indian Bde, Royal Horse Artillery, 1915; Bde Maj, 18 Divisional Artillery, 1915; General Staff Officer Grade 2, Royal Artillery, Canadian Corps, 1917; General Staff Officer Grade 1, Royal Artillery, 1 Army, 1918-1919; Instructor, Staff College, Camberley, 1919 and 1923-1927; General Staff Officer Grade 2 Northumbrian Div, Territorial Army, 1920-1923; Instructor, Imperial Defence College, 1927 and 1932-1934; Commandant, School of Artillery, 1929-1932; Commander, 8 Infantry Bde, 1934-1935; Inspector of Royal Artillery, 1935-1936; Director of Military Training, War Office, 1936-1937; Commander, Mobile Division, 1937-1938; Commander, Anti-Aircraft Corps, 1938-1939; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Anti-Aircraft Command and Southern Command, 1939-1940; Commander, 2 Army Corps, British Expeditionary Force, France and Belgium, 1939-1940; Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces, 1940-1941; Chief of the Imperial General Staff, 1941-1946; ADC General to King George VI, 1942-1946; FM, 1944; received Freedom of Belfast, 1945; received Freedom of City of London, 1946; Col Commandant, Royal Artillery, 1939-1957, Royal Horse Artillery, 1940-1957, Glider Pilot Regt, 1942-1951, and Honourable Artillery Company, 1946-1954; President, Royal Artillery Association; one of Government Directors of Anglo-Iranian Oil Co, 1946-1956; Director, Midland Bank Ltd, 1947-1963; Chairman, Belfast Banking Co Ltd, 1947-1963; Director, National Discount Co, 1948-1963, and Hudson's Bay Co, 1948-1959; Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast, 1949-1963; Constable of Tower of London, 1950-1955; Lord Lieutenant, County of London, 1950-1957; President, Zoological Society of London, 1951-1954; Director, Triplex Glass Co Ltd, 1954-1956 and Lowland Tanker Co Ltd, 1954; President, Corps of Commissionaires, 1960; Commander of Coronation Parade and Lord High Constable of England in Coronation Abbey Ceremonies, 1953; died in 1963.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:
Deposited in the Centre by the family in 1971. Papers retained by Sir Arthur Wynne Morgan Bryant for his books on Alanbrooke were released to the Centre by Bryant in 1982. Papers relating to the Alanbrooke statue were presented to the Centre by FM (Richard) Michael (Power) Carver, Baron Carver, in 1994. In 2005, the Centre acquired the Alanbrooke papers with generous assistance from The National Heritage Memorial Fund, The
MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Friends of the National Libraries, The King’s College London Annual Fund and 61 alumni of King’s College London.

Content & structure

Scope and content:

System of arrangement:
Arranged in the following sections: letters to his mother; 'Notes for my memoirs'; 'Notes on my life'; early papers; diaries; Chief of Imperial General Staff papers; miscellaneous papers and maps; public functions and post-war activities; speeches; correspondence; photographs; biographical material; Bryant's books; personal files.

Conditions of access & use

Conditions governing access:
A few files are closed (see detailed catalogue), but most of the collection is open.

Conditions governing reproduction:
Copies, subject to the condition of the original, may be supplied for research use only. Requests to publish original material should be submitted to the Trustees of the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, attention of the Director of Archive Services.

Language/scripts of material:
Mainly English, but some French
Finding aids:
This detailed Catalogue, and in hard copy in the Centre's reading room.

Allied materials

Existence and location of originals:
King's College London College Archives

Related units of description:
The Imperial War Museum has copies of 27 letters to Basil Stanlake Brooke, 5th Bt, (later 1st Viscount Brookeborough of Colebrooke) and his wife, 1940-1946. The Public Record Office holds papers as Chief of the Imperial General Staff, principally official correspondence, 1941-1946 (Ref: WO 216), notably including correspondence with Rt Hon Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill concerning Middle East strategy, administration and appointments, 1941 (Ref: WO 216/1), the appointment of Gen Sir Henry Maitland Wilson as Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces, Feb 1943 (Ref: WO 216/32), strategy in North Africa, Mar-Apr 1943 (Ref: WO 216/35) and Burma, Mar-Apr 1943 (Ref: WO 216/34); Chief of the Imperial General Staff tour notes and reports of discussions on British defence policy in the Middle East, 1945-1946 (Ref: WO 216/40); directive on the appointment of Gen John Standish Surtees Prendergast Vereker, 6th Viscount Gort, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta, May 1943 (Ref: WO 216/132); semi-official correspondence with Lt Gen Sir Henry Royds Pownall, Mar-Aug 1943 (Ref: WO 216/131); correspondence with FM Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, 1945 (Ref: CAB 127/47). The papers of AF Louis (Francis Albert Victor Nicholas), 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma at the University of Southampton Library include correspondence with Alanbrooke relating to combined operations, 1942-1943 (Ref: MB1/B17), and correspondence relating to South East Asia Command, 1943-1945 (Ref: MB1/C50). John Rylands Library, Manchester University, holds correspondence with Sir Claude John Eyre Auchinleck, 1940-1946. The British Museum (Natural History) holds letters to David Armitage Bannerman, ornithologist, 1943-1962.

Publication note:

Decorations: KG, GCB, OM, GCVO, DSO

Description control

Rules or conventions: