Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives : Catalogue (Summary)
LAYCOCK, Maj Gen Sir Robert Edward
(1907-1968)
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Catalogue Reference:
GB0099 KCLMA Laycock

URL:
http://www.kingscollections.org/catalogues/lhcma/collection/l/la95-001/

Title:
LAYCOCK, Maj Gen Sir Robert Edward (1907-1968)

Date(s):
1923-1968

Level of description:
Collection (Fonds)

Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size):
34 boxes

Context

Name of creator(s):
Laycock, Sir, Robert Edward, 1907-1968, Knight, Major General

Administrative / Biographical history:
Born 1907; educated at Eton College and Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; joined Royal Horse Guards, Mar 1927, 2nd Lt, 1927; Lt 1930; Capt 1934; married Angela Claire Louise (née Dudley Ward), 1935; instructor on anti-gas and air defence measures, School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Dec 1937; General Staff Officer, Grade 3 (passive air defence) in department of Chief of Imperial General Staff, Dec 1938; General Staff Officer, Grade 2, chemical warfare section, British Expeditionary Force Headquarters, France, 1939-1940; joined Combined Operations, 1940; Lt Col 1941; commanded Special Service Brigade LAYFORCE, Feb-Aug 1941 and Middle East Commando, Aug 1941-Aug 1942; Brig, 1942; commanded Special Service Brigade, organizing and training all commandos in Britain, 1942-1943; Maj Gen 1943; Chief of Combined Operations, Oct 1943-1947; retired 1947; Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta, 1954-1959; Col Commandant, Special Air Service (SAS) and Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, 1960-1968. Died 1968.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:
Presented to the Centre by the family, June 2000

Content & structure

Scope and content:
Personal and military papers of Major General Sir Robert Edward Laycock, 1923-1968, chiefly relating to service with Special Service Brigade and as Chief of Combined Operations, 1940-1946. Includes papers on volunteering for Special Service Brigade, including completed application forms for volunteer Commando officers, 1940. Papers on Special Service Brigade training 1940-1941, including gas, bayonet and signalling training. Memoranda, reports, instructions and other papers, 1940-1942, relating to LAYFORCE (commanded by Laycock in the Middle East), including papers on the Folbot Section (later to become Special Boat Service). Papers on Special Service Brigade, [1941-1946], including memoranda, reports, minutes, papers on their reorganisation, disbandment and the future of Combined Operations, also including papers belonging to Lord George Jellicoe relating to Special Service Brigade in the Middle East; reports and other papers on Special Service Brigade operations, notably Operation TORCH, (the invasion of North West Africa, Nov 1942) and Operation HUSKY, (the invasion of Sicily, Jun 1943). Laycock’s official and personal correspondence, 1923-1968, chiefly relating to
Special Service Brigade. Lectures and speeches to and on Special Service Brigade, chiefly by Laycock. Draft publications, scripts and press cuttings relating to Laycock and Special Service Brigade. Memoirs and accounts of Commando action, including parts of Robert Edward Laycock's memoirs and memoirs of members of 'G' Troop, 7 Commando. Papers on Laycock standing as Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bassetlaw in the 1945 general collection and on his refusal to stand for the 1947 bye-election. Papers relating to Laycock's time as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta. Poems by Laycock.

System of arrangement:
The Laycock papers are arranged in sections as follows: papers on volunteers for Special Service Brigade; training papers, papers relating to LAYFORCE; papers relating to Special Service Brigade following the disbandment of LAYFORCE; Special Service Brigade operations; Robert Edward Laycock's correspondence, official and personal; lectures and speeches; draft publications and press cuttings; memoirs; papers relating to Laycock standing as Conservative Party candidate; papers relating to Laycock's time as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta and poems.

Conditions of access & use

Conditions governing access:
Open, subject to signature of Reader's undertaking form, and appropriate provision of two forms of identification, to include one photographic ID.

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:
English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements:
The Laycock papers suffered severe flood damage before transfer to the Centre. Papers have undergone conservation work and their current condition is largely good, although some items are irreparably damaged.

Finding aids:
Detailed catalogue online and in hard copy in the reading room.

Allied materials

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

Related units of description:
LIDDELL HART CENTRE FOR MILITARY ARCHIVES, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON (Ref GB 0099) holds papers of Maj Gen Arthur Reginald Chater including photocopy of letter from Laycock, 1945 (Ref GB 0099 KCLMA Chater 10/6) and papers of Capt Sir Basil Henry LIDDELL HART including photocopy of obituary of Laycock from The Times, 1968 (Ref. GB 0099 KCLMA LIDDELL HART 15/6/5).

Description control

Archivist's Note:

Rules or conventions:
Date(s) of descriptions:
Aug 2001