Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives: Catalogue (Summary)

SUEZ ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUEZ ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Catalogue Reference:
GB0099 Suez OHP

URL:
http://www.kingscollections.org/catalogues/lhcma/collection/s/xs80-001/

Title:
Suez Oral History Project

Date(s):

Level of description:
collection level

Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size):
1 box (0.01 cubic metres)

Context

Name of creator(s):
Suez Oral History Project

Administrative / Biographical history:
The decision of Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt, to nationalise the Suez Canal in July 1956 provoked, in the following October, Great Britain and France to launch an amphibious and airborne assault on Port Said, Egypt, while Israeli armed forces attacked Egyptian forces in the Sinai. Britain, France and Israel, under diplomatic pressure from the UN, USA and USSR, withdrew their forces, to be replaced by UN peacekeepers.
The Suez Oral History Project, an initiative of the Institute of Contemporary British History, London, and sponsored by the Nuffield Foundation and King's College London, consisted of a series of interviews with British political, diplomatic and military figures involved at a senior level in the Suez Crisis of 1956. The interviews were undertaken between 1989 and 1991 by Anthony Gorst of the University of Westminster and Dr W Scott Lucas, then of the University of Birmingham. Transcripts of the twenty one interviews were subsequently produced and returned to the interviewees for review and correction where necessary. Some alterations were made, which, apart from a few amendments for security purposes, were mainly for grammar and clarification of expression.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:
Transcripts of interviews were presented to the Centre by Dr W Scott Lucas in 1993. Copies of the Protocol of Sèvres, 1956, were presented to the Centre by Sir Donald Logan in 1996.

Content & structure

Scope and content:
Transcripts of interviews relating to political, diplomatic and military aspects of the Suez Crisis of 1956, with Rt Hon Julian Amery, Baron Amery of Lustleigh; Sir Harold Beeley; Sir Frederick Arthur Bishop; Rt Hon Sir Frank Cooper; Sir Patrick Henry Dean; Sir (Arthur) Douglas Dodds-Parker; Sir William Goodenough Hayter; Rt Hon Alexander Frederick Douglas-Home, Baron Home of the Hirsel; Brig Kenneth Hunt; Rt Hon Douglas Patrick Thomas Jay, Baron Jay of Battersea; Gen Sir Frank Douglas King; Sir Donald Arthur Logan; Roger Mellor Makins, 1st Baron Sherfield; Sir Guy Elwin Millard; Sir David Bruce Pitblado; Sir Richard Royle Powell; (George Frank) Norman Reddaway; Sir (D'Arcy) Patrick Reilly; Sir Archibald David Manisty Ross; Sir (Charles Arthur) Evelyn Shuckburgh; Sir Denis Arthur Hepworth Wright. Copies of the Protocol of Sèvres, 24 Oct 1956, recording the agreements reached between the governments of Great Britain, France and Israel during discussions held in France, 22-24 Oct 1956, on a joint politico-military response to Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal.
System of arrangement:
Files of transcripts are arranged in alphabetical order based on the surname of the interviewee.

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. The Protocol of Sèvres is in French.

Finding aids:
Detailed catalogue available online and also in hard copy in the Centre's reading room.

Allied materials

Existence and location of originals:
The original Israeli copy of the Protocol of Sèvres is kept within the Ben-Gurion Archives, Sde Boqer, Israel.

Existence and location of copies:
Another copy of the Protocol of Sèvres was presented by Sir Donald Logan to the Public Record Office, Kew, in 1996 (PRO 22/88).

Related units of description:
The Civil Service Oral History Project of the Institute of Contemporary British History (Ref: GB 0099 KCLMA MISC 74) contains interviews conducted by Gorst and Lucas in 1989 with Sir Harold Beeley and Sir Frank Cooper relating to their Civil Service careers. The audio recording of the Suez Seminar (Ref: GB 0099 KCLMA NAME), held at King's College London on 5 Nov 1996, contains personal accounts of Maj Gen Denis Arthur Beckett, Second in Command, 3 Bn, Parachute Regt in airborne landings, 5 Nov 1956; Maj Gen Nicholas Francis Vaux, 2nd Lt, 45 Commando Royal Marines, 3 Commando Bde, in helicopter-borne amphibious assault, 6 Nov 1956; Dr Henry Cowper, lecturer in history, Napier University, Edinburgh, Corporal, 1 Bn, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), 19 Infantry Bde (on National Service) in Port Said, 14 Nov-22 Dec 1956.

Publication note:

Compiled Oct 1999

Description control

Rules or conventions: