Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives : Catalogue (Summary)

BRINK OF APOCALYPSE, Television
Documentary Archive
BRINK OF APOCALYPSE, Television Documentary Archive

Catalogue Reference:
GB 0099 KCLMA Brink of Apocalypse

URL:

Title:
1983: The Brink of Apocalypse television documentary archive

Date(s):
2007

Level of description:
Collection level

Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size):
4 boxes or 0.04m3

Context

Name of creator(s):
Flashback Television, based in London and Bristol

Administrative / Biographical history:
1983: The Brink of Apocalypse, a television documentary broadcast on Channel 4 (5 January 2008)

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:
The collection was placed in the Centre by Taylor Downing, Flashback Television in 2010

Content & structure

Scope and content:
The 1983: The Brink of Apocalypse documentary archive consists of transcripts of 31 interviews concerning events in Nov 1983 when a NATO command post exercise, code named ABLE ARCHER, caused the USSR to believe that NATO was planning a genuine nuclear attack.

Interviews were conducted with eyewitnesses from Britain, US, USSR and East Germany, including NATO, intelligence and military personnel, policy advisors and historians Werner Grossman, Gen Col Ivan Yesin, Capt Viktor Tkachenko, Stanislav Petrov, Victor Cherkashin, Adm Vladlen Smirnoff, Gen Igor Kondriatev, Oleg Gordievsky, Robert Gates, Gen John Chain, Robert McFarlane, Peter Pry, Col Spike Callender, Oleg Kalugin, Ben Fischer, Fritz Ermath, Charles Powell, Gene Gay, John Hughes Wilson, David Blythe, Joe Troxell, Col Charlie Simpson, Christopher Donnelly, Sergei Lokot, Capt William Bliss, Vladimir Kryuchkov, Boris Klyuyukov, General Rodionov, Col Maxim Devetyarov, Gen Ivan Tretyak, Gennady Ossipovich, Vitali Tsygichko and Rainer Rupp.


Transcripts include questions and answers, and the tape counter numbering has been logged. The interviewer is not identified. Where interviews were translated this has been noted. Some names, places or phrases have been guessed at, or spelled phonetically by the transcriber. No information is given about the date or identity of the transcriber.

System of arrangement:
There is no identifiable order of the interviews; hence the transcripts have been maintained in the order received.

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:
Please note that we cannot provide copies of the original documentary. Copies of the transcripts and research material, 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

Language/scripts of material:
English

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

Allied materials

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

Description control

Rules or conventions:

Date(s) of descriptions:
2011, updated 2016