PAPERS OF MAJ-GEN SIR ERNEST SWINTON

1918-41

Gift of papers, principally concerning the origins of the tank, by Miss Betty Vaucour, Maj-Gen Swinton's literary assistant, 1963.

Maj-Gen Ernest Dunlop SWINTON, KBE, CB, DSO. Born 21 Oct 1869, died 15 Jan 1951. During world war I assistant secretary, Committee of Imperial Defence and War Cabinet; Controller of Information, Department of Civil Aviation.


Publications:
With Alan Ian Percy, Earl Percy, 8th Duke of Northumberland: A year ago; eye-witness's narrative of the war from 30 Mar to 18 Jul 1915, 1916. Tanks; reprinted from Strand magazine [1917].
The study of war, 1926.
Eye-witness personal reminiscences of ... the great war, including the genesis of the tank, 1932.
Twenty years after. The battlefield of 1914-18; then and now; edited by Maj-Gen Swinton.; [Imparts], 1936-38.
A war commentary, 1940.
The Green curve omnibus, 1942

Arrangement:
The papers have been arranged according to the following rules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWINTON B</td>
<td>1 28 Oct 18</td>
<td>Dr Ante Trumbic. A declaration to the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, rejecting the manifesto of Kaiser Karl. The last leaflet used by the Allies in world war I. In 4 languages with typed translation into English. Printed sheet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWINTON P</td>
<td>Nov 1916</td>
<td>Photographs Pass to Elveden explosives area issued to 2nd Lt J.G. Scott by Lt-Col J.G. Brough. Marked &quot;Willies&quot; (tanks) and Pass to secret area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Design for Tanks Corps badge of a rhinoceros with the motto &quot;Push On&quot;. Endorsed and initialled by Maj-Gen Swinton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Design for Tank Corps shoulder flash. Endorsed and initialled by Maj-Gen Swinton.</td>
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* [Royal Machine Artillery; Commanding Heavy Section UGC]  
† Printed in Eyewitness, p 259.
Maj Gen E D Swinton

Addnl papers, purchased at auction 5 September 2012

Photographs of Swinton, 1900-1940; papers, 1925, relating to a court case on completing claims for credit in the invention of the tank, 1914-1916; papers, 1873-1921, relating to the history of the Swinton family, including accounts of life in India in the 1840s-1850s by Robert and Elizabeth Swinton (parents); draft short stories and dramatic sketches by Swinton; watercolour landscapes by Swinton and other family members

1. Photographs, incl:

   Photographic copy of portrait of ‘Col William Swinton as a midshipman when aged about 13 years old’ by Henry Raeburn

   EDS, mounted, South Africa, 1900

   EDS, mounted, South Africa, 2901

   EDS in uniform, 1906

   EDS in Stockton, California, USA, 22 Apr 1918, with Benjamin Holt, inventor of the Holt caterpillar tractor, with a tractor and a small tank, to mark the contribution of the Holt tractor to the Allied war effort

   Unidentified British army officers, [1930s?]

   EDS in uniform, with dachshund, in chintzy armchair, 1940

   Also *Times* obituary for EDS, 1951

2. Bentley-Swinton legal case, 1925

   EDS’ narrative of events, 1914-1915

   Solicitors’ correspondence, 1925, re preparation of documents and court dates

   OUTSIZE (stored separately) hand-drawn colour diagram of the relevant events in the development of the tank, Oct 1914-Feb 1916, draft and final version

3. *Daily Mail* special issues of ‘official military news’ (possibly written by EDS??), dated:

   Since 14 Sep [1914]

   Since 25 Sep [1914] x2

   Nov 13 to Dec 28 1914

   Dec 31 1914-Feb 26 1915 x3
4. Swinton family papers

Chiefly re family history, incl: corresp of EDS’ father, 1895, and ms Thompson family tree, 1873 (outsized and fragile); booklet, ‘The Swinton seals and bookplates’

Also ms account by EDS’s father of his voyage to India, 1849, written 1906

Account (ms original and ts copies) by EDS’s mother of her early life in the UK and India, 1848-1874, dated by EDS 1914

Maps of Madras, India, 1915 and 1921, one annotated F E Swinton [Maj Gen Francis Edward Swinton, brother of EDS]

5. Writings by EDS, incl

Letter to Tank Journal

TS draft short story, ‘At the sign of the leather octopus’, written as Ole Luk-Oie

TS draft short story, ‘The sack of “Orlbert”’

MS and ts draft short story, ‘The cold squeak’

Ts text, ‘Perils of Army mechanisation: a reply to “Criticisms of New Army Policy”’, written by EDS as Chichele Prof (so after ?1925?)

Ts draft drama, ‘Who was Jamroch, or The Ribston Pippin’

Published short story, ‘D2 or across the mahogany?’, pages from Blackwoods Magazine, Feb 1934, written as Ole Luk-Oie

Ts draft drama, ‘A sweet pea’, with ms covering note, 1922

Army training pamphlet, ‘Middle East training pamphlet No. 9, Part VI: Field Navigation Part 1: dead reckoning’ (HMSO, 1942?)

TS draft short story, ‘What the mulberry saw’, written as Ole Luk-Oie

Army & Navy Co-operative Society shareholders ticket, leather-bound, issued to Miss M E Swinton

Published short stories by EDS as Ole Luk-Oie, pages from Strand Magazine and English Life

Cartoon by EDS, published in Punch, 1911

6. Artwork by EDS

10 watercolours by EDS and family members, chiefly rural views in UK and India

Pocket book of sketches and one watercolour, chiefly views of the Rhine and Coblenz, Germany. Also a few of Pangbourne, Berkshire. Volume signed at front ‘EDS 1884’
7. Pages from a scrap album

4 double-sided pages originally from an outsize scrap album, incl:

- EDS’ original artwork for the cover of *The defence of duffer’s drift*, 1904
- Watercolour of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, signed EDS Dec 98
- Pasted-in reviews of *The defence of duffer’s drift*, 1904
- Menu for the Yorick Club annual dinner, 1905
- Watercolour of Aylesford Bridge, Jul 1899
- Press cuttings re EDS’ 1905 RUSI speech, ‘The comfort of troops on active service’
- Published cartoon by EDS [possibly from *Punch*] of a cheerful drunk, Haymarket, London, dated 1905

8. Bound volume of weekly issues of *The Billet*, for ‘the fighting forces’, 20 Nov 1918 - 5 June 1919, with lots of info, stories, etc re process of demob. Note at front, ‘The Billet from Dec 11 1918 to the end was produced by Gen Swinton when Director of Publicity Demobilization Ministry of Labour’

9. Published books by EDS

- *The defence of duffer’s drift* (George Ronald, Oxford, nd, but prob 1904), 2 copies, one signed ‘from author to R C Swinton, Feb 1950’
- Proof copy of *Short history of the Royal Tank Corps*, signed ‘ED Swinton from the publishers April 1936’