Reference code: GB165-0072
Title: Sir Alan Cunningham Collection
Name of creator: Cunningham, Sir Alan Gordon (1887-1983) Knight, General
Dates of creation of material: 1944-1948
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 6 boxes

Biographical history: Cunningham, General Sir Alan Gordon (1887-1983)
Born 1 May 1887, son of Prof DJ Cunningham and Elizabeth Cumming Browne. Educated Cheltenham; Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Commissioned 1906; served European War 1914-18; Gen. Staff Officer, Straits Settlements, 1919-21; passed Naval Staff College, 1925; Brevet Lt.-Col., 1928; Instructor, Machine Gun School, 1928-31; Lt.-Col., 1935; Imperial Defence Coll., 1937; Comdr Royal Artillery, 1st Div., 1937-38; Major-Gen., 1938; Comdr 5th Anti-Aircraft Div TA, 1938; Commanded 66th, 9th & 51st Divs, 1940; GOC East Africa Forces, 1940-41; GOC-in-C 8th Imperial Army in Middle East, 1941; KCB, 1941; Commandant Staff College, Camberley, 1942; Lt-Gen., 1943; GOC Northern Ireland, 1943-44; GOC-in-C Eastern Command, 1944-45; Gen., 1945; High Commissioner and C-in-C for Palestine, 1945-48. GCMG, 1948. Married, 1951, Margery (née Slater), widow of Sir Harold Snagge. Died 30 January 1983.

Scope and content: Official papers and telegrams from his period of office as the last High Commissioner, Palestine (1945-1948) as well as some personal correspondence. The papers and telegrams cover subjects including illegal immigration, the deteriorating security situation, proposed solutions, papers relating to the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry and the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) as well as preparations for the British withdrawal.

System of arrangement: Telegrams; papers; correspondence

Access conditions: Open
Language of material: English
Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns. Please note that this collection has been digitised.

Custodial history: In General Cunningham’s possession

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from General Cunningham, Oct. 1968

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

Please note that the following list is not comprehensive, correspondence from Cunningham may be found in collections not listed here. This list will also not include new accessions that entered the archive after the date this catalogue was compiled.

Papers relating directly to Cunningham:

- Jerusalem and the East Mission GB165-0161: See especially Box 67 File 1 Correspondence with/about High Commissioners (MacMichael, Gort, Cunningham)

Papers relating to the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry and UNSCOP

- Crossman GB165-0068: See especially material relating to the problems of the Anglo-American Committee and UNSCOP 1946-1947 and the subsequent recognition of Israel.
- United Nations Special Committee on Palestine GB165-0290: TS report of a conference between UNSCOP representatives Mr. Emil Sandstrom, Dr. Victor Hoo and Dr. Ralph Bunche, and the Commander and two other representatives of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, 24 June 1947, giving details of the movement’s origins and policies; TS transcript of an anti-British broadcast, 13 August 1947, from The
Voice of Fighting Zion, the broadcasting station of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. 14 folios.

**In Other Repositories:**

- **Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House**  

- **National Army Museum, Department of Archives Photographs Film and Sound** (Archon Code:0063): Correspondence and papers 1918-1976. Reference : 8303/104. NRA 30032 Cunningham

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist’s note:** Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 24 Aug 1988 and revised by Debbie Usher 19 Feb 2003 and 13 Jan 2014.
BOX AND FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR ALAN CUNNINGHAM COLLECTION

Box 1
Telegrams
November 1945- April 1947
1/1 Telegrams 10 November 1945- 30 July 1946 Nos 1-151
1/2 Telegrams 1 August 1946- 19 October 1946 Nos 152-320
1/3 Telegrams 21 October 1946- 31 December 1946 Nos 321-467
1/4 Telegrams 1 January 1947- 29 April 1947 Nos 468-618

Box 2
Telegrams
May 1947- December 1947
2/1 Telegrams 1 May 1947- 31 July 1947 Nos 619-759
2/2 Telegrams 1 August 1947-31 October 1947 Nos 760-867
2/3 Telegrams 1 November 1947 - 28 December 1947 Nos 868-973

Box 3
Telegrams
January 1948- May 1948
3/1 Telegrams 1 January 1948- 28 February 1948 Nos 974-1038
3/2 Telegrams March 1948 Nos 1039-1121
3/3 Telegrams 1 April 1948- 22 April 1948 Nos 1122-1233
3/4 Telegrams 23 April 1948- 30 April 1948 Nos 1234-1376
3/5 Telegrams 1 May 1948- 16 May 1948 Nos 1377-1566

Box 4
Minutes of Security Conferences, memoranda on Palestine and papers relating to the end of the mandate including truce talks in 1948.
1946-1948
4/1 Minutes of Security Conferences Sept 1946-
              Apr 1948
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Index to papers as High Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Memoranda etc on Palestine 1944-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Memoranda etc on Palestine 1946-1947</td>
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</tbody>
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**Box 5**

Papers relating to the end of the mandate including interviews with Jewish and Arab leaders, papers concerning the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry, the London Conference, U.N.S.C.O.P., and the deteriorating military situation within Palestine. 1945-1948

| 5/1 | Conversations and interviews with Jewish and Arab leaders 1945-1948 |
| 5/2 | Papers re: the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry-Morrison plan, London Conference etc. Dec 1945-May 1947 |
| 5/3 | Papers re: U.N.S.C.O.P. Cunningham’s address to the delegates; F.O. and Chiefs of Staffs memoranda on U.N.E.C.O.P. report on Palestine, map of Palestine showing land in Jewish possession as at 30.6.47. Scale 1:250,000 1945-1948 |
| 5/4 | Papers re: arms searchers, terrorist activity etc. 1945-1948. Bevin’s interview with Weizmann and Shertok; list of Jewish terrorist outrages from November 1945, material re: Operation Agatha. 1946; Colonial office Conference 1947; paper on the Hagana; material re: the Palestine Police; statement on the military situation in Palestine March-April 1948; report on Arab-Jewish clashes in Haifa April 1948 |

**Box 6**

Correspondence with British Government figures, Jewish leaders, King Abdullah, personal correspondence and Cunningham’s itineraries during his time as High Commissioner. 1944-1948

| 6/1 | Correspondence 1944-1948 including Macmichael to Stanley 1944-1948 1944; Bevin’s summary of results of Conference on British |
policy in the M.E. Shaw-Martin on illegal immigration 1945; Cunningham-Shaw December 1945; Stonehewer-Bird-Bevin March 1946; Collins-Cunningham 1946; Weizmann-Cunningham-Paget re: illegal immigration; Martin-Cunningham 1947; Gurney on U.N.S.C.O.P. 1947; A.N. Law, Sir J Troutbeck-Cunningham 1948; Cunningham-Martin, Creech-Jones, Sir T Lloyd 1948

6/2 Papers re: to Transjordan, Cunningham-Killearn 1945, 1945-1948 Kirkbride-Cunningham 1946, notes on two meetings with King Abdullah 1946, telegrams exchanged with King Abdullah 1946, Palestine Electric Co- use of Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers; letters from King Abdullah 1948

6/3 Cunningham’s itineraries 1945-1948

6/4 Personal correspondence A-N 1945-1947

6/5 Personal correspondence O-Z 1945-1948

Personal and career papers

Notes on Sir Henry Gurney by Sir John Fletcher-Cook