Reference code: GB165-0269

Title: Sir Edward Spears Collection

Name of creator: Spears, Sir Edward Louis (1886-1974) Knight, Major General, Politician and Author

Dates of creation of material: 1941-1970

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 28 boxes


Biographical History from the 1975 catalogue
General and Lady Spears were married in 1918 when General Spears was head of the British Mission to the French War Office and Lady Spears was Directrice of a mobile hospital which she had equipped and given to the French Army. She is the daughter of William Borden of Chicago.

During the present war [Second World War] Lady Spears again equipped and organised and directed a mobile ambulance for the French Army. All the equipment of this ambulance was lost during the French retreat in 1940 and Lady Spears and the English nurses and drivers on her staff were evacuated from France. She then with the help of the
Americans equipped a new unit which she gave to General de Gaulle and which accompanied the Free French to Africa in 1941 and took part in the Syrian Campaign.

General Spears, who had been appointed personal representative to Mr. Churchill as Minister of Defence to Monsieur Paul Reynaud, was with the French Government until the fall of Monsieur Reynaud on the 16th June 1940. He then brought General de Gaulle out of France and was made head of the French Mission to the Free French.

After the Syrian Campaign he organised the Spears Mission to Syria and the Lebanon and when the independence of Syria and the Lebanon was recognised by His Majesty’s Government became first British Minister to the two Republics, a post which he held until the end of 1944.

He was a Member of Parliament from 1931 to 1945. Since his return to England at the end of 1944 he has been prominently identified with the cause of strengthening Anglo-Arab relations and last autumn revisited the Middle East as guest of the Arab League.

While spending the greater part of the years 1942-1944 in Syria and the Lebanon, Lady Spears continued to maintain her ambulance unit with the Fighting French, paying frequent visits to it in North Africa and subsequently in Italy and in France.

While in Syria and the Lebanon she developed a number of mobile clinics which carried medical supplies and medical treatment to the country districts in Syria and the Lebanon where the people had no medical facilities at all. These clinics treated many thousands of Syrians and Lebanese and after Lady Spears’ departure were taken over by the Syrian and Lebanese Governments and are now a State Service.

Scope and content: Papers relating to Syrian and Lebanese affairs including the Spears Mission, 1941-44; the Lebanese constitutional crisis, 1943; Syrian and Lebanese independence; the future of Palestine; Anglo-Arab Association correspondence, 1946-66; Mt. Scopus case, 1953; Anglo-Arab Club correspondence, 1962-70; British-Tunisian Society correspondence; Middle Eastern affairs in general; press-cuttings on Syria & Lebanon, Palestine, Arab refugees, the Arab-Israeli conflict. Photographic collection.
System of arrangement: Largely chronological: papers; press-cuttings; photographs.

Overview of the arrangement

Boxes 1, 1A, 1B, 1C
- General Spears Cairo diary 1941-1942 with extracts from later diaries, 1942-1945
- Syrian Committee telegrams, 1941-1942
- Spears Mission: copies of telegrams, 1941

Boxes 2 and 2A
- Spears Mission: establishment, personnel, administration and finances, 1941-1942
- Correspondence 1940-1945 on relations with the French in the Levant and British policy in the area
- Notes on conversations with Generals Catroux and de Gaulle, and Antony Eden
- General Spears correspondence with Churchill, 1941-1945

Box 3
- Lebanese constitutional crisis, Nov/Dec 1943: correspondence, telegrams, notes and memoranda
- Speeches and communiques on Syrian and Lebanese affairs, 1945-1948
- Application of Syria and Lebanon to the U.N. for the withdrawal of French forces (1946)

Box 4
- Economic development projects for the Levant and Middle East
- Spears Mobile Clinics in the Levant, 1945-1946
- Anglo – American Commission of Inquiry on Palestine, Jan/Feb 1946: evidence of General Spears and others
- Various memoranda on Israeli terrorist activities (late 1950 – early 1951)
- Correspondence and memoranda on Zionism and the Palestine problem.

Box 5
- Correspondence on Middle Eastern affairs with Arab politicians

Box 6
- Middle East Supply Centre report on the agricultural development of the Middle East (1944)
- Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and
correspondence, 1945-1948
Box 7 Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and correspondence, 1945-1948
Arab Club: correspondence 1945-1949
Anglo – Egyptian Society: correspondence 1945-1950
Box 8 Cedar Club: correspondence, 1966
Personal correspondence
Box 9 Partial Manuscripts, partial typescripts of books of Middle East memoirs and relations with General de Gaulle

Access conditions: Open
Language of material: English, French

Conditions governing reproduction: Photocopying at the discretion of the College. The literary executor was Col. J.A. Aylmer who has gifted copyright to Patrick Aylmer to whom questions of quotation or reproduction should be referred.

Custodial history: In the possession of Sir Edward and Lady Spears, also Col. J.A. Aylmer as residuary legatee

Immediate source of acquisition: Middle Eastern papers promised by Sir Edward Spears and given by Lady Spears April 1974; additional papers and photographs deposited on indefinite loan by Col. Aylmer, 1980

Related Units of Description:
In Other Repositories
Spears Papers at Churchill Archive Centre, Cambridge
Spears Papers at Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, King’s College, London

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist
FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR EDWARD SPEARS COLLECTION

Box 1

1/1 Typed extracts from diaries 1942-1945
Anonymous diary May 27 – July 20 1942 on war in Egypt
1/2 Correspondence re Vice-Admiral Muselier 1940-1941
1/3 Vansittart Committee: terms of reference and minutes of meetings
Supplements to the London Gazette (1946) containing Wavell’s and Auchinleck’s despatches of 1941
1/4 Minutes and memoranda of the War Cabinet Committee on Foreign (Allied) resistance (Syria) Jul – Dec 1941
1/5 Spears’ Cairo diary 1941
1/6 Spears’ Cairo diary 1946
1/7 Syrian Committee telegrams (E-H) on various aspects of British relations with the French in the Levant 1941-1942

Box 1A

1A Telegram book 9 Apr 1941 – 10 Jul 1941
1A Telegrams 11 Jul 1941 – 24 Jul 1941
1A Syrian Committee telegrams (A-G) prior to Armistice 14 Jul 1941
1A/1 Telegrams: Syrian armistice Jul 1941

Box 1B

1B Syrian Committee telegrams (I and J) 18 Jul 1941 – 25 Jan 1942
1B Syrian Committee telegrams (K1 – K7) 23 Jul 1941 – 12 Mar 1942

Box 1C

1C Syrian Committee telegrams (K8-K11 and L) 26 Aug 1941 – 11 Jan 1942
1/C/1 Spears mission: copies of telegrams 25 Mar 1941 –18 Dec 1941 and
1C/2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Correspondence re Spears’ appointment (1941-1942) and resignation (1944) as British Minister to the Levant States</td>
<td>1941-1944</td>
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<td>Please note there is no file 2/2 – the number was erroneously left out in the original catalogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>A few papers on the finances of the Spears Mission and dealings with the French in Syria on financial matters</td>
<td>1942</td>
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<td>2/4</td>
<td>A brief review of events in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon</td>
<td>1918-1943</td>
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<td>Interview with General de Gaulle re Syria 1941 and memo by Anthony Eden 19 Sept 1941</td>
<td>1941</td>
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<td>Memorandum on General de Gaulle and the French in the Levant during Spears’ period there</td>
<td>14 Apr 1954</td>
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<td>2/5</td>
<td>General correspondence 1940-1945 on relations with the French in the Levant and British policy towards Syria and Lebanon</td>
<td>1940-1945</td>
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<td>2/6</td>
<td>Notes on conversations with General Catroux, General de Gaulle, Anthony Eden etc</td>
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<td>2/7</td>
<td>General Spears’ correspondence with Churchill</td>
<td>1941-1945</td>
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<th>Box 2A</th>
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<td>2A/1</td>
<td>Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<td>2A/2</td>
<td>Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A/3</td>
<td>Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A/4</td>
<td>Correspondence with and about G. MacKereth</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<td>2A/5</td>
<td>Correspondence with and about ex-Spears Mission personnel</td>
<td>1945-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda etc on General Spears’ visit to London in July 1943 (Anglo-French relations in the Levant)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3/3 Lebanese constitutional crisis: Foreign Office telegrams
3/3a Lebanese constitutional crisis: Foreign Office telegrams
3/4 Lebanese constitutional crisis: Press telegrams; review of the foreign press, Dec 1943; Notes and memoranda by Spears and others
3/5 Sir J.B. Glubb: memoranda of 1942 and 1943 on post-war settlements in the Middle East: Memo on probable post-war issues in the Middle East (possibly by Glubb)
3/6 Lebanese memoranda on the Anglo-French agreement (Dec 1945) and the application of Syria and Lebanon to the UN Security Council for the withdrawal of French forces (Jan-May 1946)
Speeches and communiqués on Syrian and Lebanese affairs, 1945-1948
Address by C. Chamoun on Anglo-French agreement 1 Dec 1946
Bill of Reform 14 May 1946
3/7 Verbatim records of Security Council meetings on Lebanon and Syria 14-16 Feb 1946
3/8 Parliamentary questions on Syria and Lebanon 1945-1948

Box 4
4/1 Correspondence and memoranda on economic development projects for the Levant and Middle East in general (including National Broadcasting Station in Lebanon; Haifa-Tripoli Railway; Wheat Office of Syria and Lebanon; Spears’ project for setting up an English company with Middle Eastern capital for economic development in the Middle East; correspondence with Stanley Adams at Thomas Cook re tourism in Syria and the Lebanon, 1944-1947)
Anglo-French financial agreement 25 Jan 1944
4/2 Correspondence with:
Spears Mobile Clinics in the Levant 1945-1946
Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases 1945-1946

4/3 Parliamentary questions on Palestine 1945-1951
Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry on Palestine: evidence of General Spears, J Gaster and P. Piratin (with correspondence) Jan-Feb 1946
Statement by Ibn Saud to the Commission 1 Feb 1946
4/4 Count Bernadotte: Report to the UN General Assembly on Palestine 1948

4/5 Note on the question of the Hadassa Convoys late 1950s to early 1951
The Deir Ayyub murders
Israeli acts of hostility to Jordan
The Sharafat and Falama atrocities
Note on Jordan-Israel border relations
Bulos and Thicknesse: Arab loss in Palestine
Notes on murder and mutilation by Israeli troops
Arab Legion press release 120

4/6 Correspondence on Zionism and the Palestine problem
Correspondence with Sir J.B. Glubb on his book ‘The Middle East Crisis’
Letters to The Times 1973 on the Arab-Israeli conflict
Correspondence with Arab embassies re Margaret Arakie’s ‘The broken sword of Justice’ 1973

4/7 Memoranda and articles on Zionism and the Palestine problem

Box 5

5/1 Bulletins from the Bureau Arabe de Publication de Presse Jun 1946-Nov 1946
5/2 Arab News Agency reports Dec 1944-Mar 1946
5/3 General Correspondence on Middle East affairs with: 1945-1950
John H Ace
Louis Amery
Arab Office (Albert Hourani and Edward Atiyah)
?E.A. Armstrong
Austin Motors
Hubert Bird
Sir Reader Bullard
L.W. Carruthers
Iltyd Clayton
Sir Kinahan Cornwallis
Robert Durrant
Archdale Francis
Brigadier Frere
George Giragos
Sir Edward Grigg
Alfred Guillaume
Sir George Holmes
Kirkbride
Sir Miles Lampson
Dudlay Marsack
Robin Maugham
Milne-Farquarson
Colonel S.F. Newcombe
Sir Bernard Paget
Air Marshall Sir Keith Park
Margaret Pope
M.P. Price
E. Rawdon Smith
Dr Georg Schwarzenberger
Field Marshal Smuts
C. Strickland
Ronald Storrs
Richmond Temple
A Watkinson
Fred Wells
Kenneth Williams
5/4 Correspondence with Arab politicians etc: Abdullah of Iraq, Azzeddine Azzouz and Habib Bourguiba, Yusif Bandak, Emile Bustani, Bechara el Khouri, Choukri Kouatly, Henri Pharaon and others.

5/5 James Heyworth Dunne: Memoranda on the state of Middle Eastern studies in the UK and the possibility of establishing an Institute for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (1944); Curriculum vitae; Undated letter to the Daily Telegraph on British attitudes to the Arabs

Box 6
6/1 Middle East Supply Centre: Report on the agricultural development of the Middle East 1944
6/2 Committee for Arab Affairs: Agendas and minutes of meetings 1945-1948
6/3 Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and correspondence 1945-1948
6/4 Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and correspondence 1945-1948

Box 7
7/1 Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and correspondence 1945-1948
7/2 Committee for Arab Affairs: membership and correspondence 1945-1948
7/3 Committee for Arab Affairs: Economics Sub-Committee correspondence 1946
7/4 Arab Club: correspondence 1945-1949
Anglo-Egyptian Society: correspondence 1945-1950
7/5 Spears’ Middle East visit, 1946: correspondence, notes, speeches 1946
7/6 Appeal of North African youth to the UN 1944
Correspondence on Jibouti 1941-1942
B. Penrose: America and the Middle East
Alexandria Protocol 1944
and other Arab League material

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8/1 Appointments book</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/2 Cedar Club: correspondence</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<td>CAABU: Aims, correspondence</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<td>Correspondence re: an Arab trade delegation’s visit to Carlisle</td>
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<td>Jeremy Thorpe: Tribute to Sir E.L. Spears at his Memorial Service 7 Mar 1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/3 Personal correspondence</td>
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<td>9/1 Book on relations with General de Gaulle: partial MS, partial TS</td>
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<td>Correspondence re proposed book on Middle East</td>
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<td>Correspondence re foreword to Antonius’ ‘Arab awakening’</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/2 Middle Eastern memoirs: odd chapters, notes, jottings</td>
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<td>10/1 Anglo-Arab Association: List of members</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<td>10/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Minutes and Agendas</td>
<td>1946-1961</td>
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<td>10/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Minutes and Agendas</td>
<td>1946-1961</td>
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<td>10/4 Anglo-Arab Association: Accounts</td>
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<td>11/1 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence</td>
<td>1946 – Aug 1948</td>
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11/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1946 – Aug 1948
11/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1946 – Aug 1948
11/4 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1946 – Aug 1948

Box 12
12/1 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Sept 1948-1954
12/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Sept 1948-1954
12/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Sept 1948-1954
12/4 Anglo-Arab Association: Appeal for contributions 1954-1955

Box 13
13/1 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1955-June 1961
13/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1955-June 1961
13/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1955-June 1961
13/4 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1955-June 1961

Box 14
14/1 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Jul 1961-1966
14/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Jul 1961-1966
14/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence Jul 1961-1966
14/4 Anglo-Arab Club; British Tunisian Society – correspondence

Box 15
15/1 Additional Correspondence on the Palestine Problem
15/2 Correspondence on Palestine refugees, Mt. Scopus case, Lilienthal’s ‘What price Israel?’
15/3 Telegrams on Palestine, notes and jottings
15/4 Telegrams re Syrian and Lebanese independence; North Africa; Correspondence on North Africa
15/5 Correspondence with Embassies; Correspondence re ‘Palestine through the fog of propaganda’ and ‘Aladdin of Arabia’
Box 16

16/1 Election telegrams 1945
16/2 Spears mission reunion dinner
16/3 Additional correspondence

A Material received from the Liddell Hart Library

16/4 a) Typed diary extracts 13-17 Mar 1942
   b) Report by Furlonge on the proposed general strike in Jul 1942
      Beirut

B Material deposited by Col. T Aylmer 24 Sept 1980

16/5 a) Foreign Office and minister of State Cairo – telegrams Jul – Aug 1941
      re: the interpretation of the armistice terms (including
      General Spears proposals)
   b) Vol 1 of ‘The Trident’ – the Spears Mission Magazine
   c) Programme for the R.A.F. Spitfire display, Beirut 1944

Unboxed volumes

1 Press cuttings re: Spears’ work in Syria 1941-1942
2 British Legation Guest Book – Beirut Apr 1942-Dec 1944
3 British Legation Guest Book – Damascus Apr 1943-Nov 1944