

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: Spears, Maj.-Gen. Sir Edward Louis, 1st Baronet (1886-1974)

Born 7 August 1886, son of Charles Spears and Marguerite Spears (née Hack). Educated privately. Joined Kildare Militia in 1903 and gazetted 8th Hussars in 1906; transferred 11th Hussars, 1910; temporary Captain 1914; Brevet Major; Brevet Lt-Col; Hon. Brig.-Gen.; Head of British Military Mission, Paris, 1917-1920; CBE 1919; retired in 1920; CB 1921; MP Loughborough Div. of Leicester as National Liberal during 1922-1924; MP (Unionist) Carlisle, 1931-1945: Major-General 1940; Prime Minister's Personal Representative with French Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, May-June 1940; Head of British Mission to General de Gaulle, June 1940; Head of Spears Mission, Syria and the Lebanon, July 1941; KBE 1942; First Minister to Republics of Syria and the Lebanon, 1942-1944; Hon. Major-General, 1945; Chairman of Council, Institute of Directors until 1965; President, Ashanti Goldfields Ltd.; Life Pres., West End Bd, Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd., 1972. Married 1st, 1918, Mary Borden (d.1968): 1 son deceased; 2nd, 1969, Nancy Maurice (d.1975). Died on 27 January 1974.

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

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 18 January 2000 and revised by Debbie Usher 24 March 2004, 5 Nov 2009, 31 Mar 2011. File and item level description created by Diana Grimwood-Jones August 1975 and revised by Debbie Usher 19 Sept 2013.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR EDWARD SPEARS
COLLECTION**

Box 1

1/1	Typed extracts from diaries Anonymous diary May 27 – July 20 1942 on war in Egypt	1942-1945
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	Jun – Jul 1940 1946
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 and 1C/2	25 Mar 1941 – 18 Dec 1941

Box 2

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|-----|---|----------------------------------|
| 2/1 | Correspondence re Spears' appointment (1941-1942) and resignation (1944) as British Minister to the Levant States
Please note there is no file 2/2 – the number was erroneously left out in the original catalogue | 1941-1944 |
| 2/3 | A few papers on the finances of the Spears Mission and dealings with the French in Syria on financial matters | 1942 |
| 2/4 | A brief review of events in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon
Interview with General de Gaulle re Syria 1941 and memo by Anthony Eden 19 Sept 1941
Memorandum on General de Gaulle and the French in the Levant during Spears' period there | 1918-1943
1941
14 Apr 1954 |
| 2/5 | General correspondence 1940-1945 on relations with the French in the Levant and British policy towards Syria and Lebanon | 1940-1945 |
| 2/6 | Notes on conversations with General Catroux, General de Gaulle, Anthony Eden etc | |
| 2/7 | General Spears' correspondence with Churchill | 1941-1945 |

Box 2A

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|------|---|-----------|
| 2A/1 | Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc | 1941-1942 |
| 2A/2 | Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc | 1941-1942 |
| 2A/3 | Spears Mission: establishment, personnel etc | 1941-1942 |
| 2A/4 | Correspondence with and about G. MacKereth | 1944 |
| 2A/5 | Correspondence with and about ex-Spears Mission personnel | 1945-1954 |

Box 3

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|-----|--|------------|
| 3/1 | Correspondence, memoranda etc on General Spears' visit to London in July 1943 (Anglo-French relations in the Levant) | |
| 3/2 | Lebanese constitutional crisis Nov/Dec 1943: interviews with General Spears | 1948, 1965 |

- 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 1943
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 1945-1948
(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 14-16 Feb 1946
Lebanon and Syria
- 3/8 Parliamentary questions on Syria and Lebanon 1945-1946

Box 4

- 4/1 Correspondence and memoranda on economic 1944-1947
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: John H Ace Louis Amery Arab Office (Albert Hourani and Edward Atiyah)	1945-1950

?E.A. Armstrong
Austin Motors
Hubert Bird
Sir Reader Bullard
L.W. Carruthers
Iityd 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

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 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

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 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 | 1946 |
| | Correspondence on Jibouti | 1941-1942 |

B. Penrose: America and the Middle East
Alexandria Protocol 1944
and other Arab League material

Box 8

8/1 Appointments book 1944
8/2 Cedar Club: correspondence 1966
CAABU: Aims, correspondence 1967
Correspondence re: an Arab trade delegation's visit to
Carlisle 1945
Jeremy Thorpe: Tribute to Sir E.L. Spears at his Memorial 7 Mar 1974
Service
8/3 Personal correspondence
8/4 Personal correspondence

Box 9

9/1 Book on relations with General de Gaulle: partial MS,
partial TS
Correspondence re proposed book on Middle East
Correspondence re foreword to Antonius' 'Arab
awakening'
9/2 Middle Eastern memoirs: odd chapters, notes, jottings
9/3 Middle Eastern memoirs: odd chapters, notes, jottings
9/4 Middle Eastern memoirs: odd chapters, notes, jottings

Box 10

10/1 Anglo-Arab Association: List of members 1960
10/2 Anglo-Arab Association: Minutes and Agendas 1946-1961
10/3 Anglo-Arab Association: Minutes and Agendas 1946-1961
10/4 Anglo-Arab Association: Accounts

Box 11

11/1 Anglo-Arab Association: Correspondence 1946 – Aug 1948

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
Beirut Jul 1942

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