

Reference code: GB165-0204

Title: Middle East Supply Centre Collection

Name of creator: Middle East Supply Centre

Dates of creation of material: 1942-1945

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Administrative history: Middle East Supply Centre (1941-1945)

The Middle East Supply Centre was set up in April 1941, after the closing of the Mediterranean in 1940 made the maintenance of supplies increasingly difficult both for the war effort and for the civilian population of the Middle East. From very early on the Centre was Anglo-American in policy. It exercised its control through import licensing and bulk supply. Private trade in certain essential foodstuffs was banned, and local agriculture, especially of cereals, was developed and stimulated. The Middle East Supply Centre also advised on materials supplies, transport, public health and locust control and the Aid to Russia convoys from the Persian Gulf. It was disbanded in September 1945. The Director of Transport was Harold Elliott.

Biographical history: Elliott, Harold W. (1905-1991)

Born 24 November 1905, son of W.J. and Ellen Elliott. Educated Brighton College. Apprenticed to Adolf Saurer, AG Arbon, Switzerland, 1924; joined Pickfords Ltd., 1926; Member, Road and Rail Central Conference, 1938; Member, Transport Advisory Committee, Food Defence Plans Dept., Board of Trade, 1939; Asst. Divisional Food Officer (Transport), London, 1940; Controller of Road Transport, Min. of Supply, 1941; Member, Salvage Board; Director of Transport, Middle East Supply Centre, Cairo, 1943-1944. Various directorships post-war. Died 19 September 1991.

Scope and content: Memoranda on land tenure in Palestine, 1942-1944; papers on land tenure in various countries of the Middle East, 1943-1944; documents on a transport conference in Cairo, 1943; memo on the Council of Agriculture, 1945; articles on railways in Palestine and Persia.

System of arrangement: As received

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns

Custodial history: In the possession of Harold Elliott, formerly Director of Transport, Middle East Supply Centre.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received from Harold W. Elliott, March 1974.

Related Units of Description:

In Other Repositories

The UK National Archives has many files relating to the Middle East Supply Centre.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 24 May 1999 and revised by Debbie Usher 11 Jan 2023