

Reference code: GB165-0163

Title: Jordan Collection

Name of creator: Bell, Sir Gawain Westray (1909-1995) Knight, Colonel Administrator

Dates of creation of material: 1919-1930; 1936-1939

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 file

Biographical history: Bell, Sir Gawain Westray (1909-1995) Knight, Colonel Administrator

Born 21 Jan 1909 in Cape Town, South Africa. Educated Dragon School, Oxford, Winchester College and Hertford College, Oxford. Joined Sudan Political Service in 1931. Served in Kordofan. In 1938 seconded to Palestine and appointed as Assistant District Commissioner for Tiberias, Galilee and Acre. Attached to the Palestine Police. In command of Beersheba Camel Gendarmerie 1939-1941. Seconded to Arab Legion, Transjordan 1942-1945. District Commander Sudan Political Service 1945-1949. Deputy Sudan Agent in Cairo 1949-1951. Assistant Civil Secretary, Political Section, Khartoum from 1951-1953. Deputy Civil Secretary Sudan Government 1953-1954. Permanent Under-Secretary, Ministry of the Interior Sudan 1954-1955. Political Agent in Kuwait 1955-1956. Governor of Northern Nigeria 1957-1962. Secretary General Council for Middle East Trade 1963-1964. Constitutional Adviser to Government of Federation of South Arabia 1965-1966. Secretary-General of South Pacific Commission 1966-1970. Married Silvia Cornwell-Clyne in 1945, 3 daughters.

Scope and content: Photocopies of papers from Sir Gawain Bell, mainly relating to the history of Palestine and Jordan 1919-1930, including administrative documents from the Ajlun and Salt districts, 1919-1926; papers relating to the Arab rebellion in Palestine, 1936-1939; papers relating to the Arab Legion.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English, Arabic

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Ma'an Abu Nawwar, 1986.

Location of originals: Possibly in the papers of Sir Gawain Bell at Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collection.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

For other papers relating to the Arab Legion see:

- GB165-0377 Henry Armitage Collection
- GB165-0118 Sir John Glubb Collection
- GB165-0577 Robert Melville Collection

In other repositories

- Papers of Sir Gawain Westray Bell, Reference GB-0033-SAD, Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Publication note: Sir Gawain Bell published two autobiographies:

- Bell, Sir Gawain, *Shadows on the Sand: The Memoirs of Sir Gawain Bell* (C Hurst and Co Publishers Ltd, 1984)
- Bell, Sir Gawain, *An Imperial Twilight* (I.B. Tauris, 1992)

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Clare Brown 2 Feb 1999 and revised by Debbie Usher 8 Nov 2023. Biographical information based on Palestine Civil Service List 1939, Who's Who 1970, 'Obituary: Sir Gawain Bell' by John Kenrick published in the Independent 9 Aug 1995 and biographical information from the Sir Gawain Westray Bell catalogue at the Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections.