

**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.
- **Palestine** GB165-0224: Bound TS proceedings of "Conferences on Palestine: United Kingdom-Arab Meetings, 7 February-17 March 1939"; *Maps relating to the Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry regarding the problems of European Jewry and Palestine*, HMSO, 1946, supplement to Cmd. 6808. 1 vol.; 5 items.
- **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** (Archon Code: 0162): Letters from Cunningham to Arthur Creech Jones 1945-1964. Reference: MSS Brit Emp s 332/32/3, 60. NRA 14026 Jones AC
- **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
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4/2	Index to papers as High Commissioner	
4/3	Memoranda etc on Palestine	1944-1945
4/4	Memoranda etc on Palestine	1946-1947
4/5	Papers re: the end of the Mandate. Report on the Palestine situation 1947, details of truce talks April-May 1948, statements, press cuttings	1947-1948

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	
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	1945-1948

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; Bevin's summary of results of Conference on British	1944-1948
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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