

## **MB1/B Mountbatten Papers: Fifth Destroyer Flotilla and Combined Operations, 1939-43**

Mountbatten took command of the newly formed Fifth Destroyer Flotilla in June 1939, as captain of HMS KELLY, the leading ship of the flotilla. He was involved in operations in the Arctic and in the Mediterranean. After a series of narrow escapes the KELLY was sunk in May 1942 during the battle of Crete. In October 1941 Mountbatten was appointed Combined Operations Adviser. He subsequently became Commander and, finally, Chief of Combined Operations. The last appointment enabled him to sit as the fourth Chief of Staff, and gave him the acting ranks of vice admiral, lieutenant general and air marshal.

The Combined Operations Headquarters (COHQ) was an inter-service organisation, the mission of which was to plan, prepare, co-ordinate and execute special military projects requiring the particular co-operation of the different branches of the armed forces. Under him Mountbatten had a Vice Chief, a Deputy Chief and an Assistant Chief of Combined Operations. Each represented one of the three services and headed their service section in the organisation. Mountbatten's staff included Major General Godfrey Wildman-Lushington as his Chief of Staff, Wing Commander the Marquis de Casa Maury as Head of Intelligence, Captain John Hughes-Hallet as the Naval Adviser, and Harold Wernher; Professor J.D.Bernal and Solly Zuckerman were among the scientific advisers, and Vice Admiral Theodore Hallet and Major General James Drew were in charge of training.

The work of COHQ can be divided into two areas, an administrative side and an operational side. The operational aspect involved planning and training for small-scale raids, and preparation for the eventual full-scale invasion of the Continent. Mountbatten was involved in the planning of the controversial raid on Dieppe, code-named Operation JUBILEE, which took place in 1942, the allied invasion of Sicily, Operation HUSKY, in July 1943, and the preliminary planning for the invasion of the Continent, Operation OVERLORD, which was launched in June 1944.

The files listed in this section contain papers and correspondence for the period Mountbatten was commander of the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla, 1939-42, and at COHQ, 1942-3. MB1/B1-12 contain material relating to the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla and MB1/B13-80 mainly refer to Combined Operations.

The files are listed in alphabetical order of file title and the contents of the individual files are arranged chronologically. The majority of the letters from Mountbatten are the carbon copies from the files maintained by his secretaries. Although much of the material dates from 1939-43, some of the papers, although referring to events during this period, are considerably later, including, from the 1960s, articles and transcripts of interviews about the raid on Dieppe.

In addition to Lord Mountbatten's papers, this section contains material from other sources about HMS KELLY, the papers of Wing Commander de Casa Maury, and copies of the papers of Vice Admiral Hughes-Hallet, the originals of which are in the Imperial War Museum.

Further papers relating to Mountbatten's service as Chief of Combined Operations are located among the South East Asia Command material in MB1/C.

MB1/B1 Lieutenant Commander Philip Whitworth Burnett: papers about HMS KELLY 1938-9

MB1/B2 Lieutenant Commander Philip Whitworth Burnett: papers about HMS KELLY: naming of the ship, daily routine notices, etc. 1939-40

MB1/B3 Papers of Commander J.C.Turnbull; photographs relating to HMS KELLY and other ships from the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla; Fifth Destroyer Flotilla navy list 1939-41

MB1/B4 Memorial to the crew of HMS KELLY lost in 1940 and 1941 1941-2

MB1/B5 Naval Construction Department, Admiralty: HMS KELLY 1939

MB1/B7 Letters received after the loss of HMS KELLY 1941

MB1/B8 List of kit lost by Lord Louis Mountbatten on HMS KELLY 1940

MB1/B9 Correspondence: naval and HMS KELLY 1940

MB1/B10 Correspondence: naval and HMS KELLY 1939

MB1/B11 Sinking of U35 by HMS KASHMIR and HMS KINGSTON, 28 November 1939: correspondence and copies of papers; Gerhard Stamer; Werner Lott; submarine museum, HMS DOLPHIN 1974-8

MB1/B11A HMS KELLY and HMS MOHAWK: action of 14 December 1939 1939, 1963, 1969  
Reports of HMS KELLY's actions, 23 March, 30 March and 20 October 1940 1963-5  
HMS KELLY: Namsos, 30 April 1940 - 4 May 1940: photographs of HMS KELLY under attack 1977  
Plans of HMS JERSEY and HMS KINGSTON 1939

MB1/B11B HMS KELLY, action of 9 May 1940: reminiscences of the Marchioness of Milford Haven; account dictated to Lady Patricia Mountbatten, May 1940; Press cuttings, 1940; report of proceedings, 8 May 1940 - 13 May 1940 (includes correspondence from 1968); correspondence about the torpedoing of HMS KELLY and her period in tow, 1973 1940, 1968, 1973

MB1/B11C HMS JUPITER, action of 31 August 1940 - 1 September 1940: correspondence 1969, 1976

MB1/B11D HMS JAVELIN, action of 29 November 1940: report and correspondence 1940  
Werner Pfeiffer of the HANS LODY, a German destroyer which torpedoed HMS JAVELIN: correspondence and papers 1947-76

MB1/B11E Action off Crete and the sinking of HMS KELLY, 22 May 1941 and 23 May 1941: narrative accounts; papers and correspondence with Herr Christian Islemann and General Kurt Student 1941-79  
Papers concerning the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla 1939

MB1/B12 K DESTROYER FLOTILLA NEWS (newsheets) 1939

MB1/B13 Combined Operations Headquarters: official correspondence 1942  
Later correspondence 1973

MB1/B14 Pearl Harbour visit, 23 September 1941 - 1 October 1941 1941-2  
HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (Lord Louis Mountbatten in command, August 1941 - October 1941, but never at sea) 1982

MB1/B15 Chief of Combined Operations: special folder 1942-3  
Papers about Combined Operations training in the Middle East, 1943; correspondence with Lieutenant P.H.J.Southby, RN: mission to India; Operation JUBILEE, 1942 1954, 1969

MB1/B16 Piers for use on flat beaches: landing material from ships; design of pontoons; correspondence with Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1942-3

MB1/B17 General Sir Alan Francis Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff 1942-3

MB1/B18 Correspondence with General Sir Lionel Hastings Ismay concerning Winston Churchill's comments about the Dieppe raid and Lord Mountbatten's reply 1942

MB1/B19 Correspondence with Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Edgeworth Morgan (Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, 1943; Deputy Chief of Staff, Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force 1944-5)

1943-5

MB1/B20 Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1942-3

MB1/B21 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, First Sea Lord: correspondence about attacks on the TIRPITZ, and drafts of a minute for Churchill 1943

MB1/B22 Lieutenant General Sir Archibald Edward Nye, Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff: re-organisation of the Commandos 1943

MB1/B23 Brigadier Robert E.Laycock, Commander, Special Service Brigade, Combined Operations Headquarters 1943

MB1/B24 Miscellaneous papers (includes an extract from the official history of the Canadian army in World War II, Operation PLOUGH); papers and photographs concerning Malta 1941-2

MB1/B25 Papers of Wing Commander the Marquis de Casa Maury, Senior Intelligence Officer, Combined Operations Headquarters: official correspondence 1939-43

MB1/B26 Resignation of the Marquis de Casa Maury from Combined Operations Headquarters (1943) 1942-4

MB1/B27 Casa Maury papers: report by the Combined Chiefs of Staff: part viii 'Strategy of 1943'; part ix 'The new role of Combined Operations Headquarters' post 1945

MB1/B28 Major General Charles Haydon, Vice Chief of Combined Operations: includes photocopies of documents about the Vagsoy raid, 1941, from Haydon's papers 1942

MB1/B29 Correspondence with Captain Michael Hodges, RN, about the introduction of headquarters ships at the instigation of Combined Operations, the Invergordon mutiny and the state of the Mediterranean fleet at that time 1970

MB1/B30 Colonel Henry Langley: reports on the use of LCT(R) in operations, 1943-4, with photographs (photocopies) 1944

MB1/B31 Operation HUSKY: photocopy of a report by Lord Louis Mountbatten 1943

MB1/B32-47: Hughes-Hallet papers: a collection of photocopies from the papers of Vice Admiral J.Hughes-Hallet (originals located in the Imperial War Museum), with some original material 1942-73

MB1/B32 Operation JUBILEE 1942

MB1/B33 Copies of documents from 1942; supplement to the LONDON GAZETTE, 1947

MB1/B34 Copies of naval operational orders 1942

MB1/B35 Operation JUBILEE: copies of the Royal Air Force report; despatches from commanders; notebook of Sub Lieutenant R.H.M.Boyle, RNVR; meteorological report for Dieppe; silhouette of the Dieppe coastline; Operation JUBILEE, combined plan 1942

MB1/B36 Copy of the report on Operation JUBILEE 1942

MB1/B37 Copies of papers concerning Operation AFLAME and Operation COLEMAN 1942

MB1/B38 Copies of papers concerning Operation STARKEY, and other 'dead minor operations' 1942-3

- MB1/B39 Copies of papers about Force J, key orders and operational papers 1942-3
- MB1/B40 Copies of papers about Force J, key orders and administrative papers 1942-3
- MB1/B41 Formation and development of Force J 1942-3  
Appointments to the command of Force J 1943
- MB1/B42 Copies of the report on Operation JUBILEE, the combined plan (JJ One) and Force J papers 1942
- MB1/B43 Exercise DELIRIUM 1942-3
- MB1/B44 Operation CRUCIBLE: combined plan, draft orders and operational orders for a raid on the Isle of Ushant 1942
- MB1/B45 Special report on the Isle of Ushant by the inter-service topographical department, 12 July 1942  
1942
- MB1/B46 General instructions for the conduct of naval assault forces (Home Waters) 1943
- MB1/B47 Copy of the typescript of Vice Admiral J.Hughes-Hallet's memoirs about Combined Operations, 1960s; copy of 'Recorder's interview with Captain Hughes-Hallet, RN, 4 January 1945' 1973
- MB1/B48 Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Frederick Algernon Portal, Chief of the Air Staff: correspondence with Lord Louis Mountbatten 1943
- MB1/B49 Captain Thomas Hussey, RN: notes on Combined Operations Headquarters, Operation OVERLORD and PLUTO 1961-78
- MB1/B50 Major General Sir Harold Wernher, copies of papers about hards for LCTs, 'Phoenix', blockships, PLUTO 1942-5  
Copies of correspondence, 1945, and a report on Harold Wernher's activities as co-ordinator of military and service facilities at Combined Operations Headquarters and Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, 1942-5, with copies of photographs and newspaper reports 1970
- MB1/B51 Combined Operations directories 1941-3
- MB1/B51A Combined Operations directories 1941-3  
Details of Combined Operations major and minor landing craft, landing barges, small boats, amphibians: CB.04304
- MB1/B52 Combined Operations: memories of Professor J.Desmond Bernal by Lord Mountbatten and Solly Zuckerman, Lord Zuckerman 1972  
Correspondence 1966-79
- MB1/B52A General Baron Friedrich von der Heydte: correspondence about the invasion of Normandy (article by Lord Mountbatten, 'The allied invasion of northern France', from UM RECHT UND FREIHEIT ed. H.Kipp, F.Mayer and A.Steinkamm (Berlin, 1977)) 1975-8
- MB1/B53 Combined Operations 1966-79
- MB1/B53A Combined Operations: interview with Keith Sainsbury, senior lecturer in politics at Reading University 1975  
Correspondence 1975-6
- MB1/B53B Combined Operations, LCI(L), correspondence, 1976; transcript of Lord Mountbatten's speech at a Mediterranean LCI(L) dinner 1977

MB1/B53C Combined Operations: photocopies of Public Record Office lists and minutes of the War Cabinet Chiefs of Staff Committee, PRO DEFE 2; part vii 'Strategy alteration; landing craft' 1945

MB1/B54 Combined Operations: correspondence 1959-64

MB1/B55 Combined Operations: correspondence, principally about commissioning a history of Combined Operations 1956-9

MB1/B56 Combined Operations: correspondence, partly concerning official/unofficial histories 1950-6

MB1/B57 Combined Operations: correspondence and papers about the official history of Combined Operations Headquarters (Major General C.F.Phillips) 1951-4

MB1/B58 Combined Operations: correspondence and papers about the official history of Combined Operations Headquarters 1949-54

MB1/B59 Combined Operations: correspondence 1948

MB1/B60 Dieppe raid: James Leasor GREEN BEACH (radar station) 1974-6

MB1/B61 Dieppe raid: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, film on Dieppe (1979) 1963-79

Three articles by Lord Mountbatten:

(i) 'Operation JUBILEE: the place of the Dieppe raid in history', RUSI, JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES (Mar 1974)

(ii) 'The Dieppe raid', THE NAVAL REVIEW 51 (1963) pp. 35-40

(iii) 'Dieppe: the inside story', LEGION MAGAZINE (Nov 1963) pp. 10-15

MB1/B61A Dieppe raid: military history, 302 Infantry Division 1976-8

Typescript of Emil Kilgast 'Ruckblick auf die Geschichte der 302 Infanterie-Division' (Hamburg, 1976)

MB1/B62/1 Dieppe raid: speech to the Canadian Veterans and Prisoners of War Association, 28 September 1973, and subsequent correspondence 1973-4

MB1/B62/2 Dieppe raid: correspondence (mainly Canadian) 1973-8

MB1/B62/A Dieppe raid: television programme by Andre Caron, AUX YEUX DU PRESENT, Office de Radio-Teledifusion du Quebec, broadcast 8 November 1976: correspondence and television script 1976-8

MB1/B63 BBC television documentary, DIEPPE 1942: correspondence and a transcript of the filmed narration by Vice Admiral John Hughes-Hallet 1972-3

MB1/B64 Dieppe raid: correspondence, including letters published in the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH from Wallace Reyburn and Vice Admiral John Hughes-Hallet 1967

MB1/B65 Dieppe raid: photocopy of the COMBINED REPORT ON THE DIEPPE RAID (Combined Operations Headquarters, 1942), with notes by Lord Mountbatten c.1977

MB1/B66 Dieppe raid: notes for Lord Mountbatten's contribution to a television film by J.Secondari, ABC Television, DIEPPE: REHEARSAL FOR D-DAY 1967

MB1/B67 Dieppe raid: television film by J.Secondari, ABC Television, DIEPPE: REHEARSAL FOR D-DAY: typed transcripts of interviews 1967

MB1/B68 Dieppe raid: television film by J.Secondari, ABC Television, DIEPPE: REHEARSAL FOR D-DAY: typed transcripts of interviews 1967

MB1/B69 Dieppe raid, twenty-fifth anniversary ceremony: correspondence 1967

MB1/B70 Dieppe raid, twenty-fifth anniversary ceremony: speech by Lord Mountbatten 19 August 1967

MB1/B71 Dieppe raid, twenty-fifth anniversary ceremony: press cuttings 1967

MB1/B72 Dieppe raid: 'Dieppe: Mountbatten's view', article by Lord Mountbatten, from the LEGIONARY (October 1962) pp. 10-12; articles in the DAILY SKETCH (4 October 1963) and the EVENING STANDARD 1962-3

MB1/B72A Dieppe raid: official correspondence about interviews and articles; drafts of Lord Mountbatten's television script for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation CLOSE UP programme on Dieppe (12 July 1962) 1962

MB1/B73 Dieppe raid: memoirs of Field Marshal Montgomery: correspondence 1959

MB1/B74 Dieppe raid: correspondence with Vice Admiral H.T.Baillie-Grohman and Rear Admiral H.E.Horan about a letter in RUSI, THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES 1953

MB1/B75 Correspondence with Ewen E.S.Montagu, author of THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS, the story of Major Martin, RM, and Operation MINCEMEAT, a corpse with documents washed up on the south coast of Spain 1973-8

MB1/B76 Papers about PLUTO, with reference to a tape-recording of an interview with Geoffrey Lloyd, PC, MP, in February 1969 1945-75

MB1/B77 Transcripts of tape-recordings by Captain J.D.Mansfield Robinson, RN, about Fort Southwick, Portsmouth, and the cross-Channel VHF communications network for the invasion of France 1967

MB1/B78 Operation OVERLORD: correspondence 1943, 1956-78  
War Cabinet Chiefs of Staff Committee: 'Operation OVERLORD', report and appreciation with appendices Jul 1943

MB1/B78A Correspondence and booklets about the OVERLORD embroidery 1973-8

MB1/B79 HMS KELLY: correspondence about fitting out the ship, papers and press cuttings 1939-41

MB1/B79A HMS KELLY: correspondence 1965-74

MB1/B79B HMS KELLY: correspondence 1974-83

MB1/B80 HMS KELLY: KELLY, a musical documentary by Alan Price and Tom Kelly (15 July 1977) and BBC 2 (12 February 1978) 1977-8