

MB1/H Mountbatten Papers: Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Mediterranean, 1952-4

Mountbatten took up the post of Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean (CINCMED) in May 1952, in charge of the British fleet in the Mediterranean and based at Malta. His second-in-command, William Davis, was to act as sea commander, while Mountbatten concentrated on the political and strategic aspects of the command. Mountbatten was concerned to improve efficiency and morale in the fleet and he made regular visits to all his squadrons and to countries in the region, including Yugoslavia, Greece, Egypt and Ethiopia. When Mountbatten took command of the British fleet in the Mediterranean, the US fleet there was headed by Admiral Robert Carney, CINC SOUTH, based at Naples. It was the view of NATO that there should be a single commander-in-chief in overall charge of naval forces in the Mediterranean and there was some discussion between Britain and the USA over which country should succeed to the command. At the end of 1952, Mountbatten was created Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Mediterranean (CINCAFMED) in addition to his existing post of CINCMED. He was promoted to admiral in February 1953. French, Italian, Greek and Turkish admirals, each with their national navies, together with an American fleet, now formed an international force, co-ordinated by CINCAFMED. Mountbatten's second-in-command took over matters of purely British interest, but friction still existed between the bases at Malta and Naples until Admiral Carney was replaced by Admiral William Fechteler in 1953.

While the files cover many naval and routine matters, the series also includes private correspondence from this period. Subjects include the visit by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Malta at the end of their Commonwealth Tour in 1954 and, among the 'papers of special interest', are materials relating to the coronation, the funeral of Queen Mary, the creation of the post of CINCAFMED, press cuttings and magazine articles featuring Mountbatten, a copy of the turnover notes for Mountbatten's successor as Fourth Sea Lord, papers concerning fleet exercises and reviews, and correspondence advising Mountbatten to avoid engaging in political discussions with the national leaders he met on his travels. Most of the papers are letters, signals and telegrams, to and from Mountbatten or his secretaries. The papers are now in an alphabetical sequence of files, with the contents of each arranged on a chronological basis.

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MB1/H3 Paul Adorian (concerning flight simulators) 1953-4

MB1/H4 Algerian earthquake disaster 1954

MB1/H5 Admiral S.Altincan, Turkish Navy, Commander-in-Chief, Turkish Naval Forces, North East Mediterranean, 1954 1953-4

MB1/H6 Proposals for the amalgamation of the Home and Mediterranean Fleets 1953

MB1/H7 Vincent Apap, sculptor 1954

MB1/H8 Congratulations on Lord Mountbatten's appointment as admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet 1953

MB1/H9 Congratulation on Lord Mountbatten's appointment as admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet 1952-3

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- MB1/H73 Cyprus earthquake disaster 1953
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- MB1/H75 Mrs Elma Dangerfield, editor of the EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC DIGEST: article on air and sea defence in the Mediterranean 1954
- MB1/H77 Lieutenant Commander R.E.F. De Pass, RN 1954
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- MB1/H79 Admiral Sir Gerald D.Dickens: article for THE NAVAL REVIEW 1950-4
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- MB1/H84 Surgeon Vice Admiral Sir Sheldon Dudley: book on the National Health Service 1954
- MB1/H85 T.E.N.Driberg: extracts from his book, THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS (1953) n.d. c.1953
- MB1/H86 Charles Eade, editor of the SUNDAY DISPATCH 1952-4
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- MB1/H90 Copies of speeches made by Lord Mountbatten on receiving the freedom of the City of Edinburgh and an honorary degree from Edinburgh University 1954
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- MB1/H99 Vice Admiral James Fife, junior, US Navy 1953-4
- MB1/H100 Gilbert Findlay, honorary clerk to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights 1953
- MB1/H101 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Rhoderick Robert McGrigor, First Sea Lord 1953-4
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- MB1/H123 Argostoli earthquake disaster 1953
- MB1/H124 Anglo-Greek relations: Cyprus 1952
- MB1/H125 General Alfred M.Gruenther, US Army, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command Allied Powers Europe 1953-4
- MB1/H126 M.Gumpel, British Consolidated Pictures 1952-3
- MB1/H127 Miscellaneous correspondents: G 1952
- MB1/H128 Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean, including a report on its principal achievements 1954-66
- MB1/H129 Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean: visit by Standing Group, NATO 1953-4
- MB1/H133 Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean: historical report 1953
- MB1/H135 Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean: Public Information Department (press reports) 1954
- MB1/H136 Sir Alexander Knox Helm, British Embassy, Ankara 1953-4
- MB1/H137 Commander R.A.M.Hennessey, HMS SURPRISE 1952-3
- MB1/H138 Messages of congratulation sent about honours and awards 1953-4
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- MB1/H151 Major General Sir Robert Edward Laycock: appointment as Governor of Malta 1954
- MB1/H152 Lectures given by Lord Mountbatten 1953
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- MB1/H154 Miscellaneous correspondents: L 1953-4
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- MB1/H158 Malta: inventory of the contents of the Villa Guardamangia 1954
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- MB1/H160 Captain R.Marriott 1951-4
- MB1/H161 Death of Queen Mary 1953
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- MB1/H163 India: Vapal Pangunni Menon: his book, MOSAIC TO MONOLITH 1953-4
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- MB1/H166 Organisation of the Royal Navy and suggestions for improvement 1953-5
- MB1/H167 India: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru 1953-4
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- MB1/H199 Everett C.Somers: the book, MANIFEST DESTINY 1953-4
- MB1/H200 Report on French forces in the Far East 1953
- MB1/H201 Baron Constantine Stackelberg: genealogy 1953-4
- MB1/H202 Staff in the Mediterranean 1953
- MB1/H203 Mabel Strickland, editor of THE TIMES OF MALTA 1952-4
- MB1/H204 Charles L.Strong, physiotherapist: the treatment of horses 1952-4
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- MB1/H206 HMS SURPRISE 1953
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- MB1/H254 Lieutenant General Albert Coady Wedemeyer, US Army, AVCO Manufacturing Corporation, New York 1952-4
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