

The Papers of Brigadier Godfrey Pennington Hobbs, CBE (1907-1985)Introduction

The papers of Brigadier Godfrey Hobbs, CBE, Order of the Phoenix of Greece with swords, Order of Restitution (Poland), were deposited by his son, Mr Richard Hobbs, in February 1986. The loose photos (16) are copies of the originals which were loaned for this purpose.

The papers have been arranged into three major sections corresponding to the divisions in Brigadier Hobbs' career. Section 1 (1-16) covers his service during the Second World War and subsequently in Greece, section 2 (17-25) his service as Military Attache, Athens and as Director of Public Relations during the Suez campaign, and section 3 (26-35) his service as Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Defence. A final section (36-41) consists of papers of a personal nature.

Biographical Details

1907	Born.
1928	Commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant, Northumberland Fusiliers.
1933-37	Aide de Camp to GOC-in-C, Aldershot Command.
1942	MBE.
1942-47	Chief Staff Officer, British Military Mission to Polish Corps and Mission to Greece.
1947-49	Colonel of Liaison, British Military Mission to Greece.
1950-54	Deputy Director of Public Relations, War Office.
1953	CBE.
1954-57	Military Attache, Athens.
1957-65	Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence.
1985	Died.

Early Career and Service, 1939-49, as CSO British Military Mission to Polish Corps and Mission to Greece (1942-47) and Colonel of Liaison, British Military Mission to Greece (1947-49)

1 1928 Jan 27 Commission as Second Lieutenant Northumberland Fusiliers.

- 2 1942 Sep 9 Royal grant of MBE.
- 3 1942 Oct 3 Copy of 'War' issued by the Army Bureau of Current Affairs.
- 4 1944 Sep 19 Letter from the Royal Yugoslav Legation, Cairo, thanking Hobbs for his assistance and support for the forces of Marshal Tito.
- 5 1944 Two cartoons drawn for Hobbs, reflecting British support for Marshal Tito.
- 6 1946 May Presentation album of photographs recording Hobbs' journey to Greece with General Paget (May 14-22).
- 7 1946 Nov 2 Photograph album presented to Hobbs by the Chief of the Greek General Staff and the officers of the Greek Army, as a souvenir of his work in Greece.
- 8 1947 Oct 28 Letter thanking Hobbs for his work with Polish troops in the Middle East.
- 9 1947 Presentation album of photographs recording Hobbs' work with Polish troops in the Middle East.
- 10 1948 Oct 5 Letter thanking Hobbs for his work in resettling Yugoslavs.
- 11 1948 Dec 31 Award by King Paul of Greece of the Cross of a Commander with Swords of the Order of the Phoenix.
- 12 1949 May 1-  
Nov 10 Correspondence with A. Papagos, C-in-C, Greek Armed Forces, relating to Papagos' support for Hobbs and appreciation of his assistance as Colonel of Liaison.
- 13 1950 Jan 21 Draft letter to 'The Statesman' concerning the dangers of over zealous British support for any particular Greek political party.
- 14 N/D Certificate entitling Hobbs to wear the badge of the Greek Sacred Regiment.
- 15 N/D 1 Greek, 1 Polish, and 1 [Yugoslavian] cap-badge.
- 16/1- N/D  
13 Photographs: 1-4: Mission to Polish Corps  
5-13: Mission to Greece.

Service as Military Attache, Athens, 1954-57 and as Director of Public Relations during the Suez campaign, 1956

- 17/1 1955 Jan 18 Summary of article from the newspaper 'Akropolis' implicating Hobbs in attacks on leaders of the Greek Army.
- 17/2 N/D Lamoon with attached cartoon relating to Hobbs' supposed intelligence activities within the British Embassy, as reported in the Greek press.
- 18 1955 Oct Programme for 'The Man who came to Dinner' by the Athens College Players.
- 19/1 1956 May 3-  
1959 Oct 27 Reports of conversations with Spiros Markezenis, leader of the Progressive Party, on the political situation in Greece and Cyprus, with related correspondence.
- 19/2 1959 Jun 10-  
1960 Aug 5 Personal correspondence with Spiros Markezenis, chiefly concerning proposed meetings, including a transcript of three articles by Markezenis on Greek foreign policy.
- 20 1956 Nov 12-26 Correspondence relating to the conduct of Public Relations during the Suez campaign.
- 21 1956 Nov 19 Letter of commendation to the War Office, praising Hobb's work in Greece.
- 22 1956 Notes on the Greek character and the political and military situation in Greece prepared for the Joint Intelligence Committee (Middle East).
- 23 1957 Feb Transcript of talk on the Greek political and diplomatic situation and the attitude of Greece towards Cyprus, prepared for the Cyprus Conference.
- 24 1957 Jun 21 Letter of commendation from Major General H L Boatner, head of US Mission to Greece, to Lt Gen Sir Francis Festing, C-in-C, FELF, praising Hobbs' work in Greece and cooperation with the US Mission.
- 25 1957 Oct Cartoon of Hobbs in Greek ceremonial military costume.

Service as Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence,  
1957-1965

- 26 1957 Jul 19-  
1959 Oct 22 Correspondence relating to invitations to functions and visits.
- 27 1957 Jul 27-  
1960 Feb 16 Correspondence and papers relating to Hobbs' acceptance of the post of Director of Public Relations and his retirement from the Army.
- 28 1957 Aug 9-  
1961 May 11 Miscellaneous correspondence chiefly of a social and personal nature.
- 29 1958 Dec 11 Pastiche of Pepys' Diary describing a day at the Ministry of Defence.
- 30 1960 May Presentation album of photographs of Hobbs' visit to Canada with Harold Watkinson, Minister of Defence.
- 31 1961 Jan 27-  
1964 Mar 5 Miscellaneous correspondence, chiefly of a social and personal nature.
- 32 1964 Apr 13-  
1965 Nov 24 Miscellaneous correspondence, chiefly of a social and personal nature.
- 33 1964 Apr 29-  
1965 Dec 9 Correspondence and press cuttings relating to the reorganization of the public relations office and the appointment of Philip Moore to succeed Hobbs.
- 34 1965 Aug 16-  
Dec 9 Correspondence relating to Hobbs' retirement as Director of Public Relations and the organization of a defence correspondents' dinner and presentation for him.
- 35 1965 Nov 11-16 Book of farewell messages and signatures presented to Hobbs on leaving the Ministry of Defence.

Personal Papers, 1956-69

- 36 1956 Jan-  
1957 Dec Miscellaneous bills, identity cards and personalia.
- 37 1959 Nov-  
1965 Mar 10 Correspondence and papers relating to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers Comrades' Association.
- 38 1965 Dec 23 Copy of 'New Society' containing article on Nasser and the Arab World by P J Vatikiotis.

- 39 1967 Jun 29-  
Jul 31 Three reports outlining the strategy, organization and promotion of a proposed company to provide office accommodation in London for travelling executives, Hobbs being Executive General Manager Elect.
- 40 1969 Jan 16 Letter from Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma thanking Hobbs for his comments on the television serial 'The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten'.
- 41 1969 Mar 8 Letter from the Rt Hon Julian Amery thanking Hobbs for his appreciation of articles written by Amery on the Far Eastern situation.

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