

PAPERS OF MAJ-GEN SIR ERNEST SWINTON

1918-41

Gift of papers, principally concerning the origins of the tank, by Miss Betty Vaucour, Maj-Gen Swinton's literary assistant, 1963. } box

Maj-Gen Ernest Dunlop SWINTON, KBE, CB, DSO. Born 21 Oct 1868, died 15 Jan 1951. During world war I assistant secretary, Committee of Imperial Defense and War Cabinet; Controller of Information, Department of Civil Aviation.

Chichele Professor of Military History, Oxford, 1925-39. *Other papers concerning the origins of the tank are arranged in the following order:*

Publications:

Under the pseudonym of Backsight-Forethought: The defence of Duffer's drift, 1904. Reissued in 1949 with a foreword by FM Earl Wavell. Under the pseudonym of Ole-Luke-Oie: The Green Curve, 1909. Under the pseudonym of Eye-witness: Eye-witness's narrative of the war; from the Marne to Neuve Chapelle, Sep 1914- Mar 1915, 1915.

With Alan Ian Percy, Earl Percy, 8th Duke of Northumberland: A year ago; eye-witness's narrative of the war from 30 Mar to 18 Jul 1915, 1916.

Tanks; reprinted from Strand magazine [1917].

The study of war, 1926.

Eye-witness ... personal reminiscences of ... the great war, including the genesis of the tank, 1932.

Twenty years after. The battlefield of 1914-18; then and now; edited by Maj-Gen Swinton.; [in parts], 1936-38.

A war commentary, 1940.

The Green curve omnibus, 1942

Arrangement:

The papers have been arranged according to the following rules:

SWINTON B printed books, manuals, pamphlets

SWINTON C correspondence, letter books

SWINTON P photographs

Reference	Date	Description
SWINTON B		<u>Printed books, manuals, pamphlets</u>
1	28 Oct 18	Dr Ante Trumbic. A declaration to the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, rejecting the manifesto of Kaiser Karl. The last leaflet used by the Allies in world war I. In 4 languages with typed translation into English. <u>Printed sheet.</u>
2	1920	History of the Ministry of Munitions. Vol. XII. The Supply of Munitions. Part III. Tanks. <u>Printed. Pamphlet.</u>
3	1927	Royal Commission on awards to inventors. First report. Presented to Parliament 1921. Cmd 1112. <u>Reprinted. Pamphlet.</u>
4	1940	Maj-Gen Swinton. A war commentary. Broadcasts delivered between Oct 39 and Mar 40. <u>Printed. Pamphlet.</u>
5	1949	Maj-Gen Swinton. The defence of Duffer's drift. 1st published 1904. New edition with foreword by FM Earl Wavell. <u>Printed. Bound volume.</u>
SWINTON C		<u>Correspondence, letter books.</u>
	5 May 32, 3-15 May 40, 24 May - 21 Aug 41.	Lt-Col Sir Maurice Hankey to Maj-Gen Swinton. Suggesting alterations to latter's book in draft, Eye-witness. Correspondence of Maj-Gen Swinton with the BBC, Admiral Sir Murray Sueter and H.G. Wells regarding the origins of the tank.

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Reference	Date	XXXXXXXXXXXX Description
SWINTON P		<u>Photographs</u>
1	Nov 1916	Pass to Elveden explosives area issued to 2nd Lt J.G. Scott by Lt-Col J.G. Brough.* <u>Marked</u> "Willies" (tanks) and Pass to secret area.
2	undated	Design for Tanks Corps badge of a rhinoceros with the motto "Push On". <u>Endorsed and initialled by Maj-Gen Swinton.</u>
3	undated	Design for Tank Corps shoulder flash. [†] <u>Endorsed and initialled by Maj-Gen Swinton.</u>

*[Royal Machine Artillery; Commanding Heavy Section UGC]

† Printed in Eyewitness, p 259.

Maj Gen E D Swinton**Addnl papers, purchased at auction 5 September 2012**

Photographs of Swinton, 1900-1940; papers, 1925, relating to a court case on completing claims for credit in the invention of the tank, 1914-1916; papers, 1873-1921, relating to the history of the Swinton family, including accounts of life in India in the 1840s-1850s by Robert and Elizabeth Swinton (parents); draft short stories and dramatic sketches by Swinton; watercolour landscapes by Swinton and other family members

1. Photographs, incl:

Photographic copy of portrait of 'Col William Swinton as a midshipman when aged about 13 years old' by Henry Raeburn

EDS, mounted, South Africa, 1900

EDS, mounted, South Africa, 2901

EDS in uniform, 1906

EDS in Stockton, California, USA, 22 Apr 1918, with Benjamin Holt, inventor of the Holt caterpillar tractor, with a tractor and a small tank, to mark the contribution of the Holt tractor to the Allied war effort

Unidentified British army officers, [1930s?]

EDS in uniform, with dachshund, in chintzy armchair, 1940

Also *Times* obituary for EDS, 1951

2. Bentley-Swinton legal case, 1925

EDS' narrative of events, 1914-1915

Solicitors' correspondence, 1925, re preparation of documents and court dates

OUTSIZE (stored separately) hand-drawn colour diagram of the relevant events in the development of the tank, Oct 1914-Feb 1916, draft and final version

3. *Daily Mail* special issues of 'official military news' (possibly written by EDS??), dated:

Since 14 Sep [1914]

Since 25 Sep [1914] x2

Nov 13 to Dec 28 1914

Dec 31 1914-Feb 26 1915 x3

4. Swinton family papers

Chiefly re family history, incl: corresp of EDS' father, 1895, and ms Thompson family tree, 1873 (outsize and fragile); booklet, 'The Swinton seals and bookplates'

Also ms account by EDS's father of his voyage to India, 1849, written 1906

Account (ms original and ts copies) by EDS's mother of her early life in the UK and India, 1848-1874, dated by EDS 1914

Maps of Madras, India, 1915 and 1921, one annotated F E Swinton [Maj Gen Francis Edward Swinton, brother of EDS]

5. Writings by EDS, incl

Letter to *Tank Journal*

TS draft short story, 'At the sign of the leather octopus', written as Ole Luk-Oie

TS draft short story, 'The sack of "Orlbert"'

MS and ts draft short story, 'The cold squeak'

Ts text, 'Perils of Army mechanisation: a reply to "Criticisms of New Army Policy"', written by EDS as Chichele Prof (so after ?1925?)

Ts draft drama, 'Who was Jamroch, or The Ribston Pippin'

Published short story, 'D₂ or across the mahogany?', pages from *Blackwoods Magazine*, Feb 1934, written as Ole Luk-Oie

Ts draft drama, 'A sweet pea', with ms covering note, 1922

Army training pamphlet, 'Middle East training pamphlet No. 9, Part VI: Field Navigation Part 1: dead reckoning' (HMSO, 1942?)

TS draft short story, 'What the mulberry saw', written as Ole Luk-Oie

Army & Navy Co-operative Society shareholders ticket, leather-bound, issued to Miss M E Swinton

Published short stories by EDS as Ole Luk-Oie, pages from *Strand Magazine* and *English Life*

Cartoon by EDS, published in *Punch*, 1911

6. Artwork by EDS

10 watercolours by EDS and family members, chiefly rural views in UK and India

Pocket book of sketches and one watercolour, chiefly views of the Rhine and Coblenz, Germany. Also a few of Pangbourne, Berkshire. Volume signed at front 'EDS 1884'

7. Pages from a scrap album

4 double-sided pages originally from an outsize scrap album, incl:

EDS' original artwork for the cover of *The defence of duffer's drift*, 1904

Watercolour of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, signed EDS Dec 98

Pasted-in reviews of *The defence of duffer's drift*, 1904

Menu for the Yorick Club annual dinner, 1905

Watercolour of Aylesford Bridge, Jul 1899

Press cuttings re EDS' 1905 RUSI speech, 'The comfort of troops on active service'

Published cartoon by EDS [possibly from *Punch*] of a cheerful drunk, Haymarket, London, dated 1905

8. **Bound volume of weekly issues of *The Billet***, for 'the fighting forces', 20 Nov 1918 - 5 June 1919, with lots of info, stories, etc re process of demob. Note at front, 'The Billet from Dec 11 1918 to the end was produced by Gen Swinton when Director of Publicity Demobilization Ministry of Labour'

9. Published books by EDS

The defence of duffer's drift (George Ronald, Oxford, nd, but prob 1904), 2 copies, one signed 'from author to R C Swinton, Feb 1950'

The green curve, collection of previously published short stories, written as Ole Luk-Oie (William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1909), signed to Grace Swinton, 1909

The great tab dope and other stories (William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1915, signed 'To RCS with love from the Author, July 1915' [another pseudonymous collection of short stories])

Proof copy of *Short history of the Royal Tank Corps*, signed 'ED Swinton from the publishers April 1936'