Manuscripts relating to the First World War

Catalogued manuscripts

Adv.MS.19.1.30: Sketch map, 15 September 1918, of the dispositions for an attack on the Bulgarian army, drawn by Colonel Mikailovitch of the Serbian army.

Adv.MS.48.7.8: Correspondence and papers of Admiral Sir William H Henderson concerning the 'Naval Review' and the formation of the Naval Society, 1915-1919.

MSS.944-7: War diary, 1915-1916, of Lance-Corporal George Ramage, 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, on the Western Front.

MS.3016: Graph of British Front, 1916-1918.

MS.3019: Photographs of the Hospital Ocean, in Belgium, circa 1914-1919.


MSS.6041-2: Letters, 1914-1919, of Belgian soldiers to Miss Elizabeth S Haldane and to Mrs M. E. Haldane.

MS.7606: Letters, 1917-1918, to the Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee from missionaries in Nyasaland and Kenya mentioning the effects of the conflict in East Africa.


MS.8805, ff.43-95, passim: Correspondence, 1914-1917, of Major Hon Arthur C Murray [afterwards Viscount Elibank] whilst on active service on the Western Front.


MS.9809, f.111: Amended list of drawings made 1917-1918, by James McBey when Official Artist to the Egypt Expeditionary Force.


MS.10597, f.158: Plan of War Exhibition, September 1915, at the Manchester School of Technology.

MSS.13501-88: Papers of Rear-Admiral R K Dickson, 1898-1952, including letters to his parents, diaries and notes. Dickson took part in the battles of the Falkland Islands, 1914, Gallipoli, 1915, and Jutland, 1916.

MSS.13589-94: Papers of Midshipman A W Dickson, mostly concerning his brief naval career before his death at the Battle of Jutland, 1916.

MS.14466: Letter, 1914, from the British Front in the papers of William George Montagu, Marquess of Tweeddale.

MS.20036: Press cuttings mostly from French newspapers relating to Viscount Haldane’s visits to Berlin, February 1912, for discussions with the Kaiser and the German government.

MS.20069: Album containing press cuttings from British, French and German newspapers relating to Viscount Haldane’s visit to Berlin in February 1912 for discussions with the Kaiser and the German government.

MS.20207, f.41: Letter, 1916, of prisoner of war to Mrs Mary E Haldane.

MS.20233, ff.141-251; MS.20234, ff.1-128: Correspondence, 1914-1918, of J S Haldane, including some letters from men on active service concerning experiments on poison gas, respirators and related topics.

MS.20247-59: Papers, 1875-1949, of General Sir J Aylmer L Haldane, including diary (MSS.20247-52), autobiography (MSS.20253-4), correspondence (MSS.20255-7), maps (MS.20258) and formal documents, relating to his career, in particular to service in the Boer War, the Russo-Japanese war (as observer), the First World War and Mesopotamia (as GOC-in-C, 1920-1922).


MS.20296: Diary, 1914-1916, of Colonel Sir Philip D Trotter.


MS.20655, ff.2-129: Letters (some copies), 1912-, 1914-1918, of J B S Haldane (many written whilst on active service) to his parents and his sister.

MS.21890: Full score of ‘Europa’ by Gerald W Crawford, described (p.1) as ‘A symphonic poem for full orchestra on the European war of 1914-1917’ (sic). According to a typed programme note (f.i) the work was completed in 1916.


MS.26919: Notes by Neil Munro on the Scottish Regiments (f.2) and the first draft of his ‘On the road to Bapaume’ (f.14).
MS.26930: Letters and copies of letters, 1914-1915, of and concerning Captain Hugh A Munro, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to his family, written mostly from the Western Front.

Uncatalogued accessions

Acc.1656, no. 1: Volume containing notes and memoranda, 1916-1934, of Major-General Granville G A Egerton on his service during and on other topics arising from the Great War, with some related letters and press-cuttings pasted in.

Acc.1669: Papers, 1872-1945, n.d., of Major-General Granville G A Egerton, including diaries, 1876-4, 1890-1933, recollections, 1897-1944, letters whilst on active service, 1879-1882, 1898, to his family and miscellaneous correspondence, 1879-1945, n.d.

Acc.1700: Copy of Orlo Williams, The Evacuation of the Dardanelles, from 'The National Review', with a few marginalia by Major-General Granville G A Egerton.

Acc.3155: Papers, circa 1859-195?, of Field-Marshal Earl Haig, including his war diary, letters to his wife, maps, official files and documents, and war photographs.


Acc.3678: Papers, mostly 1918, of General Sir Herbert A Lawrence.

Acc.3679: Papers, mostly 1918, of Major-General Sir John H Davidson.


Acc.4317: Notes on life in the Grand Fleet, 1914-1916, by Admiral Sir Angus Cunninghame Graham, and copies of correspondence with Professor A Marder.

Acc.4321: Papers (9 volumes) relating to naval affairs, 1914, particularly the affair of the German ships Goeben and Breslau.

Acc.4508 3: letters and a photograph, 1917-1920, concerning work of Mrs E M Cochrane-Shanks for the Scottish Women's Hospital, and order of Dr Elsie Inglis’ memorial service, 1917.

Acc.4714: Correspondence and papers, 1917-1942, of the Duchess of Atholl relating to the Scottish National War Memorial and Scottish Regimental Museum.

Acc.4981: Papers of Major F M Crumm, 1873-1955, consisting of correspondence, diaries and text of ‘Memoirs’ (with other non-military papers).


Acc.5705: Precis and photocopy of lecture by Admiral Sir Angus Cunninghame Graham, RN, ‘The submarine and anti-submarine war, 1914-1918’ delivered to the RAF Staff College, 1934; and photocopy of accounts of voyage to Murmansk, 1941.
Acc.5729: Diary and notes, of Miss Mary Stewart Richardson relating to nursing service in France, 1914-1915.

Acc.602:7 Letters to Chilton L Addison Smith, 1909-1936, mostly connected with the Seaforth Highlanders and other military interests.

Acc.6029-31: Notes and orders by C L Addison Smith, May 1917, in connexion with a raid on enemy trenches by the 2nd Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Acc.6029); Papers, 1917-1919, relating to his military service (Acc.6030); Papers, 1917-1919, relating to prisoners of war (Acc.6031).

Acc.6119: Copy of ‘Scottish soldier’, an autobiography of Major-General Douglas Wimberley.

Acc.6209: Photo album containing snapshots, 1907-1908, of ships and ships’ officers, harbours and coastal views during the voyage of the SS Vedamore, and diary, 1914-1915, of Lieutenant-Commander A. M. Thomson, RN, describing actions in Scapa Flow and the North Sea.

Dep.228: Diary of W H Wilson, A Battery, 55th Brigade RFA whilst in Egypt and Mesopotamia, 1915-1919.

Dep.233: Correspondence and papers, circa 1911-1970, of Major-General David M Murray-Lyon, including material relating to his career in France and India, and his command, 1941-42, of the 11th Indian Division in Malaya.

Acc.6318: Journals, 1916-1917, of Mary Lee Milne, describing service with a unit of the Scottish Women’s Hospitals in Russia and Romania, and her article ‘The Dobruja Retreat’, 1918.

Acc.6321: Photocopies of letters, 1901-1905, 1916, of John Crombie Matthew, Church of Scotland army chaplain in India, to his wife.

Acc.6592: Volume containing copies of letters, 1914-1917, of Captain James Bannerman Lorimer, Cameron Highlanders, mostly written from the Western Front.

Acc.6614: Letters, 1912-1914, of A W Trotter to his family concerning military training and the first weeks of the Great War.

Acc.7151: 13 letters, 1915-1919, of John Buchan to Frederick Britten Austin on military and literary matters.

Acc.7159: Collection containing copies of letters of Captain George Ross from Gallipoli, 1915.

Acc.7164: Account, 1977, of war experiences of Sgt W S Crow, 5th KOYLI, 1918, and two letters, 1944, of Sgt W R Crow, RAF, Indian Command, and some other unrelated items.

Acc.7276: Typescript copy of volume vi of ‘Scottish Soldier’ (consisting almost entirely of family letters), the autobiography of Major-General Douglas Wimberley, 1890-1945.

Acc.7380: Correspondence and papers of Major-General Douglas Wimberley used in his autobiography, 'Scottish Soldier', consisting chiefly of orders, reports, maps, lectures, war diaries with appendices and other papers, 1944-1945, relating to the operations of the 51st (Highland) Division in North Africa and Sicily, together with a smaller quantity of related post-war correspondence, and some papers, 1918, relating to the Division in the First World War.

Acc.7658, nos. 1-2: Letters of Stewart Angus, 1914-1916, and Archie Angus, 1916, to their parents David and Mary whilst on active service.

Acc.7660: Letters and cards to his mother from Private A. Raeper 1st Gordon Highlanders whilst at camp at Plymouth, 1913-1914, and a prisoner of war in Germany, 1914-15; and letters about his death in 1915.

Acc.7898: Negative microfilm of the diaries and letters, 1916-1924, of Dr Mary McNeill during war service in Salonika and Bulgaria.

Acc.7919: Account, probably of William Marshall Craig, CA, compiled c. 1923, of his experiences as a Royal Artillery Officer in the First World War in 1917.


Acc.8006: Five albums containing photographs, press-cuttings, letters and cards, military passes and other documents as well as various printed items, relating to the service of Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm with the Belgian Army Volunteer Field Ambulance Corps, 1914-1918.

Acc.8365, no. 37: Message of Archibald Philip Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery, to the 'troops at the front' during the First World War.

Acc.8371, no.1: Letters, 1909-1924, n.d., of George Dott to his family, mostly written during his service as a gunner in the First World War.

Acc.8371, nos. 3-4: Correspondence, 1909-1925, n.d., of Dott with Claude Henry containing letters written while Henry was serving in the King's African Rifles in the First World War.

Acc.8377: Typed copy of letter, 1915, of John M Cockburn, Sergeant, 23rd London Regiment, describing the Battle of Festubert.

Acc.8498: Collection of tunes for the bagpipe thought to have been put together by a Black Watch Private, circa 1916.

Acc.8542: Papers of C d’O Pilkington Jackson containing photographs of army activity in the Middle East, 1915-1918 (nos. 4-6); photographs of war memorials and figures, 1919-1931 (nos. 8-9); photographs of architectural work carried out on the Scottish National War Memorial (nos. 10-11); two posters from a series entitled 'The Enemy Watches. Do You?’ (no. 59).

Acc.8802, no. 4: Diary of R J B Sellar, December 1914 to March 1915, whilst on active service.

Acc.8835: Photocopy of 'At the Eleventh Hour', memoirs of the First World War by George Anderson, Glasgow.

Acc.8849: Diary, October 1916 to August 1917, of Lieutenant William A Henderson, 13th Royal Scots on active service on the Western Front.

Acc.8850: Photocopies of letters, written 1917-1918, by Eric Dott, concerning his experiences as a conscientious objector in Dartmoor prison during the First World War. The letters by Dott, aged 18 or 19 at the time, are to his father and his sisters.

Acc.8969: Papers, 1915-1919, of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles A C Gordon, RA, commanding 11th Siege Battery RGA.

Acc.9084: Letters, 1916-1918, of Donald Macleod, Minister of Inverness High Church, whilst an army chaplain, mostly on the Western Front, to his sister Nan (no. 7); letters, 1918-1919, of Kenneth Olaus Macleod, Minister of Caputh, during his service as a chaplain in France, to his sister Nan (no. 12); correspondence and papers, 1915-1919, n.d., relating to his service on the Western Front as Captain (and latterly Adjutant), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, including papers on the Ypres offensive, July 1917 (nos. 36-57).

Acc.9084, no. 11 Album of photographs, 1917-1918, taken on military service in Egypt and Palestine.

Acc.9339: Correspondence of, 1916-1917, two albums of press-cuttings, 1914-1917, and a privately printed memoir concerning of Lieutenant-General Sir David Henderson and the Royal Flying Corps.

Acc.9390: Letters of Angus Graham, son of Robert, of Skipness, to his sister Dorothy Vaughan Johnson, written whilst on active service in France and Egypt, 1914-1918.

Acc.9446: Letters and papers, 1916, of George Adam Smith, concerning visit to fleet in Orkney and proposed visit to army in France (no. 57); letters to Smith from Horace Wallace describing fighting in Swatow, 1917, from Jules Desseignet (formerly lecturer at Aberdeen University) in Salonika, 1917-1918, and others (no. 59); 9 letters to Smith from various correspondents relating to the War, 1914-1919 (no. 86); letters to Smith mostly relating to the First World War, 1914-1918 (no. 88); letters to Smith and Lilian Adam Smith mostly from family concerning outbreak of War in 1914 (no. 90); papers, including food cards, concerning food and fuel rationing, 1917-18 (no. 178); letters and papers concerning military service of George Buchanan Smith (killed at Loos, 1915) as 2nd Lieutenant Gordon Highlanders, 1914-1915 (nos. 197-215); correspondence and papers of and concerning Robert Dunlop Smith (killed in action in German East Africa, June 1917, Captain in 33rd Punjabis, Indian Army, 1912-1917 (nos. 323-91); letters of Alick D Buchanan Smith (Baron Balerno) including some letters from France, 1916-19 (nos. 392-5).

Acc.9511: Album containing 87 aerial photographs of a few places near the Western Front taken from German aircraft, 1917-1918.
Acc.9530: Correspondence, diaries and notebooks, 1914-1919, of James Naughton Dandie, MC, LLB, solicitor, Stirling, relating to his service as Lieutenatn (later Captain) in the 51st (Highland) Division (Artillery) in France.


Acc.9887: no. 17 C. 10 letters of and to O H Mavor ('James Bridie') on active services during the First World War 1914-1918.


Acc.9986: Collection, circa 1880-1920 containing material relating to the First World War.

Acc.10007: Correspondence and papers of Hugh Wallace Mann, Captain, Cameron Highlanders, 1911-1917, n.d. and his wife; correspondence and papers of their son and other members of their families, 1914-1922, 1929-1937, n.d.

Acc.10189: Album of photographs of nursing staff and some of the patients at 2nd Scottish General Hospital, Craigleith, Edinburgh, 1917, and some later snapshots including views in Egypt and Palestine on a voyage in the Eastern Mediterranean

Acc.10295: Letters, 1914-1918, of Robert Drysdale Smith to Charles Augustus Muir, describing his life and experiences in the Army during the First World War.

Acc.10430: Autograph fair copy, illustrated with photographs and marked maps, of diary 13 August 1914 to December 1918 of Major (later Major-General) A I Macdougall on the Western Front with the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers and later on the general staff of the 21st Division.

Acc.11006: Correspondence and related papers, 1916-1917, of Gertrude Susan, Lady Nicholson relating to adoption of and parcels to prisoners of war in Germany.


Acc.11136, no. 16: Volume containing typed copies of War poems, 1914-1917. **Owners permission required for consultation.**

Acc.11224, no. 1: Five letters of, and nine letters to F C B Cadell, 1915-1918, whilst on active service.

Acc.11460: Typescript copy of account of his experiences in the Battle of the Marne, 1914, by Lieutenant (later Colonel Sir) John G Crabbe, Royal Scots Greys.

Acc.11513, nos. 4-6: Letters and papers, 1917-1919, concerning the First World War.

Acc.11561: Letter, 1917, of Thomas Brown to James Ferguson, concerning the colours of the Highland Light Infantry and the memorial to Sir Thomas Reynell in Kinsale Church.

Acc.11627: Passes and permits of John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir in the Boer War, 1901-1903, and the First World War, 1915-1919 (no. 39); letter, 1915, of Stair Gillon 87th Brigade to, and papers 1918, n.d., probably by John Buchan on British naval and military achievements and related topics (no. 40); papers, 1917, of and concerning Brigadier-General Cecil Rawlings (no. 44).

Acc.11914: Two photos taken during the First World War.

Acc.12090: Photograph album compiled by Margaret Marx of the Scottish Women’s Ambulance Corps/Scottish Women’s Hospital, of their work in Romania and Russia, 1916-1917. With copies of documents relating to Miss Patricia Walker (later Orr).

Acc.12350/18: Typescript, circa 1975, of the First World War diary of Dr Robert L Mackay, 11th and later 1st/8th Battalions, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, September 1916 to January 1919.


Acc.12866: Album of sketches and postcards of James MacKay.

Acc.12889: Journal, 1916, of Lieutenant David Rutherford Adams, RAMC, while serving at 41st General Hospital, Salonika, Greece.

Acc.12987: Papers, notebooks and war time diaries, 1909-1964, of George Dott.