

Acc.11499  
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## **Inventory**

**Acc.11499**

**Major-General James Scott-Elliot**

National Library of Scotland  
Manuscripts Division  
George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1EW  
Tel: 0131-623 3876  
Fax: 0131-623 3866  
E-mail: [manuscripts@nls.uk](mailto:manuscripts@nls.uk)

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## **Papers, 1909-1995, of Major-General James Scott-Elliot.**

Major General James Scott Elliot (1902-1996) was born in 1902 in Charlton, Woolwich into a military family, his father being Lt Colonel W. Scott-Elliot DSO. Scott-Elliot was educated at both Wellington College and Sandhurst, and went on to have an impressive military career. This began when he joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers where he served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and India. During the Second World War, Scott Elliot was made Brigade Major of the 154th Brigade in the 51st Highland Division and sent to France where he contributed to battles in Lille and Le Havre. In 1942, he was then put in command of the 6<sup>th</sup> Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was awarded the DSO twice, his first being after the surrender of Centripe and his second during the 1943 landings at Termoli, both in Italy. After this he was promoted to command the 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade with whom he had a victory at Mozzagrunga. In 1943 he was sent to the west coast of Italy where he commanded the 167<sup>th</sup> (London) Brigade of the 56<sup>th</sup> Division.

After the war, Scott-Elliot took up a career as Deputy Director of Military Training from 1948-50. He then became Deputy Commander of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division and then Commander until he retired in 1956. Scott-Elliot then represented Caerlaverock on the Dumfriesshire County Council until 1961. He then served as Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire from 1962-1967.

Scott-Elliot was not just a military man but also had a variety of interests in other fields including history, archaeology and dowsing. He became President of the Dumfries & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, as well as President of the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland) between 1962 and 1967. He was the President of the British Society of Dowsers until 1976 and in 1977 Scott Elliot published his book, *Dowsing: One Man's Way*.

This collection comprises of photograph albums, letters and personal documents which chart Scott-Elliot's life, including his military career, up to his death in 1996. The papers have been ordered by Scott-Elliot himself and contain several personal accounts and stories of his life.

*Presented, 1997.*

1. Biographic folder covering Scott-Elliot's early life and military career including stories, newspaper clippings, maps and photos, 1909-1986. Includes contents list of the entire collection.
2. Timeline of Scott Elliot's life, 1902-1994.
3. Photograph album of Egypt, 1923-25.
4. Photograph album of Egypt and Hong Kong, 1925-1927.
5. Various royal and military event invitations and memorabilia, 1928-1986.
6. Notebook of Kumbawada and Pupa, February 1931.
7. Personal documents including account books, letters, newspaper clippings, confidential reports, photos and pamphlets, 1852-1967.
8. Articles and books on the psychology of soldiers in the British Army, 1943-1953.
9. Military newspapers, 8 May 1943-2 June 1946.
10. Annotated copy of the *History of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion 1939-47*, 1947.
11. Folder containing maps, letters, battle accounts and photos relating to Scott-Elliot's time in the army, 1857-1975.
12. Published talks and articles on dowsing (23), 1956-1991.
13. Published works on dowsing (20), 1957-1977.
14. A map, diaries and photos of excavations in Northern Africa, 1953-1968.
15. Folder containing a diary of archaeology in Africa, a list of published work and information on dowsing, 1970-1977.
16. Scroll of two air photo maps near Pesaro in Italy, Autumn campaign 1944.
17. Scroll of Scott Elliot family tree, 1987-90.