Inventory

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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 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was awarded the DSO twice, his first being after the surrender of Centrife and his second during the 1943 landings at Termoli, both in Italy. After this he was promoted to command the 17th Indian Brigade with whom he had a victory at Mozzagronga. In 1943 he was sent to the west coast of Italy where he commanded the 167th (London) Brigade of the 56th 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 51st 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.


4. Photograph album of Egypt and Hong Kong, 1925-1927.


8. Articles and books on the psychology of soldiers in the British Army, 1943-1953.


13. Published works on dowsing (20), 1957-1977.


16. Scroll of two air photo maps near Pesaro in Italy, Autumn campaign 1944.