

Summary Guide

Hirson Papers: Alcock Papers

IDENTITY STATEMENT

GB 101 HIRSON/ALCOCK ICS 3

Reference code

Title

Papers of Neil L. Alcock

Dates of creation of material

1974-1985

Level of description

Series

Extent

1 folder

CONTEXT

Biographical history

Neil Alcock was born in 1919 at Underberg, Natal. After war service, he became a farmer in Natal. In 1962, he founded Kupuqani, a national welfare organisation whose object was to increase the amount of South African food available to the country's African population. From 1967 until his death he devoted his life to helping Africans with rural agricultural schemes, developing agricultural training and encouraging African ownership, home industry and literacy. In 1967 he established a Church Agricultural Project among Zulu farm people at the Maria Ratschitz Mission farm in northern Natal. In 1975 he moved to another farm, Mdukutshani, in the Misinga district near Weenen in the Kwa Zulu 'bantustan'. Work at the farm, which included innovations to combat drought and pests, was described in regular newsletters from Alcock and his wife, Creina (Bond), a well-known writer on South African wild life and conservation. Alcock also acted as a representative of Africans in their dealings with white farmers and as a peace maker in local feuds. He died in an ambush on 28 September 1983 when returning with elders from a meeting he had organised to end fighting between factions.

Custodial history

The papers were collected by Baruch Hirson and deposited at ICS in 1986.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and content

N.L. Alcock, 'An Experiment in Agricultural Training' (1974); newsletters and reports from Mdukutshani, 1975-85; press cuttings regarding Alcock's death; programme for memorial service, 1983

System of arrangement

As above

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Access

Open, subject to the usual conditions

Copyright/copying conditions

Usual conditions

Language of material

English

Finding aids

A hard copy finding aid is available in ICS Library

ALLIED MATERIALS

Existence of copies

None

Directly related material at ICS

Relevant publications are available in ICS Library

Associated material elsewhere

None known

Publication note

NOTE AREA

Date of finding aid

c1986

Date of description

1997

Neil Alcock was born in 1919 at Underberg. He became a farmer in Natal, and also joined the Liberal Party. In the early 1960s he founded the national welfare organization Kupugani. From 1967-1975 he ran Church Agricultural Projects from a farm in Natal - but this was burnt down and Alcock forced to move. He settled on another farm "Mdakutshani" near Weenen, KwaZulu where he continued his training of Bantu farmers. Most of the papers in this collection are reports on Mdakutshani; also included are the press reports on Alcock's death in an ambush in Sept. 1983. They were presented by B. Hiron in 1986.

1. N. L. Alcock. An experiment in agricultural training. March 1974. 8p. Typescript.

2. Cyclostyled newsletters from Mdakutshani, March 1975 - Nov. 1977; April 1978 - Jan/Feb. 1981 [monthly]; 1981; 1982; April 1982; Sept-Nov. 1982; Nov. 1982; Dec. 1982 - Feb. 1983; March-May 1983; March, May, July, Aug. 1983; June-Aug. 1983; Sept-Nov. 1983; Mutwa and Albert, 1983; A meeting at the courthouse, 1983; Sept. 1983; The wind is invisible, 1983; March-May 1984; Jan. 1985; March-Aug. 1985; April 1985; No ordinary farm, n.d.; Shooting the wind, n.d.; A case of who cooked the cabbage, n.d. [individual issues].

3. Press cuttings re NA's death, including obituary from The Times, 4 Oct. 1983.

4. Programme for memorial service, Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban, 6 Oct. 1983.