

**Reference code:** GB165-0336

**Title:** David Smiley Collection

**Name of creator:** Smiley, David (b.1916)

**Dates of creation of material:** Feb 1958-Nov 1969

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1 box

**Biographical history:** SMILEY, David, b 11 April 1916, decorations include: LVC, OBE, MC and bar. Educated at National College, Pangbourne, and RMC Sandhurst. In 1936 he was commissioned into the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), and from 1940 – 1942 served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Household Cavalry Regiment in Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Cyprus and the Western Desert, and with 52 Middle East Commando in Abyssinia. In 1943 he volunteered for Special Operations Executive (SOE), and from 1943 – 1944 he parachuted into Greece and later Albania to work with guerrilla forces, transferring to Force 136 (SOE in Far East) in 1945 and parachuting into Siam to work with the Thai resistance movement where he helped to liberate the Ubon Prisoner of War camp. In 1946 he attended the Camberley Staff College. In 1947 he was appointed Assistant Military Attaché, Warsaw, Poland, and from 1949 - 1950 was seconded to MI6. From 1952 – 1955 he commanded the Royal Horse Guards, and from 1955 – 1958 was Military Attaché, Stockholm, Sweden. From 1958 - 1961 he was seconded to Oman as Commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces (CSAF), retiring from the Army in 1961 with the rank of Colonel. From 1962 – 1966 he served as the Military Adviser to the Imam of Yemen. He retired to live in Spain in 1966, returning to the UK in 1988. Mentioned in Despatches. Published works include: *Arabian Assignment* (1975), *Leo Cooper*; *Albanian Assignment* (1984), Chatto and Windus; *Irregular Regular* (1994), Michael Russell.

**Scope and content:** The papers relate to the late part of Smiley's career as Commander Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman, and consist mainly of correspondence between Smiley and colleagues, and the Sultan Said bin Taimur, and a report by Smiley on the Sultan's Armed Forces.

**System of arrangement:** The papers have been retained in their original file formats and listed in chronological order

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Smiley c1995

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman's military history in 1970s including:

- GB165-0327 Graham
- GB165-0328 Searle
- GB165-0333 Sultan's Armed Forces Association
- GB165-0337 Partington
- GB165-0339 McKeown
- GB165-0367 Murly-Gotto
- GB165-0399 Ashley
- GB165-0410 Hepworth

**In Other Repositories**

Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives (GB-99) at Kings College London: THWAITES, Brig Peter Trevenan papers (1926 – 1991). Thwaites was a Commander of the Muscat Regiment of SAF (1967 – 1970), and Chairman of the Joint Staffs (CJS), MOD (Oman), (1976 – 1978). The catalogue for this Collection is available online at:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lhcma/summary/th80-001.htm>

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and File level description created by C. Hughes 4 Sept 2000. Fonds level description revised by D. Usher 18 Dec 2008.

**FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE DAVID SMILEY COLLECTION**

- 1/1 *Report on SAF:* On the tenure of command of SAF by Smiley, written at the end of his term as Commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces (CSAF). The file also contains a short history of the SAF, and a field map from 1958.  
1958 – Nov 1969  
3 items
- 1/2 *CSAF Personal File:* General correspondence between Smiley and colleagues and friends. The correspondence relates to both private and official matters, mainly relating to the SAF. The file spans the final years of the time Smiley spent in Oman. The file contains a hand written note inserted at the time of deposit by Smiley. The note lists some of the surnames of the individuals who appear frequently in the correspondence and have signed only their first names.  
Feb 1958 - 14 Mar 1961 and n.d.  
253 items
- 1/3 *Correspondence:* Correspondence between Smiley and Sultan Said bin Taimur. The correspondence consists mainly of polite communications, updating the Sultan on the activities of the SAF.  
Jun 1958 – 18 Jan 1969  
38 items