

Reference code: GB165-0410

Title: Charles Hepworth Collection

Name of creator: Hepworth, Charles (b.1943)

Dates of creation of material: 1936-2009

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 5 boxes

Biographical history: Hepworth, Charles (b.1943)

Born 17 February 1943 in Quetta, Baluchistan, before the partition of India. Educated at Daniel Stewart's College (Edinburgh Merchant Company) and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). Commissioned into the King's Regiment in 1963. Served over nine years in the Middle East, including a short tour in Aden in 1967, the Sultanate of (Muscat and) Oman in 1970/71 and 1977/78 and the Kingdom of Sa'udi Arabia, with the British Military Mission to the Sa'udi Arabian National Guard (BMM to SANG), from 1981 to 1983. Attended Army Staff College (ASC) in 1975/76. Retired in the rank of major in 1986. Returned to Oman on contract service from 1986 to 1989. Employed as a Ministry of Defence (MOD) civil servant from 1990 to 2003. Married with two daughters. Fairly widely travelled in Arab countries. Retirement, since 2003, divided between the Yorkshire Dales and the Vendee, France. Interests include reading, much of it concerning the Muslim world, walking, travel and sport.

Scope and content: Papers relating to Charles Hepworth's service in the Sultan's Armed Forces during 1970 including a memoir 'A Walk on God's Carpet Adventures in Oman'; training materials including 'Field Notes on Saudi Arabia 1935'; papers relating to missions, speeches by the Sultan, propaganda leaflets and SAF bulletins. Also includes some maps of Southern Arabia, newspaper clippings and a small amount of correspondence about walking and mapping in Oman.

System of arrangement:

- 1 Memoir
- 2 Training Materials
- 3 SAF missions
- 4 Abdication of Sultan bin Taimur

- 5 Arms Armistice Notification
- 6 Speeches by Sultan of Oman
- 7 Propaganda Leaflets and Booklets
- 8 SAF Bulletins
- 9 Maps of Southern Arabia
- 10 Newspapers and Presscuttings
- 11 Booklets and Articles on the Arab World and Oman
- 12 Walking in Oman
- 13 Correspondence with UK Hydrographic Office

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: Mainly English with some Arabic material and a small amount of Urdu

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 Charles Hepworth on 8 March 2007. Revised and updated memoir received as a gift from Charles Hepworth on 17 June 2010.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman's military history in 1970s. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Oman for further information.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, file and item level description created by D. Usher 15 Mar 2007. Revised by D. Usher 17 June 2010. Some item level descriptions based on list prepared by Charles Hepworth. Biographical history supplied by Charles Hepworth.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARLES HEPWORTH
COLLECTION**

1 Memoir

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|-----|--|------------|-----------|
| 1/1 | ‘A Walk on God’s Carpet (Adventures in Oman)’ by Charles Hepworth giving an account of Charles Hepworth’s military service and travels in Oman 1970-1989 | 1970s-2006 | 1 volume |
| 1/2 | ‘A Walk on God’s Carpet (Adventures in Oman) by Charles Hepworth giving an account of Charles Hepworth’s military service and travels in Oman 1970-1989 revised and updated in 2009 including a separately bound ‘Part 4 Return to Oman’ | 1970s-2009 | 2 volumes |

2 Training Materials

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|-------|---|-------------|-----------|
| | Training materials covering strategy, historical background, language, weapons recognition, procedure for examining shell and mortar craters and information on the organisation and capabilities of the Armed Car Squadron | 1936-1982 | 6 files |
| 2/1 | <u>Operational Charter</u>
TS ‘Dhofar – Operational Charter and guide for officers of the Northern Frontier Regiment proceeding to Dhofar’ setting out strategic concepts for fighting in Dhofar.
Written by HQ, Northern Frontier Regiment, Bid Bid. | Dec 1969 | 37 sheets |
| 2/2 | <u>Historical Background</u> | | |
| 2/2/1 | TS text of speech entitled ‘The Question of Oman’ delivered to the United Nations by Mr CT Crowe, CMG, Deputy Permanent Representative In The Special Political Committee, On Wednesday, November 21, 1962. | 21 Nov 1962 | 11 sheets |
| 2/2/2 | Photocopy of TS ‘Short history of The Sultan’s Armed Forces’ by Lt. Col. CC Maxwell, Deputy | 20 Aug 1967 | 8 sheets |

	Commander, SAF		
2/2/3	TS 'Historical Background Brief – Revolution in Oman' giving a chronology of events from 1932 to Oct 1974	Not dated post 1974	7 sheets
2/2/4	Photocopy of 'A Short History of the 1963 – 1975 Campaign in the Sultanate of Oman', 16 Army Staff Course 1982, Restricted	1982	7 sheets
2/2/5	SAF Handbook for Staff College Students (Restricted) consisting of the following: Part I Historical Note Part II Organisation of SAF Part III The War in Dhofar Lang: In English and Arabic	Not dated post 1976	85 sheets
2/2/6	Duplicate of Part III The War in Dhofar in the Sultan's Armed Forces Handbook for Staff College Students	Not dated post 1976	22 sheets
2/2/7	Printed book 'Field Notes on Sa'udi Arabia 1935', Air Ministry (Confidential) includes map of Sa'udi Arabia printed at the War Office 1936	Aug 1936	1 vol
2/3	<u>Language Training</u>	1971	2 items
2/3/1	Booklet entitled 'Jebali for Jebel Bashers' printed and published by the Desert Regiment (Salala) giving language instruction with brief vocabulary lists and useful phrases	1971	1 booklet
2/3/2	List of 'Army Ranks in Arabic' Lang: English and Arabic	31 Aug 1971	2 sheets
2/4	<u>Enemy Weapons Recognition</u>		
2/4/1	Sultan's Armed Forces booklet entitled 'Know Your Enemy' briefly setting out the aim of operations in Dhofar, listing names of rebel leaders	20 Jan 1971	1 booklet

but mainly serving as a rebel weaponry recognition hand-book.

Lang: English and Arabic

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|----------|---|--------------|----------|
| 2/4/2 | TS memo from TAC HQ, The Oman Artillery HQ Dhofar, Salalah giving instruction on enemy weapons recognition, range and performance for 75mm recoilless rifle and ammunition (Heat) | 15 Sept 1971 | 3 sheets |
| 2/4/3 | Enemy Weapons Recognition drawings and diagrams

Admin Hist: Issued by Oman Artillery to all units in Dhofar | Not dated | 3 sheets |
| 2/5 | <u>Procedure for shell and mortar crater examination</u> | | |
| 2/5/1 | TS memo 'An Instant Answer to Arty Int' giving instruction on procedures for the examination of shell and mortar bomb craters in order to determine rebel gun positions

Admin Hist: Issued by Oman Artillery to all units in Dhofar | Not dated | 2 sheets |
| 2/6 | <u>Armoured Car Squadron</u> | | |
| 2/6/1 | TS memo 'The Armoured Car Squadron', issued by Armoured Car Squadron, SAF, Bid Bid giving details as to the organisation and capabilities of the proposed new squadron | 6 Aug 1971 | 5 sheets |
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| 3 | <u>SAF missions</u> | | |
| | Papers relating to SAF missions including intelligence on rebel capabilities, memo on Kuria Muria mission, regimental diaries, report on an engagement with rebels and a special force routine order giving thanks for work in operations to support the civil police in Muscat, Muttrah and Ruwi | 1970-1971 | 5 items |

- 3/1 Intelligence on rebel capabilities
- 3/1/1 TS Annex A to 'Op Instr No 2, Dhofar' giving details of the reported locations and estimated strength, weapons and activities of rebel units 3 Nov 1970 2 sheets
- 3/2 Kuria Muria Mission
- 3/2/1 Memo 'Visit To Kuria Muria' from HQ Dhofar Salalah, detailing planned mission to Kuria Muria to provide food and medical relief, to have 'political talks with the Headman' and to 'recce the airstrip' 6 Apr 1971 1 sheet
- 3/3 Regimental Diaries
- 3/3/1 Regimental Diary Northern Frontier Regiment Jul 1971 4 sheets
- 3/3/2 Regimental Diary Northern Frontier Regiment Aug 1971 3 sheets
- 3/4 Enemy Engagement Report
- 3/4/1 Contact Report No: 18, HQ Northern Frontier Regiment, Salalah with attached: Aug 1971 5 sheets
- MS of the PFLOAG version of contact from a Radio Aden Broadcast at 2100 hrs on 13 Aug 1971
- List of items captured by 'B' Coy NFR in result of contact
- Translation of captured letter
- 3/5 Special Force Routine order: Thanks to units
- 3/5/1 'Civil Disturbances, 1st to 2nd September 1971' Special Force Routine Orders by Brigadier JDC Graham thanking the officers and men of all the SAF and SOAF units who took part in operations to support the civil police in restoring order to Muscat, Muttrah and Ruwi 5 Sept 1971 1 sheet

Lang: In English and Arabic

4 Abdication of Sultan bin Taimur

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|-----|---|-------------|----------|
| 4/1 | Original signal received by 'B' Coy NFR, at Izki, at 1035 hrs on 26 Jul 1970, on the abdication of Sultan bin Taimur in favour of his son Qaboos | 26 Jul 1970 | 1 sheet |
| 4/2 | TS Proclamation by Sultan Qaboos Bin Said made under cover of HQ SAF, Bait al-Falaj and issued to all SAF units informing all ranks that their allegiance is to the Sultan, that the Dhofar Force has come under the command of SAF and the 'Sultan will enter Muscat in the near future' | 26 Jul 1970 | 2 sheets |

5 Arms Armistice Notification

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|-----|--|-----------|---------|
| 5/1 | Notification of 'Arms and Ammunition Armistice and Registration' for Nov 1971 to Jan 1972
Lang: In Arabic | 1971-1972 | 1 sheet |
|-----|--|-----------|---------|

6 Speeches by Sultan of Oman

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|-----|--|-------------|-----------|
| 6/1 | TS 'Transcript of a Statement by Jalalat as Sultan, broadcast over Radio Oman'
Admin Hist: Typed copy sent to all SAF units | 9 Aug 1970 | 4 sheets |
| 6/2 | TS 'Address given by HM Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Radio Oman, Muscat'
Lang: English, Arabic and Urdu | 23 Apr 1971 | 10 sheets |
| 6/3 | TS 'Address by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to the nation on the occasion of the first National Day'
Two copies of an English translation with the Arabic text attached
Lang: English and Arabic | 23 Jul 1971 | 3 sheets |
| 6/4 | Speech by Sultan Qaboos bin Said marking National Day at the Ministry of Information | 23 Jul 1971 | 1 sheet |

7 Propaganda

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|-----|---|----------|-----------|
| 7/1 | Leaflets covering governmental, war, health and agricultural propaganda some of which were designed for air drops
Lang: In Arabic | c1970 | 12 sheets |
| 7/2 | ‘Dhofar, Britain’s Colonial War in the Gulf. A Collection of documents and articles’. Edited and published by The Gulf Committee, Jan 1972.

Admin Hist: According to this booklet the Gulf Committee was established in May 1971 ‘to inform the British public of revolutionary struggles in the Gulf area’ and ‘to give evidence of Britain’ imperialist role in the Gulf...’ | Jan 1972 | 1 booklet |

8 SAF Bulletins

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|-----|--|--------------|----------|
| | News sheet published by Headquarters Sultan’s Armed Forces mainly giving information of successful SAF operations and progress in fighting although also including some details on SAF casualties
Lang: In English, Arabic and Urdu | Mar-Oct 1971 | 9 items |
| 8/1 | Serial No 17 | 3 Mar 1971 | 2 sheets |
| 8/2 | Serial No 20 | 28 Apr 1971 | 1 sheet |
| 8/3 | Serial No 21 | 15 May 1971 | 3 sheets |
| 8/4 | Serial No 23 | 10 Jun 1971 | 3 sheets |
| 8/5 | Serial No 23 [?misprint for 24] | 24 Jun 1971 | 3 sheets |
| 8/6 | Serial No 25 | 5 Jul 1971 | 2 sheets |
| 8/7 | Serial No 27 | 2 Aug 1971 | 1 sheet |
| 8/8 | Serial no 28 | 26 Aug 1971 | 1 sheet |
| 8/9 | Serial No 31 | 14 Oct 1971 | 1 sheet |

9 Maps of Southern Arabia

9/1	<u>Laila</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Series 1301, Sheet NF 38, Edition 4-GSGS, compiled by RGS, drawn by the War Office, 1943, printed 10-64 by Army Map Service Corps of Engineers.	1943	1 item
9/2	<u>Aden</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Sheet North D-38 Aden, 4 th Edition, 512 Fd Survey Coy, RE	1945	1 item
9/3	<u>Riyadh</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Series 1301, sheet NG 38, Edition 3-GSGS, Reprinted by AMS 1951 from a Second Edition MDR map	1945	1 item
9/4	<u>Mukalla – Socotra</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Series 1301, Sheet ND-39, Edition 4-GSGS, reproduced by 17 Map Reproduction Section RE, Aug 1945 with partial revision of Socotra	1945	1 item
9/5	<u>Bahr As Safi</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Series GSGS 4646, Sheet NE-39, Edition 1, Reprinted from First Edition, MDR, 1/12253, 1945 and Printed for D Survey (WO and AM) by Ordnance Survey	1956	1 item
9/6	<u>Qizan</u> Scale 1:1,000,000, Series GSGS 4646, Sheet NE 38, Edition 1-GSGS, Reprinted from First Edition, MDR 1/12284, 1945 and Reproduced by War Office	1956	1 item
9/7	<u>Duqm</u> 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 670-B, Edition 1-GSGS, Published By D Survey, War Office and Air Ministry	1958	1 item
9/8	<u>Sur, cross-country movement map</u> Scale 1:250,000, Series K563 S, Sheet NF- 40-8, Edition 1-GSGS, Published by D Survey, War Office and Air Ministry	1959	1 item
9/9	<u>Great South Desert</u>	1961	1 item

	Scale 1:1,000, 000, Sheet ONC-J-7, 1 st Edition, USAF Operational Navigation Chart, US Air Force, St Louis, Missouri		
9/10	<u>Salala</u> 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 670-D, Edition 3-GSGS, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1965	1 item
9/11	<u>Ash Shisar</u> Scale 1:5,000,000, Series 1404, Sheet 669-B, Edition 3- GSGS, Arabic and English, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1968	1 item
9/12	<u>Umm As Samim</u> Scale 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 563-D, Edition 1- GSGS, Arabic and English, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1968	1 item
9/13	<u>Al-Mariyah</u> 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 564-B, Edition 1-GSGS, Arabic and English, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1968	1 item
9/14	<u>'Ibri</u> Scale 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 563-A, Edition 1- GSGS, Arabic and English, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1968	1 item
9/15	<u>Dubayy (Dubai)</u> Scale 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 548-D, Edition 2- GSGS, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1969	1 item
9/16	<u>Marmul</u> Scale 1:500,000, Series 1404, Sheet 670-A, Edition 3- GSGS, Published by D Survey, MOD, UK	1969	1 item
9/17	<u>Oman Full Coverage</u> Scale 1:500,000 Admin Hist: Used as a touring map Physical Condition: Parts of the map are missing as they have been trimmed to fit a volume	post 1970s	1 vol

10 Newspapers and Presscuttings

	Small number of copies of the Omani newspaper 'Al Watan (The Homeland) and western media presscuttings	1970-1986	2 files
10/1	<u>'Al-Watan (The Homeland)</u> Admin Hist: 'Al-Watan was the first Omani newspaper following the accession of Sultan Qaboos. Printed in Beirut, Lebanon. Lang: In Arabic	1971	6 items
10/1/1	Issue no 4	18 Feb 1971	4 sheets
10/1/2	Issue no 5	25 Feb 1971	6 sheets
10/1/3	Issue no 7	11 Mar 1971	2 sheets
10/1/4	Issue no 9	25 Mar 1971	6 sheets
10/1/5	Issue no 10	1 Apr 1971	2 sheets
10/1/6	Issue no 24	5 Aug 1971	6 sheets
10/1/7	Fragment of internal pages	Not dated	2 sheets
10/1/8	Special issue on occasion of the First Anniversary of 23 Jul	[1971]	1 booklet
10/2	<u>Western Media Press Cuttings</u> Mainly consisting of articles about Oman, the Gulf, Saudi Arabia or Oil	1970-1986	16 items
10/2/1	'Requiem for the Empty Quarter' Geographical Magazine	Not dated c1970	6 sheets
10/2/2	'A jump of centuries A survey of the Arabian Peninsula' The Economist	6 Jun 1970	1 booklet
10/2/3	'Oil: Trouble of Wealth for the Arabian Dessert?' Daily Telegraph Magazine	23 Apr 1971	5 sheets
10/2/4	'Where British Soldiers Still Die Under a Foreign Flag', Observer, London	6 Jun 1971	4 sheets
10/2/5	The Arab World. A Daily Digest of Arab opinion, Political & Business News	5 Aug 1971	12 sheets
10/2/6	'Saudi Arabia'	14 Dec 1971	4 sheets

	The Financial Times		
10/2/7	'Bahrein'	16 Dec 1971	2 sheets
	The Times		
10/2/8	'Union of Arab Emirates'	21 Dec 1971	4 sheets
	The Times		
10/2/9	'Expedition to Unknown Musandam'	Nov 1972	4 sheets
	Geographical Magazine		
10/2/10	'Oman – Embarrassing the money lenders'	21 Apr 1973	2 sheets
	The Economist		
10/2/11	Photostat copy of 'Oman – problems on all sides',	15 Oct 1976	4 sheets
	Events		
10/2/12	'Oman'	17 Nov 1976	5 sheets
	Financial Times, Survey		
10/2/13	'Oman- a Special Report'	18 Nov 1976	6 sheets
	The Times		
10/2/14	'The City of The Profit' (The Hajj)	Not dated	4 sheets
	The Daily Telegraph Magazine	1970s-80s	
10/2/15	Photostat of 'Letters from London-The Ugly	Not dated	1 sheet
	Englishman'		
	consisting of a book review by Claud Morris of		
	the book		
	'Oman, the making of a modern state', by John		
	Townsend		
10/2/16	'Oman – March of Progress'	Spring 1986	1 booklet
	The Traveller		

11 Booklets and Articles on Arab World and Oman

11/1	Printed article 'Kingsmen in the Gulf', by Lt. Col. PR	1970	1 sheet
	Large from 'The Journal of the King's Regiment'		
11/2	'The Arabs', a handbook on the politics and economics of	1971	1 booklet
	the Arab World, edited by Ian Hoare and Graham Tayar,		
	Middle East Economic Digest and BBC		
11/3	'The Arab World', 16 boxed pamphlets on The League of	Not dated	16

Arab States and its 14 members plus Palestine, published by the League, undated. booklets

12 Walking in Oman

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|------|--|-------------|----------|
| 12/1 | Letter from M St.C. Baddely (Sultanate of Oman, Research Department) to Major Charles Hepworth giving a suggested route and timings for a walk Major Hepworth proposed to make over the Jebel Shams 'Route from al-Hamra to Murri, Jabal al- Akhdar', ORD letter dated 10 Jun 1977 and subsequent report (photostat copy of hand written report for typing). | 10 Jun 1977 | 2 sheets |
| 12/2 | Photocopy of a MS report with maps [by Charles Hepworth] giving corrections to maps following his walk from Jibal Shams to Jabal Al Akhdar | [1977] | 8 sheets |

13 UK Hydrographic Office

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|------|---|----------|----------|
| 13/1 | Correspondence with the UK Hydrographic Office and 42 Survey Engineer Group, regarding a correction to the 'Supplement to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Pilot' and Omani mapping | Jun 1998 | 6 sheets |
|------|---|----------|----------|