Reference code: GB165-0442
Title: Frank Edwards Collection
Name of creator: Edwards, Francis William (b.1931)
Dates of creation of material: 1946-2006
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical history: Edwards, Francis William (b.1931)
Born 12 February 1931 in Cardiff. Educated Aberdare and Aberystwyth (Ardwyn) grammar school. Price Davies scholar to University College of Wales Aberystwyth 1949. Commissioned Royal Corps of Signals 1953; saw service in Malaya, Germany, Catterick and Cyprus. Attended Staff College Camberley 1963 followed by two year tour as Intelligence Staff Officer to the Federal Regular Army of South Arabia. Took part in the Radfan Campaign and incursions into Wadi Rabwa. After a tour as a squadron commander in the strategic reserve (3rd Division) he retired. Final posting as Signals Advisor to Libyan Army, working daily with Captain (later Major) Gaddafi. Took Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) at Oxford University and taught in two schools in Yorkshire. Head of Rougemont School, Newport for fifteen years then of two smaller schools; first Independent Schools Director for Wales, retiring in 2000. Published ‘The Gaysh’ 2004. Has since had three murder mysteries published.

System of arrangement:
1. ‘The Gaysh’
2. Material from Aden service
4. Hugh Witherow documents and images
5. Promotion of ‘The Gaysh’ 2004
6. ‘The Gaysh’ publication and correspondence
7. Colonel Gadaffi
8. Obituaries
9. Newspaper articles relating to Aden

Access conditions: Open
Language of material: English, with a small amount of Arabic

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

Custodial history: In the possession of Frank Edwards
Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Frank Edwards in October 2008

Related Units of Description:
In MEC Archive
For other collections relating to military service in Aden:
GB165-0106 Paul Fletcher Collection
GB165-0156 William Ingrams Collection
GB165-0149 Richard Holmes Collection

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist
## SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE FRANK EDWARDS COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/1</strong></td>
<td>Original TS of ‘The Gaysh’ with some later additions made in 2003.</td>
<td>1969, 2003</td>
<td>235 sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2</strong></td>
<td>Photographs used in ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>c.1957-1965</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/1</strong></td>
<td>‘The Crescent, Steamer Point’ (p.115)</td>
<td>c.1960</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/2</strong></td>
<td>Brigadier Dereck Lister (p.135)</td>
<td>c.1957-1959</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/3</strong></td>
<td>The beginnings of Al Ihahad, the new capital of the Federation of South Arabia (p.147)</td>
<td>c.1960.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/4</strong></td>
<td>FRA Headquarters, Seedaseer Lines, Khormaksar, Aden (p.151)</td>
<td>c.1965</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/5</strong></td>
<td>Lt Col George Cole presenting a photograph of the Queen, on her birthday, to Ageed Nasr Bureik Aulagi MBE (p.158)</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/6</strong></td>
<td>Major F.W Edwards, Pte Greaney and Mul Ali Mohd Yaffai at Command post Hep Western Area, Thumier (p.161)</td>
<td>May 1964</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/7</strong></td>
<td>A ‘typical barracks inspection’ at Seedaseer Lines, Aden (p.159)</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/8</strong></td>
<td>FRA Armoured Car Squadron. ‘Green spot’, Dhala Road.</td>
<td>1964.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/9</strong></td>
<td>Brigadier Gordon Viner, Commander of FRA, with Sultan Fadhte bin Ali al-Abdali. (p.166)</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1/2/10</strong></td>
<td>South Arabian Staff College, Aden. Staff names Oct/Nov</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Material from Aden service

Material produced by the government for the military in Aden consisting of a map, language card, staff list and newspaper. Also containing photographs from Frank Edwards’ service in Aden including staff photographs and images of the Federal Regular Army (FRA).

2/1 Re-printed Map of Aden Protectorate, published by War Office in 1946 depicting the boundaries of and within the Protectorate, along with roads, air fields and contours.

2/2 Supplement of ‘The Gambia’ newspaper entitled ‘Courage at Danaba’ reporting on the ambush of 4 FRA company in the Rafdan area in March 1964. Also reports briefly on Federal and British awards, other military news relating to the Federal Regular Army in Aden. Written in English and transliterated Arabic on reverse side.

2/3 Printed Booklet ‘Government produced Short Monthly Staff List of Effective Appointments for Aden and the Federation of South Arabia’ including names, appointments and telephone numbers for staff.

2/4 Printed language card giving set phrases in English and transliterated Arabic for British Servicemen to use such as ‘Take me to the Political Officer and the Government will pay you a reward’.

©Middle East Centre, St Antony’s College, Oxford. OX2 6JF
Photographs originally in envelope labelled ‘Gaysh sp. Photos’. Photographs captioned or dated are listed, all others are without caption and date.

Access: The photographs are available for viewing via contact sheets.

2/5/3 Photograph ‘South Arabian Staff College Students’, taken in Aden. Staff names included on attached sheet.

2/5/6 ‘Water pump at Nisab, Upper Aulaqi Sultanate’

2/5/8 ‘Fadhli State: Working on a deflector at Al Makhzan, Abyan’

2/5/12 No caption 31 Aug 1958

2/5/13 No caption 20 Jun 1961

2/5/17 No caption 20 Jun 1961

2/5/18 ‘VCIGS arriving at headquarters Aden Protectorate levies with an escort of the camel troops’

2/5/19 British army officials and their wives. Caption on enveloping sheet naming most of those present. Printed card within enveloping sheet contains a satirical cartoon of military characters with caption ‘You don’t have to be very intelligent to guess the weight of this cake’

2/5/25 Photocopy of photograph of ‘South Arabian Staff College Students in Aden’ Staff names provided in caption beneath photograph

2/6 Photograph ‘Sultan Fadhte bin Ali al-Abdali, Minister of Defence, inspecting troops of the Federal Guard, Aden’ found with photographs used in book but not used in the book
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sheets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Attempt to publish ‘The Gaysh’ 1968-1969</td>
<td>1968 -1969</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence relating to Frank Edwards’ first attempt to publish ‘The Gaysh’, consisting of letters to and from publishers, The Ministry of Defence and Staff College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Letter from The Ministry of Defence to Frank Edwards providing clearance of ‘The Gaysh’, subject to specified changes</td>
<td>18 Jan 1968</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Letter from The Ministry of Defence to Frank Edwards relating to amendments to ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>7 Feb 1968</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Correspondence from Cassell and Company Ltd Publishers to Frank Edwards regarding ‘The Gaysh’, rejecting the possibility of publishing the book</td>
<td>3 Apr 1968</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Letter from Gale &amp; Polden Ltd to Frank Edwards, providing a quotation for publishing ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>5 Jul 1968</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Letter from Gale &amp; Polden Ltd to Frank Edwards relating to a quotation for publishing ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>17 Jul 1968</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Letter from Major General J.B Dye to Frank Edwards relating to ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>6 May 1969</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Photocopy of handwritten letter from Frank Edwards to RUSI relating to The Gaysh.</td>
<td>4 Oct 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>Letter from Royal United Service Institution to Frank Edwards offering publishing contacts for ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>7 Oct 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Letter from Staff College, Surrey, to Frank Edwards, accepting manuscript of ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>9 Oct 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Letter from publisher Leo Cooper to Frank Edwards relating to The ‘Gaysh’</td>
<td>13 Oct 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>Letter from Staff College, Surrey, to Frank Edwards relating to the manuscript of ‘The Gaysh’. Brief notes from Frank Edwards recording further progress</td>
<td>28 Oct 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Letter from Leo Cooper to Frank Edwards, returning manuscript of ‘The Gaysh’, rejecting publication</td>
<td>10 Nov 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Letter from Staff College, Surrey, to Frank Edwards relating to the publication of ‘The Gaysh’</td>
<td>18 Nov 1969</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Hugh Witherow documents and images c.1948-1958 20 sheets

Photocopies of photographs and one map relating to service in Aden, given to Frank Edwards by Hugh Witherow in 2004

4/1 Photocopies of photographs with captions of service in Aden taken by Hugh Witherow c.1948-1950, 1956-1958 19 sheets

4/1/1 Photocopy of two photographs, 1949, 1956 1 sheet
‘APL Camel Despatch Rider at Mani Gate, Lake Lines’ dated 1949
‘6 Squ 2APL on Garrison exchange – ‘Ataq Fort, ID (AC) 59 APL in support, Squaldr RJ Snashell MC RAF Rgt (OC 6Sqn), J.H Bore RAF Rgt (OC 10(AC)s APL) dated 1956

4/1/2 Photocopy of photograph titled ‘BF Aden’; ‘inspection of APL contingent by AM Sir John Dickson KCB MC DFC at parade on occasion of presentation of badge to headquarters BFA’. Men in image named underneath 1950 1 sheet

4/1/3 Photocopies of photographs titled ‘4 Sqn & 10(AC) Sqn Firepower Demo’. Containing 8 captioned images depicting stages of firepower demonstration by troops at ‘Sa’id, Aulaqui’ 1956 4 sheets

4/1/4 Photocopies of photographs titled ‘Air Support’. Containing 11 images of aircraft including ‘Meteors’ ‘Venoms’ ‘Pioneer’ ‘Valletta’ with destinations and locations stated 1957 2 sheets

4/1/5 Photocopies of photographs stapled together, each sheet containing separate headings, captions and dates 1956-1957 5 sheets
4/1/5/1 Sheet 1 titled ‘4 Sqn Operations’, showing 2 images ‘Flt Lt JH Witherar RAF Rgt at Beiham Camp’, first image with ‘Yuz Mohammed Sa’id Yafa’i (SAO Sqn)’ 1956 1 sheet

4/1/5/2 Sheet 2 titled ‘Khaura’ containing 6 images of Khaura including roads and ‘Fort Khaura’ 1956 1 sheet
4/1/5/3 Sheet 3 titled ‘Sa’id -‘Ataq’ containing 6 images of military operations including ‘convoy Sa’id to ‘Ataq’, and ‘composite view of Ataq airfield’

4/1/5/4 Sheet 4 titled ‘Sa’id – ‘Ataq, 2 images ‘Ataq fort’ and ‘2APL convoy’ with second heading ‘Beihan’ above 4 images of ‘composite views of Beihan camp’

4/1/5/5 Sheet 5 titled ‘Beihan’, containing 6 images, including ‘composite views of Beihan camp’, and ‘buildings used by officers’

4/1/6 7 sheets of photocopies of photographs stapled together under the heading of ‘2APL major convoy invasion via EAP to NE WAP’ c.1956 – 1963

4/1/6/1 Photocopies of photographs of ‘roads around Wadi Yeshburn’ Not dated 2 sheets

4/1/6/2 Photocopies of 5 photographs of ‘supply and support aircraft’ and 1 image of ‘road into EAP’ Not dated 1 sheet

4/1/6/3 Photocopies of 3 photographs with caption ‘en route to Timseh’ Not dated 1 sheet

4/1/6/4 Photocopies of 6 photographs under the heading ‘2APL Major Convoy Incursion into Timseh area via EAP’, including images taken of ‘Temple of Venns’ Not dated 1 sheet

4/1/6/5 Photocopies of 6 photographs under the heading ‘2APL Initial Show Convoy from Aden to Timseh, Via Wadi Yeshburn’, including images of Temple of Timseh 1956 1 sheet

4/1/6/6 Sheet containing 6 images of ‘Temple at Timseh’ Not dated 1 sheet

4/1/7 ‘Exercise Hot Rocks’ ‘Students Map P’. Map of Yemen 1963 1 map
with marked enemy formation/unit symbols.
Access: Map is large format, access is dependent upon
availability of space in the reading room

5
Promotion of ‘The Gaysh’ 2004
2004-2005 13 sheets
Material relating to the promotion of ‘The Gaysh’ prior to
its publication in 2004. Includes obituaries of ex Aden
servicemen, notes for a BBC interview, and
correspondence with publisher

5/1 Notes for a BBC Interview (Roy Noble Programme) c. Feb 2004 2 sheets
Tuesday 10th February 2004. Written by Frank Edwards
discussing ‘The Gaysh’, including his motives for writing
and an outline of book content, with handwritten
annotations

5/2 Clipping from magazine ‘Writers’ News’, containing May 2004 1 sheet
article entitled ‘forty years on’, abstract and content of
‘The Gaysh’ including quotes from Frank Edwards

5/3 Printed email correspondence addressed to Duncan Rogers 13 Oct 2004 1 sheet
of Helion Publishing from Peter Hinchcliffe pitching book
proposal about British Aden

5/4 Newspaper clipping from The Times, an obituary of 26 Oct 2004 1 sheet
Brigadier Paul Crook

5/5 Newspaper clipping from The Daily Telegraph, an obituary of Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs

5/6 Newspaper clipping from the Daily Telegraph, an obituary of 6 Dec 2005 1 sheet
Brigadier Gordon Viner

5/7 Newspaper clipping from ?The Times, an obituary of c.2005 1 sheet
General Sir Jeremy Blacker (d. March 2005)

5/8 Abstract of ‘The Gaysh’ produced by its publishers Not dated 1 sheet
Hellion & Company Limited

5/9 ‘Notes for a BBC interview (Roy Noble Programme) 10th February 2004. Frank Edwards describes his motives for
writing ‘The Gaysh’ followed by a ‘Biographical note’ on
Edwards
6 **‘The Gaysh’ publication and correspondence**

Correspondence surrounding the publication of ‘The Gaysh’ in 2004. Consisting of correspondence between Frank Edwards and ex-Aden servicemen, including a small collection of material related to service in Aden gathered by J.S. Agar for Frank Edwards.

6/1 Christmas card sent from D. Birtles of Stockport to Frank Edwards, bearing on the inside the A.P.L insignia. Found inside is newspaper clipping dated 14 October 2001 written by Lt Col James Nunn of Surrey referring to account of the beheading of a four man SAS patrol in the Yemen in 1965

6/2 Correspondence from David Birtles to Frank Edwards with reference to Helion showing interest in ‘The Gaysh’ and with tracing colleagues from the Army


Photocopy of reply from Frank Edwards to Hugh Witherow on reverse expressing thanks and highlighting typing error in published book, dated 13 March 2004

6/4 Letter from Alistair Cooke OBE to Frank Edwards expressing thanks for the sending of ‘The Gaysh’ as a gift

6/5 Letter from Hugh Whiterow to Frank Edwards regarding ‘The Gaysh’

6/6 Printed email from Michael Crouch addressed to Frank Edwards through Helion Publishers, relating to ‘The Gaysh’ and omissions from the book regarding the APL/FRA

6/7 Printed email correspondence from Richard Viner to 3 Apr 2004
Frank Edwards regarding ‘The Gaysh’ providing brief congratulations on the book

6/8 Letter from Frank Edwards to John Agar regarding source material from Yemen with reference to Peter Hinchcliffe 8 Apr 2004 1 sheet


6/10 Letter from Michael Crouch to Frank Edwards relating to ‘The Gaysh’ 24 Apr 2004 1 sheet

6/11 Printed Email Correspondence to Frank Edwards from Michael Crouch, of Perth, Australia, regarding recollections from time spent in service in Yemen 3 May 2004 1 sheet

6/12 Correspondence to Frank Edwards from Charles Lane, retired Colonel, regarding and praising ‘The Gaysh’ 17 May 2004 1 sheet


6/16 Handwritten Letter from Peter Hinchcliffe to Frank Edwards regarding Hinchcliffe’s manuscript ‘Aden Book The Military’ 28 Sep 2004 1 sheet

6/17 Letter from Frank Edwards to Peter Hinchcliffe regarding ‘Aden Book The Military’ 7 Oct 2004 1 sheet

6/18 Handwritten note by Frank Edwards regarding phone call from ?Desmond Plunkett, witness to a plane crash at Beihan 28 May 2006 1 sheet

6/19 1 sheet and 1 copy of photograph. Letter to Frank Edwards from David Gunn, ex-lieutenant in the Royal Navy, relating to tracing contacts from Aden. Reference to photocopy of photograph included of
wedding of Peter and Susan Cross in c.1961

6/20 Letter from Frank Edwards to David Gunn replying to correspondence relating to contacts in Aden. 12 Jun 2006 1 sheet

6/21 Letter from David Gunn to Frank Edwards thanking Edwards for information 16 Jun 2006 1 sheet

6/22 John S Agar letter and papers 1965, 2004, not dated 5 items

6/22/1 Letter from John S Agar to Frank Edwards with reference to Peter Hinchcliffe’s book and recollections of the British Army in Aden, sent with enclosures for the use of Frank Edwards 4 Apr 2004 2 sheets


6/22/3 Paper titled ‘Signal Arabisation, its problems and solutions’ written by Major J.S. Agar, Royal Signals, accounting problems with converting the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron to independence. Includes photographic illustrations with captions of signal officers at work Not dated 5 sheets

6/22/4 Clipping of news updates regarding British Army officers, including birth and marriage announcements. Reference to Frank Edwards leaving the Federal Regular Army for his new post at 3-Division. References to Major Agar and Corporal Crook Not dated 1 sheet

6/22/5 Clipping from ‘The Wire’, with the title ‘Achlan Wa Sahlan’ from Southern Arabia’, a page of pictures showing ‘something of the Jul– Aug 1965 1 sheet
activities of members of the corps serving
with the Federal Regular Army Signal
Squadron’ with captions provided

6/23 Handwritten card sent to Frank Edwards with regards to his moving house.

7 Colonel Gadaffi
Newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to Frank Edwards relationship with Colonel Gadaffi whilst in service in Aden

7/1 Newspaper clipping from the ‘County Echo’ Article titled ‘Arabian nights’ revisited in new book’ regarding publication of ‘The Gaysh’. Gives brief biographical details of Edwards and his encounter with Gadaffi

7/2 Newspaper clipping from Cambrian News. Article titled ‘Memories of life in Arabia and comrade Gadaffi’, recounting brief biography of Frank Edwards and his relationship with Gadaffi

7/3 Correspondence from Frank Edwards to Herbert Lloyd Williams. Regarding article written in The Western Mail about Edwards encounter with Colonel Gadaffi whilst adviser to Libyan signal corps, citing clarifications. Newspaper clipping attached from The Western Mail of the article titled ‘My Pupil, Muammar Gadaffi’ written by Daniel Davies, describing Frank Edwards relationship as ‘teacher’ to Gadaffi, annotated by Frank Edwards

8 Obituaries
Newspaper clippings of obituaries of ex-Aden servicemen

8/1 The Times Obituary of Major-General James Lunt, 5 Oct 2001 1 sheet

8/2 The Daily Telegraph Obituary of Wing Commander Bill Talbot b. July 10 1922. 9 Apr 2002 1 sheet


9 Newspaper articles relating to Aden

Newspaper clippings of articles relating to travel and politics in Yemen, with brief references to British Aden. Jun-Sept 3 sheets 2002

9/1 The Daily Telegraph article written by Peter Culshaw entitled ‘Sheba’s Secret World’. Account of travel in Yemen with specific interest in art history. Brief reference to British military presence 1839-1962 1 Jun 2002 1 sheet

9/2 T2 supplement of The Times ‘Out of Yemen, Al-Qaeda’s training ground’. Article sub-titled ‘The Cradle of Terror’. Illustrated Report on Al-Qaeda organisation of terrorist training camps in Yemen, including history of British Aden 17 Sept 2002 2 sheets