

Reference code: GB165-0328

Title: Pauline Searle Collection

Name of creator: Searle, Pauline (b.1922)

Dates of creation of material: c. 1968-1979

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 4 boxes

Biographical history: SEARLE, Pauline, b Liverpool 29 September 1922, nee Minter, journalist. Educated at Berkhamstead School for Girls and joined the Red Cross at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. She served on an ambulance train based in London and Southampton until the end of the war when she went out to India as a Voluntary Aid Detachment for eight months and worked as a part-time journalist on newspapers and for Radio Malaya. In 1955 she joined the Malayan Film Unit in Kuala Lumpur spending two years writing anti-Communist scripts and propaganda films for the Government. She went on to work in Japan, writing articles for a Malayan magazine, in Indonesia, where she wrote articles on Java, Bali, mountain climbing and sailing for Malayan magazines, in Nigeria, where she wrote for Radio Port Harcourt, and in Libya. She worked as a correspondent for Reuters in Oman from 1968 – 1977, also producing articles for local newspapers in Oman, working at the Mission hospital in Matrah, and helping to set up the first English speaking Radio station in Oman, Radio Oman, to help counteract the enemy station Radio Aden. On leaving Oman, she retired to Cyprus, but soon took up an appointment for a year in the Solomon Islands on an Asian Bank Project, building ferro-cement fishing boats and operating them to catch skipjack tuna. From the Solomon Islands, she joined the British Executive Service Overseas, working on assignments for them in Fiji, Montserrat in the West Indies, and twice in Swaziland. Searle is the author of *Dawn Over Oman* (1979). In early 1947 she married Geoffrey Searle an oilman who worked for Petroleum Development Oman and has two sons.

Scope and content: The papers cover the nine year period which Searle spent in Oman as a journalist for Reuters, relating mainly to the Dhofar war in southern Oman, which was ongoing during the time Searle lived there, and military operations connected with the war. A significant part of the papers relate directly to Searle's work for Reuters, and her communications with Reuters personnel in Bahrain and London. Other papers are working notes, and written articles created and collected by Searle in the course of her work. There

is a small amount of personal papers and printed material. Some of the materials look at the wider context of life in Oman for the local people.

System of arrangement: The papers are divided into three main series: papers created or acquired by Searle as a journalist in Oman; personal papers; and printed materials. The papers created or acquired by Searle, where the bulk of the papers lie, is divided into further sections: Reuters material; and other papers created or acquired by Searle. Most of the files were originally created by Searle, and these have retained their original order, which is mainly chronological. A small number of files have been created by the Archivist. These files are identified in the handlist.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English, small amount of Arabic

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 Pauline Searle in Dec 1999

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
- GB165-0333 Sultan's Armed Forces Association
- GB165-0336 Smiley
- GB165-0337 Partington
- GB165-0339 McKeown
- GB165-0367 Murly-Gotto
- GB165-0399 Ashley
- GB165-0410 Hepworth

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, series and file level description created by C. Hughes 21 Jul 2000. Fonds level description revised by D. Usher 18 Dec 2008.

**SERIES AND FILE LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE PAULINE SEARLE
COLLECTION**

PAPERS CREATED OR ACQUIRED BY SEARLE AS A JOURNALIST IN OMAN

Reuters Material

Box 1

- 1/1 *Reuters cables sent 1971 and 1972:* News sent to Reuters. Each new bulletin is numbered, corresponding to a list attached to the inside front cover of the file, giving the date and subject matter of each bulletin. The subjects covered by the cables focus mainly on the Dhofar war and military operations, with some mention of government activities.
9 Jan 1971 – Nov 1972
1 bundle
- 1/2 *Reuters cables and telexes sent 1973:* News sent to Reuters. Some of the news bulletins are numbered and correspond to a list at the beginning of the file, giving the date and subject matter of each bulletin. The subjects covered by the telegrams focus mainly on the Dhofar war and military operations, with some coverage of government activities, and civilian life in Oman.
c. Jan 1973 - 18 Nov 1973
1 bundle

Box 2

- 2/1 *Reuters:* Correspondence with Reuters in Bahrain and London. The papers reflect the difficulties experienced by Searle in getting news out of Oman, and her relationship with Reuters as their journalist in Oman.
30 Jun 1971 – 22 Aug 1974
1 bundle
- 2/2 *Reuters 1974:* Type scripts of news reports sent to Reuters by Searle. The file also contains press releases; some military communiqués used as working material by Searle and some correspondence with Reuters.
7 Feb 1974 - 18 Aug 1974
1 bundle
- 2/3 *Newspaper Articles:* Reuters by-lines, two articles written by Searle about the Dhofar war.
n. d.
2 items

Other Material

Box 3

- 3/1 *Musandam*: Gulf Mirror article written by Searle and type scripts of the article in various stages of completion. The file also contains background information on Musandam (the Northern tip of Oman), and papers relating to a visit made by Searle to Musandam. The papers in this file were used by Searle in the composition of her book *Dawn Over Oman*.
1972 – Oct 7 1973
17 items
- 3/2 *SAF*: Military communiqués, compiled by the HQ SAF and sent to the Defence Department in Oman for validation. The Defence Department then passed them to the Ministry of Information in Oman who then made the information available to the public and the press. The communiqués give basic factual information about the war in Dhofar. The file also contains correspondence between Searle and SAF personnel regarding articles written by Searle, and some background information in the form of newspaper cuttings on the war in Dhofar.
25 May 1972 – 8 Oct 1974
1 bundle
- 3/3 *Material Created by Searle*: File created by Archivist. Materials created by Searle in the course of her work as a journalist in Oman. The file contains an audiotape, articles, and a television interview. Subjects covered are: the arrival of Sultan Qaboos bin Said in Muscat in June 1970 after the coup; the new generation of Omani businessmen in 1972; the Dhofar war; and the threat of Communism in Oman. Four photographs that belong with a Gulf Mirror newspaper cutting of 15 Dec 1974 are stored separately.
c. June 1972 – 1976.
1 item
- 3/4 *Material Acquired by Searle*: File created by Archivist Papers acquired by Searle in the course of her work as a journalist in Oman. The file contains: press briefs about the Dhofar war; information about SAF structure; maps of Oman; four business cards collected by Searle from colleagues; a letter about Searle's book *Dawn Over Oman*; and a collection of photographs reflecting native life in Oman (stored separately). Two of the photographs appear in Searle's book.
27 Sep 1977 – May 1978
7 items
- 3/5 *Dawn over Oman*: Book written by Searle based on her experiences in Oman. The book gives a tour of the country from the Northern Musandam peninsula to Dhofar in the south describing the local people and culture, arts and history.
Published by George Allen & Unwin, London, 1979
1979
1 item

PERSONAL PAPERS

Box 4

- 4/1 *Diary samples*: Sample diary entries from the early years of Searle's time in Oman. Searle has copied the entries in typescript from the original diaries. The entries give a personal account of Searle's life in Oman covering her initial reactions to the

country, social life, the coup of 1970 and local reactions, her work with Radio Oman, and her work at the Mission hospital in Matrah.
c. 1968 – 1970

2 items

PRINTED MATERIALS

4/2 *Omani Publications*: Booklets, covering Agriculture and Fisheries in the Sultanate of Oman, and the Gulf Hotel (document in Arabic).
c. Late 1970s

2 items