

Reference code: GB165-0400

Title: Alex Lamond Collection

Name of creator: Lamond, Alex W.

Dates of creation of material: 1969-1977

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 3 boxes

Biographical history: Lamond, Alex W.

Alex Lamond served in Oman initially with 2 Company, the Desert Regiment and then as Intelligence Officer from 1970-1972. Alex Lamond never married and died in a car accident in South Africa. Further details unknown.

Scope and content: Papers and photographs mainly relating to Alex Lamond's service in Oman between 1970-1972 including administrative papers on training of Desert Regiment soldiers and planning of various Desert Regiment operations. There is also some material relating to the visit of Major General M Janes MBE, Director Royal Artillery to the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Oman Artillery, as well as a script of the BBC broadcast 'Guerillas in the Persian Gulf', including comments, and newspaper and magazine articles.

System of arrangement:

1. Training
2. Diaries
3. Operations
4. Maps
5. Memos and correspondence
6. Desert Regiment Move
7. Visit Programme
8. Photographs
9. Media

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Custodial history: In the possession of the partner of Alex Lamond before she passed the collection to Ian Buttenshaw

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Ian Buttenshaw in June 2006

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

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

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and file and item level description created by Els Boonen, June 2013

**SERIES, FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE ALEX LAMOND
COLLECTION**

1 Training

- Papers relating to the orientation and training of soldiers, 1969-1972 1 file
including an Officers' Guide, a history of Sultan's Armed Forces, Arabic language training, Desert Regiment Standard Operating Procedures, recognising and reporting on enemies, reading air photographs and erecting bunkers
- 1/1 Officers' Guide 24 May 1970 3 sheets
Instructions entitled 'Guide to Offrs and Special Instructors serving in SAF', written by G.C. Maxwell, Colonel Deputy Commander SAF, to assist those who will command Arab and Baluch troops while serving with the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman. The guide, issued to new arrivals, comprises of 12 instructions and some 'potted hints' that aim to assist officers 'to recognise the essential differences between themselves, Arabs and Asians and the degree of flexibility required by officers to teach the standards and discipline of the British Army and at the same time foster a close and mutual understanding'. Published in Bait al Falaj (Muscat) plus 1 covering note
- 1/2 History of Sultan's Armed Forces Nov 1969 7 sheets
Printed summary entitled 'Short History of the Sultan's Armed Forces', including a detailed description of Oman, Dhofar and British political relations with Oman, published in Bait al Falaj (Muscat)
- 1/3 Arabic Language Training Not dated 1 booklet
Booklet entitled 'Awful Arabic', prepared by the Desert Regiment, including descriptions of habitual practices in Oman and basic Arabic vocabulary

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|-----|---|----------------------|--|
| 1/4 | <u>Desert Regiment Standard Operating Procedures Part II</u>
Booklet entitled 'The Desert Regiment Standard Operating Procedures Part II', comprising Standard Operating Procedures 21-39 (SOP 21-39). SOP 21-39 includes procedures such as Weapon States of Readiness (SOP21), Equipment Weights (SOP 28) and Flash to Bang Range Table (SOP 36) | Apr 1972,
revised | 1 booklet |
| 1/5 | <u>'Know Your Enemy'</u>
Captain A.W. Lamond's copy of Sultans Armed Forces booklet entitled 'Know Your Enemy' including information on what enemy weapons look like and names of the principal enemy leaders | 20 Jan 1971 | 1 booklet |
| 1/6 | <u>Reporting Soviet Military Mission Cars</u>
SOXMIS Card (Soviet Military Mission) with instructions on how to recognise and report a sighting of a Soxmis car | 28 Aug 1969 | 1 item |
| 1/7 | <u>Reading Air Photographs</u>
Internal Sultan's Armed Forces brief compiled by the Intelligence Department on air photographs and how to read them | 27 Oct 1971 | 8 sheets
plus 1
covering
note |
| 1/8 | <u>Erecting Bunkers</u>
Manual entitled 'Bunker Warfare School Corps Provisional Instructions for the Regimental Hole Type 1' for erecting bunkers with OHP [?Overhead Protection] for 3 men within 48 hours
Related material: Duplicate of 1/9 and also in file 3/2/1 'Operation Simba' | 25 Mar 1972 | 4 sheets |
| 1/9 | <u>Erecting Bunkers</u>
Manual entitled 'Bunker Warfare School Corps Provisional Instructions for the Regimental Hole Type 1' for erecting bunkers with OHP [?Overhead Protection] for 3 men | 25 Mar 1972 | 4 sheets |

within 48 hours

Related material: Duplicate of 1/8 and also in file 3/2/1 'Operation Simba'

2 Diaries, 1969-1970

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|-----|--|-------------------|---------|
| | Diaries consisting of Alex Lamond's experiences, thoughts and comments on his life as a Desert Regiment Intelligence Officer | 1969-1970 | 2 vols. |
| 2/1 | <u>Diary</u>
Alex Lamond's personal account of daily activities during the planning stages and execution of Operation Alice | 1 Apr-22 Apr 1970 | 1 vol. |
| 2/2 | <u>Diary</u>
Alex Lamond's scheduled appointments, visits and annual leave, also includes birthday reminders and personal accounts of life in the Desert Regiment | 1969-1970 | 1 vol. |

3 Operations

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|-------|--|-------------|-----------|
| 3/1 | <u>General Operations</u>
Papers relating to planning and execution of various Desert Regiment operations, including Alex Lamond's personal reflections on the operations | 1970-1972 | 1 file |
| 3/1/1 | <u>Planning and Execution</u>
File, labelled 'IO' [Intelligence Officer], including papers relating to the planning and execution of various operations such as Operations Alice, Lion, Leopard, Sandcastle and Simba. Also includes a list of 'Topographical Names - Dhofar', which provides an authorised list of place names
Arrangement: In original order | 1970 – 1972 | 71 sheets |

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|------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 3/1/2 | <u>Intelligence</u>
Notebook labelled 'IO DR' [Intelligence Officer Desert Regiment] containing carbon copies of letters, notes and reports written by Alex Lamond | 7 Oct 1971 -
7 Feb 1972 | 1 vol. |
| 3/1/3 | <u>Operations details</u>
Booklet entitled 'Operations' comprising Alex Lamond's handwritten notes on operations, enemy attacks and bombardments, casualties and operation nicknames | Oct 1971-
Dec 1971 | 1 vol. |
| <u>3/2</u> | <u>Operation Simba</u>
Papers relating to plans of the Sultan's Armed Forces for the capture of a position codenamed 'Simba' at Sarfait near the border with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), including general outline and concept, planning photographs, sketch map and request forms | 1972 | 2 files |
| 3/2/1 | <u>Plans</u>
File, labelled 'Operation Simba April 1972'.
Papers relating to plans for the capture of a position codenamed 'Simba' at Sarfait near the border with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, including summaries of movements, outline for phase 1-3, maps, manual entitled 'Bunker Warfare School Corps Provisional Instructions for the Regimental Hole Type 1' and training requirements for future operations
Arrangement: In original order
Related material: See also 1/8 and 1/9 'Bunker Warfare School Corps Provisional Instructions for the Regimental Hole Type 1'
Related material: See also 3/2/2 for duplicate of 'Op Simba | Mar 1972-
Apr 1972 | 61 sheets,
2 maps |

– General Outline and Concept?

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| 3/2/2 | <u>General Outline and Concept</u>
Plans entitled ‘Op Simba – General Outline and Concept’ giving an overall outline plan for Dhofar and the general outline of Operation Simba to orient the recipients before recce and initial orders. Also includes the Operation Simba mission statement (to prevent permanently all movement whatsoever between PDRY and the Sultanate South of the 50 Northing)
Related material: See also 3/2/1 for duplicate of ‘Op Simba - General Outline and Concept’ | 31 Mar 1972 | 4 sheets |
| 3/2/3 | <u>Planning photographs</u>
Planning photographs for Operation Simba, some with annotations and captions
Arrangement: In original order
Access: Please note planning photographs stored separately | Not dated
[1972] | 15 b/w
photos |
| 3/2/4 | <u>Sketch map</u>
Sketch map for Operation Simba (original map and photocopy) | Not dated
[1972] | 2 items |
| 3/2/5 | <u>Forms</u>
‘Simba Request Form’. Three blank request forms for requirements such as food and water, armaments and goats for Operation Simba (1 original, 2 copies) | Not dated
[1972] | 3 sheets |
| 3/2/6 | <u>Lists</u>
Series of lists relating to Operation Simba Phase 2 including details fire units and grid coordinates | Not dated
[1972] | 1 sheet |
| | 3/2/6/1 List entitled ‘Of List Phase Two of Simba’, including details fire units, | Not dated
[1972] | 1 sheet |

target numbers and grid coordinates

3/2/6/2 Series of lists entitled 'Ops Simba Of List No 2' including details of fire units with grid coordinates possibly relating to positions for mortar fire

Not dated [1972] 6 sheets

4 Maps

	Series of maps of Oman and areas in Oman where the Desert Regiment Operations took place	1969, not dated	8 items
4/1	Map of Muscat and Oman	May 1969	1 item
4/2	Map of Dhofar, annotated grid references for area around Mirbat	Not dated	1 item
4/3	Map labelled 'Salalah', second largest city in Oman, annotated grid coordinates round Al Kathir	Not dated	1 item
4/4	Map of southern provinces Zufar and Dhofar, including annotations and location Adoo Training Area	Not dated	1 item
4/5	Map of southern provinces Zufar and Dhofar, including annotations	Not dated	1 item
4/6	Map of southern provinces Zufar and Dhofar, including annotations	Not dated	1 item
4/7	Map labelled 'Sarfait/Simba Area Before Occupation' plus separate list of grid coordinates	Not dated	2 items

5 Memos and Correspondence

	Memos relating to Desert Regiment's presence in Oman and correspondence from Allah Din to Alex Lamond	1970	4 sheets
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5/1	<u>Memos</u>	1970	3 sheets
	Memos relating to Desert Regiment's presence in Oman		
5/1/1	<u>Memo</u>	25 Apr 1970	1 sheet
	Memo relating to the Jebali, mountain people of Southern Oman, being banned from Salalah and the consequence that they be recruited by the rebels		
5/1/2	<u>Memo</u>	16 Jun 1970	1 sheet
	Memo outlining issues relating to air support for SOAFTAC (Sultan of Oman's Air Force) from the RAF (Royal Air Force) on Sundays		
5/1/3	<u>Memo</u>	Not dated	1 sheet
	MS message with updates on positions under command of SAF, curfews and road blocks		
5/2	<u>Correspondence</u>	30 Dec 1970	1 sheet
	MS letter from Allah Din to Alex Lamond		

6 Desert Regiment Move

6/1	File containing papers relating to plans about the logistics of the move of the Desert Regiment to Akoot (Dhofar) and relating to the handover of Rostaq camp, including account of actual movements and arrivals at Akoot	19 Aug 1971- 10 Oct 1971	24 sheets
	Arrangement: In original order		

7 Visit Programme, 1972

7/1	Booklet comprising programme of visit of Major General M Janes MBE, Director Royal Artillery to the Sultan's Armed Forces and the Oman Artillery	12 Mar 1972- 14 Mar 1972	1 vol.
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8 Photographs

8/1	Photographic album labelled 'Capt Lammond' containing 134 photographs (117 colour and 17 black and white photographs and 35 negative strips), includes images of desert scenes, battle ships, desert camps, aerial photographs, helicopters and drop off locations. The photographs do not have any original captions	Not dated	134 photographs (117 colour, 17 b/w), 35 negatives strips
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9 Media

	BBC television script and newspaper and magazine articles relating to Oman	1969-1977	1 file
9/1	<u>BBC Television Script</u> Script of to the BBC broadcast 'Guerillas in the Persian Gulf' transmitted on 10 July 1969, including comments on the broadcast by D.J. McCarthy, Head of the Arabian Department of the Foreign Office, and an article about the broadcast from the 'Fleet Street Newsletter'. Script, comments and article selected at the Desert Regiment Headquarters for internal and external distribution (two copies)	3 Aug 1969	2 x 12 sheets plus 1 covering letter
9/2	<u>Newspaper and Magazine Articles</u>	1969-1977	18 sheets, 2 items
9/2/1	Translation of an article entitled 'Revolt of the Slaves', published in the German magazine 'Stern'. According to the authors of this article, Gordon Troeller and Claude Deffarge, the rebels referred to the conflict in Dhofar as 'the revolt of the slaves' at the time	3 Aug 1969	5 sheets
9/2/2	Extract from 'Daily Express' article 'Desert Britons in Sultan's Army'	12 May 1972	1 sheet

9/2/3	Extract from 'The Times' article on the Sultanate of Oman's offensive to secure control of the region	12 May 1972	2 sheets
9/2/4	Article entitled 'Sultan set to crush Oman rebels' by Paul Martin, published in 'The Times'	15 Feb 1971	1 sheet
9/2/5	Press cuttings relating to Oman and Yemen, newspapers not stated	c. 1971	2 sheets
9/2/6	Copy of the 'Daily Telegraph Magazine', including the article 'Oil: Trouble or Wealth for the Arabian Desert?' by John Bulloch	23 Apr 1971	1 item
9/2/7	Copy of the magazine 'Soldier', including the article 'Sappers and Sultan's Men Cement the Peace' by John Walton	May 1977	1 item
9/2/8	Article entitled 'The Rise and Fall of Arabia Felix' by Gus W. Van Beek, published in [Scientific American]	Dec 1969	6 sheets
9/2/9	Photocopy of article entitled 'Britons lead Sultan's thrust against rebels', by Paul Martin	11 May, c. 1971	1 sheet