

Reference code: GB165-0411

Title: Helen Lotbinière Collection

Name of creator: Lotbinière, Helen Ruth Mildred Joly de (1912-1953)

Dates of creation of material: 1939-1941

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 volume

Biographical history: Lotbinière, Helen Ruth Mildred Joly de (1912-1953)

Born in 1912, the daughter of H.T. Ferrar (the New Zealand geologist on Scott's first expedition to the Antarctic). Married Captain (later Lt-Col) Sir Edmond Joly de Lotbinière in 1937. Edmond Joly de Lotbinière was an ex-Indian Army officer turned City businessman when he was called up in 1939 to serve in Aden. Helen joined him in Aden and was employed part time in classified registry work for the Royal Air Force. Edmond was involved in special operations directed against the Italians in Somalia where he was later posted. Helen was friends with Freya Stark and Stewart Perowne with whom Helen and Edmond travelled to Dhala (on the border with northern Yemen) in Dec 1939. Helen and Edmond were also close friends with Antonin Besse. Helen died of TB in 1953.

Scope and content: Volume entitled 'Scrap Book Eddie and Helen de Lotbinière' containing TS extracts from letters, diary entries and latter accounts by Helen de Lotbinière describing the struggle to join her husband in Aden and her life and work in Aden from Oct 1939-Mar 1941. Also includes photographs, letters, pressclippings, Christmas dinner menu for 1940, identity card and special permit to enter vulnerable areas.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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Custodial history: In the possession of Helen Lotbinière

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Virginia Forbes (niece of Helen Lotbinière) on 17 April 2007

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

Stewart Perowne and Freya Stark were friends of Helen Lotbinière and knew her in Aden

GB165-0228 Stewart Perowne

Freya Stark Photographic Collection

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by D. Usher 17 April 2007. Biographical information based on information provided by John Shipman and the entry in Who Was Who for Lt-Col Sir Edmond Joly de Lotbinière.