

Reference code: GB165-0453

Title: Derek Kent Collection

Name of creator: Kent, Derek Frederick John (b.1925)

Dates of creation of material: 1943-1946, 1993

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 file (6 items)

Biographical history: Kent, Derek Frederick John (b.1925)

Born 13 Aug 1925 on the Isle of Wight. Attended Shanklin Church of England School, left at age 13. Then employed as a messenger in the full time Civil Defence and became a dispatch rider in 1941. Called up for Army service on 6 Oct 1943. Served as an RA gunner on 400mm Bofors anti aircraft guns during the flying bomb (doodle-bugs) onslaught in the summer of 1944 on the Romney Marshes. Then served in Lebanon, Greece, Palestine and Egypt. Resumed as a despatch rider seconded to the Provost Company in Lebanon and Palestine and 252 Intelligence Corp where he had several encounters with the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang. Served as a gunner dispatch rider to Sergeants Marvin Paice and Clifford Martin in Palestine, on loan from the 14th Royal Horse Artillery. Left Palestine in Jul 1947 and demobilised in Oct 1947. Rejoined the Territorial Army after being on the reserve. Worked as District Gardens Superintendent for the National Health Service, Isle of Wight District from 1968 until retirement in 1990.

Scope and content: TS of an unpublished book 'A Ship for an Ikon' completed by Derek Kent in 1993 giving an account of an investigation in Lebanon and Palestine of a White Russian Count's involvement in aiding illegal Jewish immigration from Europe to Palestine in 1945-1946; TS 'Death in a Eucalyptus Grove - 30 July 1947' giving an account of the kidnapping and hanging of Sergeants Paice and Martin. Also includes a photocopy of the letter informing Derek Kent that he had been called up for military service in 1943, a photocopy of a photograph showing Derek Kent with the truck he drove from Beirut in the operation described in 'A Ship for an Ikon', a photocopy of a Christmas dinner menu 1946 and a photocopy of a letter informing Derek Kent that he had been awarded the GSM & Clasp Palestine.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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 Derek Kent as part of the Palestine Veterans Association and Palestine Command Collections on 16 Jan 2009 and 23 Jan 2009

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by D. Usher 20 Jan 2009 and revised 26 Feb 2009. Biographical history based on information supplied by Derek Kent.