

Reference code: GB165-0524

Title: Laurence Billingsley Collection

Name of creator: Billingsley, Laurence (b.1927)

Dates of creation of material: 1946-1948

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 11 items

Biographical history: Billingsley, Laurence (b.1927)

Born 30 Oct 1927 at Hamlet Island Pool near Cookley, Kidderminster. Attended Cookley School, at the age of 12 went to work on farm because the farm hands had joined the forces. School only in bad weather, left at age 14. Called up in Nov 1945. Trained at Perth Barracks, Scotland. Sent to R.A.S.C. Mansfield driving school, then to Systan trained for air despatch and the Thetford Transit camp. Sent to Palestine through the Medlock Route to Gaza to 398 Company RASC 6th A/B Division. Parachute Course in June 1946 in England and then back to my Company. Moved to Camp 80 Hadera and Para Refresher Course. Moved to Mount Carmel 6th A/B Division Headquarters Camp Stella Maris. Same billet as Corporal Hands who was shot in the back Jan 1948. Left Palestine (Haifa) April 1948. Demobbed Aug 1948. Worked in steel works, drilling for water or coal. Tanker Driver (Shell) for 25 years; N.H.S. (National Health Service) for 10 years. Retired.

Scope and content: Postcard and photographs from Laurence Billingsley's Army Service in Palestine, 1946-1948, including a postcard of the troop ship M.V. Dunnottar-Castle, photographs of Army camps, fires at Peninsula Barracks and the oil refinery in Haifa, the funeral of Corporal Hand and the hanging of Sergeants Martin and Paice by the Irgun in August 1947. Also includes a photographic reproduction of a propaganda leaflet from the A.M.O addressed 'To the British Members of the Palestine Police and to the members of his Majesty's Forces' and a Gold Star beer bottle label.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Physical Condition: Contact sheets are available for viewing the photographs

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns. Copyright in the photographs taken by Mr Billingsley has been assigned to the Archive.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Laurence Billingsley on 11 Feb 2011

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and item level description created by Debbie Usher 13 Dec 2011.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE LAURENCE
BILLINGSLEY COLLECTION**

1 Photographs

Original captions provided by Laurence Billingsley

- 1/1 Postcard with the printed caption 'M.V. Dunnottar-Castle'
Troop Ship Toulon to Port Said
- 1/2 Hadera. Camp 80
- 1/3 Camp Stella Maras
- 1/4 Fire at Peninsula Barracks, Haifa, Palestine 1947-1948
- 1/5 Oil Refineries, Haifa
- 1/6 D.Z. [Drop Zone] at Aqir
- 1/7 Funeral of Cpl Hand, shot on 27 Jan 1948 1948
- 1/8 No original caption, published photograph showing an injured or
dead man being carried by British soldiers
- 1/9 No original caption, image shows the hanging of Sergeants Clifford [Aug 1947]
Martin and Mervyn Paice by the Irgun

2 Documents

- 2/1 Photographic reproduction of a propaganda leaflet from the A.M.O. c1947-1948
addressed 'To the British Members of the Palestine Police and to
the members of his Majesty's Forces' urging the Police and Army
not to get involved in the conflict but to 'stand aloof and be really
neutral' and 'don't make yourselves the target. You are not aimed at
unless you force yourselves on things.'
- 2/2 Beer bottle label for Gold Star, brewed and bottled by Cabeer c1948
Breweries Ltd, Bat-Yam Palestine