

Reference code: GB165-0333

Title: Sultan's Armed Forces Association Collection

Name of creator: Sultan's Armed Forces Association

Dates of creation of material: Jul 1968-Mar 2021

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 4 boxes

Administrative history: Sultan's Armed Forces Association

Sultan's Armed Forces Association, (SAF Association), formed in 1968, aims to maintain the spirit of mutual friendship which existed among members of the Sultan's Armed Forces during their service in Oman. The Association provides the circumstances for those who have served or still are serving to remain in touch with their comrades and also be kept aware of current developments in Oman, military, social, and economic. This is done through the annual publication of the SAF Journal, which is distributed free to all members of the Association and also to those with a particular interest in it and its history. This includes His Majesty the Sultan and all his ministers. Opportunities for maintaining contact are also provided by the holding in London of an annual dinner and cocktail party and by financial support for other similar reunion events throughout the country.

Scope and content: A full serial of the Association publication (Newsletters, later Journals), and a small amount of printed ephemera. The Newsletters reports on the activities of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), and social events of the Society. Activities of the Anglo-Omani Society are also documented in the later issues. The publication is intended to be a journal of record containing illustrated articles of historic as well as current interest, book reviews relevant to Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and to Oman and personal details of members, including obituaries. The publication provides insight into the development and achievements of the military in Oman, as well as regular descriptions of the development of Oman. The Archive also holds digital copies (as PDF files) of the Newsletter and Journal from 1968-2021.

System of arrangement: The serial of publications is arranged by issue number. The ephemeral material is identified separately.

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English, some Arabic.

Conditions governing reproduction: Copyright of the Newsletter Publications belongs to the SAF Association. Permission must be sought from the Association in writing before copies can be made. Copies of the ephemeral materials will be supplied at the discretion of the Archivist for private research and study.

Immediate source of acquisition: Deposited as a gift by Lieutenant-Colonel John Quinn and Lieutenant-Commander Neil Fawcett RN, Joint Editor and Membership Secretary respectively on behalf of the Association on 25 September 1998. Subsequent issues of the Journal received as a gift from the Sultan Armed Forces Association.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The Middle East Centre Archive has extensive holdings relating to the Sultan's Armed Forces. For further details please see the Guide to Collections relating to Oman.

For papers of Commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces see:

- GB165-0327 John Graham Collection
- GB165-0336 David Smiley Collection

In Other Repositories

The Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives (GB-99) at Kings College London holds many collections of papers of people who served in the Sultan's Armed Forces including the papers of Brig. Peter Trevenan Thwaites (1926 – 1991). Thwaites was a Commander of the Muscat Regiment of SAF (1967 – 1970), and Chairman of the Joint Staffs (CJS), MOD (Oman), (1976 – 1978).

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and series level description created by Caroline Hughes 30 Aug 2000. Fonds level description revised by Debbie Usher 18 Dec 2008 and fonds and series level description last revised by Debbie Usher 18 Oct 2021

**SERIES LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES
ASSOCIATION COLLECTION**

NOTE: The publications listed below are one complete serial. The divisions show the name changes of the publication.

Box 1

SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issues 1 – 15. Issue 2 is missing and Circular Letters 2A and 2B are inserted.
Jul 1968 – Mar 1975

Box 2

THE NEWSLETTER

Issues 16 – 40
Nov 1975 – Mar 1991

Box 3

THE JOURNAL OF THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION

Issues 26 – 49
Mar 1992 – Mar 2000

EPHEMERA

Publications acquired by the SAF relating to: the Dhofar Memorial Service of 14 June 1996; the SAF Museum in Bait Al Falaj; and the place of camels in Omani society. Some items are in Arabic.
1990 – 14 Jun 1996

Box 4

THE JOURNAL OF THE SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION

Issues 52-55, 57 – 62
Mar 2003 – Mar 2013

Digital copies of the Journal of the Sultan's Armed Forces Association March 2010 –
March 2021