

**Reference code:** GB165-0578

**Title:** Noel Rowley Collection

**Name of creator:** Rowley, Noel (b.1926)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1946-1947, 1997, 2013

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1 file

**Biographical history:** Rowley, Noel (b.1926)

Born 28 Dec 1926 at Sheffield, Yorkshire. Secondary education at Sheffield City Grammar School until 1945. Called up for National Service in the Army Oct 1945, after training at Camps at Brancepeth, Derby, Lincoln, Warminster, and York, was posted to Sherwood Foresters, and sent out to Palestine arriving there 7 Dec 1946 to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at Haifa. Next day went off to Jordan to do exercises with Arab Legion troops. Then back to Haifa Camp until 20 Jan 1947 moved south to Camp 22. Toward the end of Feb 1947 the camp was attacked by Jewish terrorists with Mortar and Gun fire, one tent was hit killing one soldier and injuring 3 others. In Apr 1947 one of the patrols was blown up by a Jewish mine. Then in various camps in Palestine until Foresters Battalion was broken up. Was transferred to Royal Warwicks in Jerusalem and made a sergeant. Demob came up in Mar 1948 and so went home, which was now in Derby. Continuing education followed and eventually qualification as a Chartered Structural Engineer in 1952. Various Engineering positions in Derby, Stockport, and Sheffield until in 1957 moved to Wellington New Zealand to manage a Consulting Engineering office for a Sydney firm. Continued in a consulting engineering practice until retirement in 1987. Then moved to live in Auckland New Zealand.

**Scope and content:** Photocopy of a volume containing letters from Noel Rowley to his father and then diary entries relating to his army service in Palestine 1946-1947 and TS memoir 'The Army Years 1945-1948' written by Noel Rowley in 1997 with a postscript written in 2013, giving an account of his army service in 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:** TS Memoir received as a gift from Noel Rowley via Nick Hill of Eden Camp Museum on 16 Apr 2013. Photocopy of volume of letters and diary entries received as a gift from Noel Rowley on 24 May 2013.

**Location of originals:** Original volume of letters and diary entries with Noel Rowley.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds level description created by Debbie Usher on 1 May 2013 and item level description created by Debbie Usher on 10 Jun 2013. Biographical history written by Noel Rowley.

## ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE NOEL ROWLEY COLLECTION

- |   |   |            |                       |
|---|---|------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | <u>Letters and Diary</u>  | 1946-1947  | 1 item                |
|   | <p>Photocopy of part of a volume (consisting of 94 numbered pages) containing letters from Noel Rowley to his father (8 Dec 1946 – 2 Jan 1947) and then diary entries (17 Feb 1947 – 16 Oct 1947) relating to his army service in Palestine. The letters were copied by Noel Rowley's father into the volume and then sent to Noel Rowley for him to continue the volume as a diary. The letters and diary entries describe Noel Rowley's day to day life and experiences in Palestine.</p>   |            |                       |
| 2 | <u>Memoir 'The Army Years 1945-1948'</u>  | 1997, 2013 | 1 item<br>(13 sheets) |
|   | <p>TS memoir 'The Army Years 1945-1948' written by Noel Rowley in 1997 with a postscript written in 2013, giving an account of his army service in Palestine including his call up, training, journey through France and across the Mediterranean to Port Said and to various transit camps before arriving in Haifa. The memoir describes training exercises, guard duty, life in Camp 148 and Camp 22, visits to Haifa, helping to secure a Jewish settlement whilst the Palestine Police carried out a search for weapons, a mortar and rifle fire attack on Camp 22 and martial law in Tel Aviv. The memoir also covers his service in Jerusalem mainly consisting of patrols, road blocks, escorts and guard duty at the King David Hotel, as well as describing his journey back to England for demobilisation.</p> |            |                       |