

Reference code: GB165-0628

Title: David Coppin Collection

Name of creator: Coppin, David Middleton (b.1939)

Dates of creation of material: 1961-1991

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 4 boxes, 2 folders

Biographical history: Coppin, David Middleton (b.1939)

Born London 1939. Educated Haberdashers Aske's Hampstead School. 1959-1961 National Service. Commissioned into The Devonshire and Dorset Regt, seconded to 5th Battalion The King's African Rifles, Kenya. 1962-1963 Management Trainee in UK. 1964-1966 Captain, Northern Frontier Regt, Nizwa and Ibri, latterly Force Recruit Training Officer, SAFTC (Sultan's Armed Forces Training Centre), Ghallah, Muscat and Oman. 1966-1973 Personnel Manager in UK. 1973 Major, Infantry Squadron Commander, Dubai Defence Force, Dubai. 1974-1976 Administration Manager, Capital Area Construction Projects, Oman. 1977 Administrative Coordinator, Salalah, Oman. 1978 Administration Manager Bahrain. 1979 Senior Personnel Officer, Iran. 1980 Administration Manager, North Yemen. 1981-1984 Deputy Personnel Manager in UK. 1984-1987 Administration Manager, Sultan Qaboos University Construction Project Oman. 1990-1996 Administration Manager, Al Yamamah Defence Project, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 1997-1998 Administration Manager, Toll Motorway Project, Jakarta, Indonesia. 1999-2001 Human Resources Manager and latterly Corporate Affairs Manager, Islamabad, Pakistan. 2002 Retired.

Scope and content: Papers and photographs relating to David Coppin's life and service in the Middle East including 35mm colour slides of Bahrain in 1964, photographs from his service in Oman in the Sultan's Armed Forces 1964-1966 and the Soldier's magazine from 1964; papers and photographs relating to his service in the Dubai Defence Force 1973-1974, photographs and an article about a journey in Yemen in 1980; papers and photographs from his time in Oman in 1985-1986 whilst working as an Administration Manager on the Sultan Qaboos University Construction Project (including aerial images of the new University under construction); a collection of maps of Oman, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates 1961-1984 and some printed literature consisting of a booklet on Dhofar 1974 and an exhibition catalogue for 'Weapons of the Islamic World: Swords and Armour' 1991.

System of arrangement:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Bahrain | 1964 |
| 2 | Oman: Sultan's Armed Forces | 1964-1966 |
| 3 | Dubai Defence Force | 1973-1974 |
| 4 | North Yemen | 1980 |
| 5 | Oman | 1972-1987 |
| 6 | Maps | 1961-1974 |
| 7 | Printed literature | 1974-1991 |

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English, with a small amount of Arabic.

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

Custodial history: In the possession of David Coppin

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from David Coppin 2016-2018

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

Bahrain

For other photographs of Bahrain please see:

GB165-0043 Charles Butt Collection: Gulf States, Bahrain.

GB165-0085 Harold Dickson Collection: Photo Alb 2.

Oman

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Oman for further information.

Dubai

For other photographs of Dubai please see:

GB165-0043 Charles Butt Collection: Gulf States, Dubai, 1968-1978.

GB165-0263 John Slade-Baker Collection: Slides Box 1 no 68-83 Dubai c1950s.

Yemen

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Yemen. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to Yemen/Aden/South Arabia.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds file and item level description created by Debbie Usher 20 July 2022 and based on descriptions by David Coppin. The captions for the slides and photographs were provided by David Coppin. Biographical history supplied by David Coppin.

**SERIES, FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE DAVID COPPIN
COLLECTION**

| <u>1</u> | <u>Bahrain</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1 file</u> |
|------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| | 35mm colour slides that David Coppin took during a visit to Bahrain for some medical treatment whilst he was serving in the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman. | | |
| <u>1/1</u> | <u>Bahrain Slides</u> 35mm colour slides of Bahrain including images of historic buildings, Manama port and daily life, such as a laundry area on a washing day for white fabrics and Manama town fruit and vegetable market. | <u>1964</u> | <u>20 items</u> |
| 1/1/1 | <u>Bab al Bahrain</u> Bab al Bahrain in customs square, Manama. Old Ref: BAH 1A | | 1964 |
| 1/1/2 | <u>Manama shopping area</u> View through Bab al Bahrain into Manama shopping area. Old Ref: BAH 1B | | 1964 |
| 1/1/3 | <u>Bahraini policeman</u> Bahraini policeman, on traffic duty, outside the British Residency. Old Ref: BAH 2 | | 1964 |
| 1/1/4 | <u>Old palace</u> Sheikh Isa bin Suleiman, Ruler of Bahrain's 'old' palace. Old Ref: BAH 3 | | 1964 |
| 1/1/5 | <u>New palace</u> Sheikh Isa's 'new,' palace. Old Ref: BAH 4 | | 1964 |
| 1/1/6 | <u>Manama Port</u> Boats moored in Manama port. Old Ref: BAH 5 | | 1964 |
| 1/1/7 | <u>Manama Port</u> Boats moored in Manama port. Old Ref: BAH 6 | | 1964 |

- 1/1/8 Manama Port 1964
Boats moored in Manama port.
Old Ref: BAH 7
- 1/1/9 Ain Adhari spring and pool 1964
Ain Adhari spring and pool with Bahraini taxi and driver in foreground, Manama.
Old Ref: BAH 8
- 1/1/10 White laundry washing and drying 1964
Laundry area on a whites washing day. Separate days were devoted to coloured washing.
Old Ref: BAH 9
- 1/1/11 Al Khamis Mosque minarets 1964
Twin minarets, Al Khamis Mosque.
Old Ref: BAH 10
- 1/1/12 Camels 1964
Camels on open ground Manama.
Old Ref: BAH 11
- 1/1/13 Plain (central depression) near Jebel Duqum 1964
Road with a vehicle crossing the central depression, near Jebel Duqum.
Old Ref: BAH 12
- 1/1/14 Manama town market 1964
Manama town fruit and vegetable market.
Old Ref: BAH 13
- 1/1/15 Manama town market 1964
Manama town fruit and vegetable market.
Old Ref: BAH 14
- 1/1/16 Manama town market 1964
Manama Town fruit and vegetable market.
Old Ref: BAH 15
- 1/1/17 Bahrain Fort 1964
Remains of the Bahrain fort.
Old Ref: BAH 16
- 1/1/18 Bahrain Fort 1964
Remains of the Bahrain fort.

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------|------|
| | Old Ref: BAH 17 | |
| 1/1/19 | <u>Bahrain Fort</u> | 1964 |
| | Remains of the Bahrain fort. | |
| | Old Ref: BAH 18 | |
| 1/1/20 | <u>Bahrain Fort</u> | 1964 |
| | Remains of the Bahrain fort. | |
| | Old Ref: BAH 19 | |

**2 Oman: Sultan's Armed Forces 1964-1966, 2 folders,
1974 1 item**

35mm colour slides and black and white photographic prints, with a few colour prints taken during David Coppin's service in the Sultan's Armed Forces 1964-1966, as well as the Soldiers' magazine 1964 with an article 'Soldiering under the Sultan's flag'. There is also one image of Nizwa town wall from 1974.

System of arrangement:

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 2/1 | Slides | 1964-1966 | 221 slides |
| 2/2 | Photographic Prints | 1964-1966, 1974 | 78 photos |
| 2/3 | Soldiers' Magazine | 1964 | 1 item |

2/1 Oman Slides 1964-1966 221 slides

35mm colour slides of Oman but also including an image of the Abu Dhabi airstrip and an aerial view of Dubai.

The slides of Oman include images of Muttrah, Muscat and Nizwa and there are images of historic buildings (such as the great tower in Nizwa) and many forts (such as Ibri Fort, Fort Jelali, Fort Mirani, Muttrah Fort, Nizwa Fort, Rostaq Fort and Sohar Fort).

There are also military scenes, such as images of soldiers, military camps (such as Ibri army camp and Bilad Sait camp) and a live firing demonstration.

There are landscapes showing mountains and plains, some beach scenes (including images of fishing), views of villages and local life including shopping in markets and dancing during Eid celebrations.

2/1/1 Gulf Aviation Aircraft 1964-1966

The DH 114 Heron aircraft of Gulf Aviation waiting at Bahrain airport to take off on its twice weekly flight down the Gulf to Doha, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. Once a week it continued on to Muscat. It carried a maximum of 17 passengers and was the only air link between the countries of the Gulf and the outside world. There were no cabin crew and before departure each passenger was handed a cardboard box containing a meat sandwich, a banana and an apple to sustain them on what was, to Muscat, a six and a half hour journey. Cold water was available from a dispenser in the passenger cabin. By the time it reached Muscat, once a week, there were generally only one or two passengers as the Sultan Said bin Taimur personally approved all the visas for the Sultanate and employed only seventy or so British, Indian and Pakistani officers in his Armed Forces. There were also two or three British Consular staff.

Old Ref: 1

2/1/2 Abu Dhabi airstrip 1964-1966

Abu Dhabi airstrip. This was an un-surfaced sand strip and was only manned when the twice weekly flight was due. Officials drove out from the town in Land Rovers across the sand, together with the odd Land Rover taxi. The Heron pilot would circle the airstrip before final approach to ensure it was clear of goats and camels. Passengers travelling beyond Abu Dhabi could get out

and stretch their legs on the sand while the aircraft waited to take off again.

Old Ref: 2

2/1/3 Dubai aerial view 1964

Dubai in 1964 from the overflying Heron. Passengers for Dubai generally landed in Sharjah on a surfaced runway (courtesy of the RAF Station there) and drove back to Dubai across the desert in Land Rovers.

Old Ref: 5

2/1/4 Muscat aerial view 1964

First glimpse of Muscat in 1964 from the incoming Heron flight. Looking as remote and mysterious in the evening light as the whole Sultanate appeared to the outside world, Fort Jelali is clearly seen on its towering rock guarding one side of the entrance to the harbour.

Old Ref: 6

2/1/5 Aerial view of rock ridge near Bait al Falaj air strip 1964

The Heron departing Bait al Falaj strip and scraping out over the rock ridge at the end of the runway to cross the coast at Seih al Malih before turning to fly up the Gulf. Both landing and taking off from Bait al Falaj (the only airport in the Sultanate) was a nail biting affair as the runway, although surfaced, was in a bowl in steep rocky hills and on approach the pilot had to pop his aircraft in low, just over the crest to get it on to the runway and braking before the hills at the far end. Similarly on take off he had to climb rapidly and bank to clear the hills.

Old Ref: 7

2/1/6 Bait al Falaj Airstrip 1964

Arriving at Bait al Falaj airstrip Muscat in late afternoon having left Bahrain at about ten in the morning. The two white and red Beaver transport aircraft and the two camouflaged turbo prop jet Provost fighters constituted almost half the Sultan's Air Force at that time. The planes were flown by seconded RAF pilots. The surfaced runway (in the background) was used by the Air Force

and the weekly Gulf Aviation flights. As an incoming passenger, my passport was scrutinised by an official dressed in an Arab robe and turban seated cross legged on a wooden table in a tin shed. The same official went through the contents of my suitcase and told me I should pay duty on a pair of new desert boots which I had bought in London. After further discussion he waived the duty.

Old Ref: 8

2/1/7

Bait al Falaj Fort

1964-1966

Bait al Falaj Fort, Headquarters of the Sultan's Armed Forces, with the plain red flag of the Sultanate flying over it. A succession of forts over at least three hundred years predated this one, standing as it did, in a defensive position at the mouth of the pass through the hills to the capital, Muscat. This one, originally built as a summer palace by the then Sultan in 1845 had towers added later to strengthen it as a fortress. It was used as a military headquarters from 1921. There were a number of later modifications to the building, most noticeably, the addition of a covered outside verandah at first floor level to allow direct and individual access to military offices built round the interior courtyard. The fort, some single storey accommodation blocks and vehicle workshops within the camp perimeter fence and the tin roofed airstrip buildings, together with an ancient watch tower at the other end of the valley were the only buildings in the Ruwi Valley. A soldier wearing the red beret of the Force Headquarters can be seen in the foreground.

Old Ref: 9

2/1/8

Muttrah

1964-1966

Muttrah the commercial twin town of the capital Muscat, lay about a third of the way along the only five miles of surfaced road in the Sultanate leading from Bait al Falaj to Muscat. The road had been constructed by the British Royal Engineers in the 1920s. Muttrah like Muscat was a walled town but despite the fact that the road passed through a gap in the town wall beside the gate,

this gate was ceremonially closed every evening just after sunset and not opened until day break the next day. Muttrah had a large market to which goods were brought for sale from the interior on strings of camels each day. The camel trains would return to the interior at the end of the day carrying items only obtainable on the coast. The leading merchants' houses fronted on to the beach which provided a landing place for fishermen and the very limited imported goods. Water for all purposes was hand drawn from wells throughout the town.

Old Ref: 10

2/1/9 Muttrah Fort 1964-1966

Muttrah fort taken from the road to Muscat where it ran along the base of the hills fronting the sea. The sea would frequently wash over the road surface during windy weather.

Old Ref: 10a

2/1/10 Muscat 1964-1966

Muscat, looking from the road from Muttrah winding down to the main gate in the town wall. The road which followed the base of the hills at sea level with the sea, climbed up a narrow pass guarded by watch towers before beginning its descent into Muscat town. Fort Mirani can be seen in the centre of the picture, with Fort Jelali on the far side of the harbour half hidden behind it. Both the forts were built by the Portuguese during their occupation of Muscat in the 17th century. Before the road was completed in the 1920s, Muscat could only be approached from the landward side by way of a pack animal track. The houses in the foreground lie outside the town wall. To the right of the far fort at a gap in the hills through which you can see the sea is a flat roofed building, the British Consulate. This Consulate was unusual at this time in having its flag pole based at ground level, not on top of the building. Any slave who could grasp the flagpole with both hands could claim manumission and was given a certificate by the British Consul proclaiming him a free man. This last occurred the year this picture was taken. Despite the official

end of slavery some 90 years before, a large number of the thousands of former slaves remained living and working in the Sultanate.

Old Ref: 11

2/1/11 Muscat main gate 1964-1966

The main gate of Muscat was the only one large enough to accommodate vehicles, the other two gates were for pedestrian use only. All the gates were closed every night three hours after sunset and opened again at daybreak the next morning. This nightly closing was signalled by the firing of a cannon from Fort Mirani. Only those with prior written permission could leave or enter the town once the gates were closed. After dark it was mandatory for anyone moving about the streets to carry a lantern. Although a couple of official buildings had electric light there were no street lights. One of these buildings was the Cable and Wireless office, the only place in the entire Sultanate where one could use a telephone to the outside world. The Sultanate at that time had no internal telephone system. In the absence of a radio or television service or newspapers, all Sultanate proclamations were put up at the main gate of the capital and some can be seen in the picture, to either side of the gate. The figure standing under the concrete sun shade is one of the eight police constables in the capital. There were no other uniformed police in the Sultanate. The man on the right of the picture with a wheeled cart is a water seller.

Old Ref: 12

2/1/12 Fort Mirani 1964-1966

A view of Fort Mirani from within the walls of the capital. One of the two forts built by the Portuguese in the 16th century to command the harbour of Muscat. Original cannon can be seen protruding from the embrasures of the fort whilst others are half buried, muzzle down, to mark the edge of the roadway outside Bait Graiza a 17th century house belonging to the royal family. Bait Graiza meaning the 'house of the church' was on the site of

an Augustinian Convent built by the Portuguese. In front of the small mosque are two Land Rovers of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Old Ref: 14

2/1/13 Muscat harbour entrance 1964-1966

The entrance to Muscat harbour showing the rock face on which visiting warships traditionally used to paint their names over the previous two hundred years. Nelson, as a Midshipman on the frigate HMS Seahorse was reputed to have been in charge of the name painting party from his ship when it called at Muscat in 1775. In the foreground is timber, probably brought from India. The small fishing boat in the water in front of the quay, is of the hollowed out log type, quite common at that time on the Batinah coast.

Old Ref: 15

2/1/14 Fort Jelali 1964-1966

Fort Jelali the twin of Fort Mirani, guarding the other side of Muscat harbour. At this time it was the Sultanate prison, a place with a fearsome reputation. Prisoners who were shackled, might spend their lives incarcerated in cells deep in the rock with the sea washing into the cells at high tide. The only entry to the fort was up the long flight of steps across the face of the rock on which it stood. On the right is the British Consulate and out of the picture to the right, the Customs house and Muscat Palace of Sultan Said bin Taimur. He seldom visited Muscat, spending all his time in Salalah in the southern province of Dhofar some seven hundred miles across the desert south west of Muscat.

Old Ref: 16

2/1/15 Track near Qurum 1964-1966

Leaving the capital area for the interior, some ten miles along the coast near Qurum, on the only graded track in the country. The dust from my Land Rover can be seen hanging in the air over a mile back and gives an idea of the travelling conditions in open vehicles, especially when in a convoy. Some fifteen miles further on the track turned inland through hills, toward the mountains,

where it followed the line of dry river beds (wadis). Travelling distances were always specified in hours rather than miles. In the absence of roads, a route might take twice as long as before due to rain or rock falls destroying the track.

Old Ref: 17

2/1/16 Fanjah village 1964-1966

The village of Fanjah where the track into Oman dropped down into the Wadi Samail. The village can be seen on the hillside above its date gardens in the wadi. Two of the half a dozen of the village's defensive watch towers can be seen. Some of these would be manned day and night by armed villagers.

Old Ref: 18

2/1/17 Omani boy 1964-1966

An Omani boy at Fanjah. He is carrying dates in a woven basket, on his head. Although he is probably only about twelve years old he is carrying a Martini Henry action rifle for self protection. A bandolier of fifty rounds of ammunition for the rifle is around his waist. Inter tribal and even inter village violence was quite common. It will be noted that he is not wearing shoes. In shade temperatures of 120 Farenhight, the sun's effect on the rocky ground can be imagined.

Old Ref: 19

2/1/18 Wadi Samail at Fanjah 1964-1966

Wadi Samail at Fanjah after the first rain for eight years. An Omani is driving his donkey across the stream. The donkey has two woven panniers containing Lucerne on its back. Lucerne was generally grown for animal fodder as an under crop in the date gardens. In the background two groups of villagers can be seen sitting and enjoying the rare sight of flowing water in the wadi. Date gardens line the both banks of the wadi just above flood level. The motorable route into Oman followed the wadi bed for some five miles at this point and wheel tracks can be seen in the stones.

Old Ref: 20

- 2/1/19 Omani children and youth during Eid al Fitre 1965
A group of Omani children and youths near Fanjah, Wadi Samail dressed in their best clothes for Eid al Fitre in 1965. These festivals would be the occasion for replacing worn out clothes with new. Several of the older boys are carrying rifles. Young boys would wear a cloth belt with an ornamental silver buckle which would be replaced by a belt and silver dagger (khunjar) at pubescence. All men and boys would carry a thin camel stick as a matter of course and even the smallest boy in the picture is carrying one. One had to be circumspect in taking photographs of men in the Sultanate in those days as many, particularly the elderly, did not want their photographs taken. However if you engaged them in conversation, were pleasant and asked permission they might agree. Photographing women was definitely taboo.
Old Ref: 21
- 2/1/20 Land Rover en route to Nizwa 1964-1966
My Land Rover from the Sultan's Armed Forces Training Centre, in the Wadi Samail en route for Nizwa. A number of soldiers from Nizwa going on leave, had taken the opportunity of a lift, together with one of the Force schoolteachers. As well as training recruits in their role as soldiers, they were schooled in reading and writing in a country with a population who were over seventy five per cent illiterate. With animal transport being universal throughout the Sultanate and the only 100 or so vehicles being operated by the Armed Forces and a handful of Regional Governors, the opportunity of a lift in one of the vehicles was eagerly seized on.
Old Ref: 23
- 2/1/21 Track near Mutti villiage 1964-1966
The track to the interior near the village of Mutti. The giant slabs of rock forced up to form the lower slopes of the Jebel Akdhar mountain can be clearly seen they but did not allow access to the central massif which reached almost ten thousand feet. Only two

or three precipitous paths could be used to reach the villages on the plateau near the summit.

Old Ref: 24

2/1/22 Watch towers Mutti village 1964-1966

Some of the watch towers of Mutti village. Typical of the defensive chain of towers which surrounded all Omani villages. Some of these would be manned by armed men day and night who would fire shots in the air to warn of outsiders approaching the village. With increased peace and security being brought by the Sultans Armed Forces at this time, fewer of these watch towers were permanently manned. With the wadi in the foreground, the foothills of the Jebel Akhdhar tower over the village.

Old Ref: 24a

2/1/23 Land Rover on track from Muscat to Nizwa 1964-1966

My Land Rover with a cooling problem on the track from Muscat to Nizwa at the foot of the Jebal Akhdhar. This journey of around 170 miles would normally take about six hours providing the track had not been washed out by heavy rain, when it could take a lot longer.

Old Ref: 24b

2/1/24 Women of Birkat al Moze collecting water 1964-1966

Women in the village of Birkat al Moze collecting water from the stone water channel (falaj) running alongside the track to Nizwa. Following heavy rain this track was flooded. A second, higher, water channel can be seen carved into the rock face at the junction of the light and dark coloured rock. The source of the water to feed these channels, used for irrigation, drinking and washing was a spring some miles inside the Wadi Muaydin which lay behind Birkat al Moze, The falaj system of bringing water by both over and underground channels was brought to the Oman by the Persians during their occupation of the country in the fifth century BC and had been maintained and developed ever since.

Old Ref: 25

- 2/1/25 Date palm gardens of Birkat al Moze 1964-1966
 The extensive date palm gardens of Birkat al Moze. In the foreground is Corporal Ali Saif of the Reconnaissance Platoon of The Northern Frontier Regiment who was one of the instructors at the Sultan's Armed Forces Training Centre (SAFTC). He is in civilian dress, and was travelling with me to Nizwa to go on leave. He is carrying the Lee Enfield No 4 Rifle, the Force infantry weapon at this time. The Reconnaissance Platoon had only recently been issued Land Rovers and uniforms when on duty. Prior to this they had ridden camels and been dressed in civilian clothes.
 Old Ref: 26
- 2/1/26 Sulieman bin Himyar's Fort at Birkat al Moze 1964-1966
 Sulieman bin Himyar's fort at Birkat al Moze. The self titled Lord of The Green Mountain, one of the leaders of a revolt against the Sultan in 1957, fled the country when it failed and was at this time in Saudi Arabia. Damage inflicted by aircraft rockets during the revolt can be seen on the walls. The fort was left derelict as a warning. The entrance to Wadi Muaydin is behind the fort and gave access to one of the few foot tracks up the Jebel Akhdhar. The Falaj carrying water to Birkat al Moze from the inside the wadi flowed through the fort's yard before passing a typical Ibadi mosque at the left of the picture and onwards to the village.
 Old Ref: 27
- 2/1/27 Sulieman bin Himyar's Fort at Birkat al Moze 1964-1966
 Sulieman bin Himyar's fort at Birkat al Moze. Another view.
 Old Ref: 28
- 2/1/28 Land Rover in Wadi Muaydin 1964-1966
 My Land Rover in the Wadi Muaydin. This picture gives some impression of the overwhelming scale of wadis in the Jebel Akhdhar and the power of water over the millennia to gouge an ever deepening path down through the rock of the jebel. After rain these wadis could run several feet deep across the entire bed, carrying all before them. This could happen without warning as

it might be raining higher up on the jebal and you would suddenly be confronted by a wall of water three or four feet high coming down at you.

Old Ref: 28a

2/1/29 Corporal Ali Saif 1964-1966

Corporal Ali Saif standing in the track to the interior at the point that it wound across the front of Sulieman bin Himyars fort at the mouth of Wadi Muaydin.

Old Ref: 29

2/1/30 Company Sergeant Major Juma 1964-1966

Company Sergeant Major Juma, B Company NFR [Northern Frontier Regiment] on the roof of the fort of Birkat al Moze.

Old Ref: 31

2/1/31 Mortar team training at Izki camp 1964-1966

A 3 inch Mortar Team from B Company, Northern Frontier Regiment training at Izki camp on the road to Nizwa. The camp had a stone and mud cement perimeter wall. The accommodation was of more recent breeze block construction. Jebel Akdhar is seen looming in the background.

Old Ref: 34

2/1/32 Nizwa 1964-1966

The town of Nizwa with its very extensive date gardens seen from the foothills of Jebel Akdhar behind Nizwa army camp. The great tower can be seen in the middle of the picture.

Old Ref: 35

2/1/33 Nizwa town wall 1964-1966

The town wall of Nizwa. The Omanis with donkeys are bringing goods into the market which served a wide area, including the villages on the 10,000 foot Jebel Akdhar, only accessible on foot. The other group of three townspeople are washing cooking pots in the water of the wadi.

Old Ref: 36

2/1/34 Nizwa great tower 1964-1966

The great tower of Nizwa, built in the last half of the seventeenth century, took twelve years to complete. It is 112 feet high and for over half its height is solid rocks and earth pierced only by a narrow access passage which passes through three or four doors above which are openings allowing defenders to shoot or pour boiling liquid down on to any attackers who might have penetrated the outer door. With water accessible from two wells in the upper part of the tower and sufficient food the fort was almost impregnable. During the rebellion against the Sultan in the 1950s, Nizwa was, for a time, in rebel hands and the tower was rocketed by RAF Typhoon fighters which did little damage to the structure apart from chipping the outside plaster. The building in front of the tower is the covered market. The dark ground to the right is the firewood and charcoal.

Old Ref: 38

2/1/35 Nizwa great tower door 1964-1966

This door provided the only access to the great tower in Nizwa. In case of siege the two date palm logs would be removed and doubtless the trench they crossed would have been deeper. Standing on the right the Company Sergeant Major and Company Quartermaster Sergeant Habibullah both of B Company NFR [Northern Frontier Regiment] who were visiting the duty detachment stationed at the top of the tower. This was permanently there to watch out for possible disturbances in the town or the surrounding countryside when it would alert NFR's Duty Officer in the nearby camp.

Old Ref: 39

2/1/36 Soldiers at top of the Nizwa great tower 1964-1966

At the top of the great tower in Nizwa. The duty detachment of B Company NFR with a shaded sleeping area behind them. At this time about half a dozen British Army NCOs were seconded to SAF for three months tours, from their units in Aden, to assist in training the Sultan's Armed Forces. The British Sergeant second from left in the picture is Sgt Fuscoe of the Scots Guards, on

secondment to NFR. The Company Sergeant Major on his left is shaking hands with Corporal Ali Saif of the Reconnaissance platoon NFR. The firing platform with its embrasures which ran round the entire circumference of the tower and which was accessed by a long flight of steps can be seen at the top of the picture. Within the area of the top where they are standing is a well with permanent water and two oubliettes, or prison shafts some twelve feet deep down which prisoners could be lowered before the rope was withdrawn and the metal gratings closed.

Old Ref: 40

2/1/37 View of Nizwa from the great tower 1964-1966

A view of Nizwa from the top of the great tower, looking south over the date gardens towards the dragon back hill feature overlooking the village of Firq. The houses were built close together with the resultant narrow streets providing maximum shade. The semi derelict building on the left of the street clearly shows the features common to most Omani domestic architecture. Built of sun baked mud brick and two storeys high, the houses were accessed at ground level by a double wooden door fastened on the inside with a metal bolt and on the outside by a hasp and padlock. In this house the ground floor has an unglazed window with a wooden screen. In many houses the ground floor would not have windows as it would house the family's cattle. An open flight of mud brick stairs would lead to the upper level of the house. In this house the upper floor consisted of three rooms the long narrow shape of the rooms was dictated by the length of the chandals or wooden beams available. These supported woven palm leaf mats on top of which, mud was packed to form the upper floor, or in the case of the upper floor, the roof of the building. Rooms were high and apart from storage chests there was no furniture, everyone sitting on rugs or mats, on the floor. The unglazed windows covered with carved wooden screens which extended from floor level allowed the unhindered

flow of air throughout the house. With their thick mud walls and ceilings, these houses were remarkably cool even in summer temperatures of 120 degrees Farenheight. In the winter, internal wooden shutters could be closed to keep out the wind. The tall alcoves with storage shelving at the end of the room can be clearly seen. At the top of these you will note the narrow ventilation slits into the adjacent room. There would also be wooden pegs set into the walls from which oil lamps, rifles, and dagger belts would be hung.

Old Ref: 41

2/1/38 View of Nizwa from the great tower 1964-1966

Looking out from the top of the great tower of Nizwa. Part of the town's extensive cultivation can be seen. Principally date trees with under planting of lime trees and banana plants. Water melons and sugar cane were also grown and lucerne as an animal feed.

Old Ref: 41a

2/1/39 Nizwa wood and charcoal sellers 1964-1966

The area of the wood and charcoal sellers in Nizwa. On the right of the picture is a large pile of dried mud bricks, the material from which the buildings behind are constructed.

Old Ref: 42

2/1/40 View of Nizwa towards the Jebal Akhdhar 1964-1966

View of Nizwa from the great tower towards the foothills of the Jebal Akhdhar.

Old Ref: 43

2/1/41 Nizwa goat sellers' area 1964-1966

The area to the right of the wood and charcoal sales in Nizwa was where the goat sales took place, under the large tree.

Old Ref: 45

2/1/42 Nizwa Market 1964-1966

The meat, vegetable and fruit market in Nizwa. The selection of fruit, vegetables and meat on sale was very limited bearing in mind that Nizwa was the chief town of the interior of the country

and the main market. In the late afternoon it consisted of onions, garlic, dates, limes, and grapefruit. A small Government Experimental Farm had been established close to the town. On my first visit, what at first glance appeared to be a small, writhing, furry animal in the dust surrounded by a crowd of potential purchasers, turned out to be a miniscule piece of meat covered in dozens of flies. The flies were the 'fur' and provided the movement. In the adjacent covered market, the doorway of which can be seen behind the tree, was a varied assortment of everyday items including amongst many other things, sacks of dried dates, farming hand implements, plates, copper cooking and storage utensils, coir rope, tin buckets, cloth, spices, incense, blocks of salt and women's silver jewellery.

Old Ref: 46

2/1/43 Nizwa Market 1964-1966

Another view of Nizwa meat, vegetable and fruit market in the late afternoon. From the picture it can be plainly seen that the men customarily did the household shopping.

Old Ref: 47

2/1/44 Captain Mclean and Sergeant Nasib bin Hamid al Ruwahi 1964-1966

A street in Nizwa. The bearded Omani on the left was the Company Sergeant Major, in the centre is Captain Colin Mclean and on the right Sergeant Nasib bin Hamad al Ruwahi, all of C Company, The Northern Frontier Regiment. On the extreme left is Abdullah, Nasib's younger brother. They are standing outside the family winter home of Hamad bin Salim, Nasib's father. Many families had a winter house in the town streets and a hot weather summer residence set in the family's palm groves. Sergeant Nasib bin Hamed later rose to the rank of Major General and was the first Omani Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces.

Old Ref: 48

2/1/45 Hamad bin Salim al Ruwahi 1964-1966

Hamad bin Salim al Ruwahi (father of Sergeant Nasib bin Hamad), a family retainer and Hamad's youngest son Abdullah standing outside the family's house in their date palm gardens. Hamad was the Head Askar (law enforcement officer) to the Wali (Governor) of Nizwa and a very well respected member of the community. The first time I met him, he had just returned from a twenty mile journey on foot in the heat of summer with one of his Askars to arrest a man wanted for a killing. Whilst both Hamad and the other Askar were armed with rifles, the man who was also armed had returned with them to face trial without the use of weapons, purely due to Hamad's force of personality.

Old Ref: 49

2/1/46 Entrance to Wali of Nizwa's office 1964-1966

The entrance to the Wali of Nizwa's office in the fort adjacent to the great tower. Hamad bin Salim is in the foreground. Outside the doorway to the Wali's quarters, under a shade awning, is a sentry provided by the duty detachment of NFR [Northern Frontier Regiment] stationed at the top of the tower.

Old Ref: 50

2/1/47 Nizwa great tower 1964-1966

The great tower of Nizwa from the north with the main motorable route to Ibri running between the two sections of the town, both walled defensively. The route ran along the line of a wadi bed and this could flood to a depth of several feet after rain. At the top of the tower can be seen a small wooden structure built out from the right hand side with a hole cut in the bottom which constituted the only sanitary arrangement for defenders at the top.

Old Ref: 53

2/1/48 Land Rover en route for Bilad Sait from Nizwa 1964-1966

My Land Rover en route for Bilad Sait from Nizwa. CQMS Habibullah is seated next to the driver. A chagul or canvas water bag hangs from the windscreen support. This was a common and efficient way of carrying drinking water as the water was cooled by evaporation in the wind set up by the vehicle's travel. As

standard practice, the spare wheel was no longer carried on the bonnet, but in the back, after a vehicle had gone over a land mine laid in the track and the bonnet had blown open and with the added weight of the spare wheel had acted like a giant fly swot which had killed the unfortunate driver and front seat passenger.

Old Ref: 55

2/1/49 Iron Neck Pass 1964-1966

The track to Bilad Sait passed through “the Iron Neck” a narrow pass through the bare rocks on the only motorable route to the villages at the foot of the Jebal Akhdhar and on to Ibri.

Old Ref: 56

2/1/50 Sentry outside Bilad Sait camp 1964-1966

Sentry above the platoon tented camp outside Bilad Sait. The resident Nizwa battalion provided a platoon of thirty men stationed in a tented camp just outside Bilad Sait as a deterrent because this was the home village of Ghalib and Talib bin Ali, the leaders of the failed 1957 uprising against Sultan Said bin Taimur.

Old Ref: 58

2/1/51 Donkeys in Nizwa Camp 1964-1966

The donkey lines in Nizwa camp. Each battalion had a dozen or so donkeys together with civilian handlers on their strength, for carrying stores and ammunition when soldiers were out on patrol. In a country with very few motorable tracks these donkeys were invaluable in moving supplies. For the battalion resident in Nizwa they were essential for carrying the pay up a mountain track to the Company which garrisoned Saiq, on the Jebel Akhdhar, six thousand feet above the Battalion Headquarters in Nizwa army camp. At this time the soldiers were paid in heavy, silver, Marie Therese Dollars as the people of the interior would not accept paper money. Thirty soldiers pay was so heavy in this coinage that although there was a short runway at Saiq, the Beaver turbo prop aircraft of the Sultans Air Force, could not land there with this extremely heavy load.

- Old Ref: 59
- 2/1/52 Aerial view of wadis in Jebal Akdhar 1964-1966
- The view looking down on one of the many wadis deep in the Jebal Akdhar from a Beaver of the Sultan's Air Force flying from Nizwa to Saiq. The scale can be judged from the patches of green in the wadi which are plantations of 40 foot date palm trees. The discolouration on the left of the picture is caused by the open window of the aircraft.
- Old Ref: 59b
- 2/1/53 Agricultural terracing at Suraijah village 1964-1966
- Agricultural terracing at Suraijah village at about 9,000 feet. near to Saiq at the top of the Jebal Akdhar. The village can be seen on top of the mountainside on the left of the picture. An incredible amount of effort went in to the creation and maintenance of the terraces built entirely by hand, and watered by gravity fed water channels. Crops, such as wheat and lucerne were grown, as well as fruit trees and grape vines. Built over centuries the terraces in many villages on the Jebal Akdhar had fallen into disrepair following the abandonment of slavery in the Sultanate at the end of the nineteenth century.
- Old Ref: 60
- 2/1/54 Suraijah village 1964-1966
- Another view of Suraijah village. A large circular water cistern can be seen in the middle of the village. Hundreds of feet below on the right of the village further terracing can be seen.
- Old Ref: 62
- 2/1/55 View from Shuraijah village 1964-1966
- Looking down a few hundred feet from Shuraijah into the top of a wadi which winds its way five or six thousand feet down to the plains at the foot of the jebal, fields of crops and fruit trees can be seen.
- Old Ref: 63
- 2/1/56 Village boys near Saiq, Jebal Akdhar 1964-1966

Two village boys near Saiq, Jebal Akdhar. The boy in front is wearing a leather hirz or pouch round his neck. This was often worn by children and contained verses from the Koran as a protection against evil.

Old Ref: 65

2/1/57 David Coppin near Saiq 1964-1966

David Coppin on a free standing pinnacle of rock near Saiq, looking across the valley at a ruined fort on the far side.

Old Ref: 66

2/1/58 Ruined Fort near Saiq 1964-1966

The ruined fort on the rock pinnacle. Locally believed to have been built in the days of Persian occupation of Oman, it reputedly contained stabling for many horses.

Old Ref: 67

2/1/59 Bahla town walls 1964-1966

The walls of the town of Bahla seen from the track to Jabrin and Ibri. These walls although largely in ruins, stretched for eight miles to enclose the town and included the obligatory fort. In the foreground on the left of the picture is a well head and on the right, threshed wheat sheaves.

Old Ref: 67a

2/1/60 Men and youths in Jabrin 1964-1966

Men and youths standing in front of the open air majlis or meeting area under a huge tree at Jabrin, which was a large seventeenth century fortified house, largely in disrepair, between Bahla and Ibri.

Old Ref: 68

2/1/61 Painted house ceiling in Jabrin 1964-1966

Painted ceiling in the house at Jabrin. Despite much of the house being derelict and having to climb over rubble to gain access to the rooms, the painted ceilings still glowed like beautiful Persian carpets.

Old Ref: 68a

2/1/62 Soldiers enroute from Nizwa to Ibri 1964-1966

B Company NFR [Northern Frontier Regiment] moving from Nizwa to Ibri. Lone Tree, is just visible on the left of the picture. It was a regular stopping place on the track between the two towns at a place where an over ground falaj or water channel crossed the track and allowed travellers to slake their thirst with fresh cool water from the mountains.

Old Ref: 69

2/1/63 Stop for water at Lone Tree 1964-1966

A stop for water at Lone Tree on the track from Nizwa to Ibri. At this point a falaj crossed the track and was a universally known point of reference for anyone who served in the Sultan's Armed Forces. My Orderly Rahimbuksh from B Company NFR [Northern Frontier Regiment] is the figure in the foreground. The track can be seen passing close to the tree.

Old Ref: 69a

2/1/64 Ibri army camp and palm gardens 1964-1966

Ibri army camp with the palm gardens of Ibri behind it. Beyond that, thousands of miles of desert, the Empty Quarter.

Old Ref: 70

2/1/65 Sulaif village 1964-1966

The village of Sulaif south of Ibri with its fort guarding the pass through low hills used by travellers approaching Ibri from the desert of the Empty Quarter.

Old Ref: 71

2/1/66 Fort 1964-1966

The fort guarding a pass from the desert through low hills at Sulaif south of Ibri. The sheikh of Sulaif with whom I sometimes took coffee in 1964 had only one eye.

Old Ref: 75

2/1/67 Bugler at Ibri camp 1964-1966

Bugler of B Company, Northern Frontier Regiment, Ibri camp. The green berets that NFR wore were copied from those of The Royal Marine Commandos who had been involved in the 1957 Jebel campaign, As can be seen from the building in the

background, much of the camp was built of thick stone walls with flat roofs, in the traditional manner.

Old Ref: 77

2/1/68 B Company Duty Guard 1964-1966

B Company Duty Guard falling in for a visit of the Commander Sultan's Armed Forces to NFR Ibri. The guard is being checked by Lieutenant Hassan Hassoon, on the right of the picture. The corporal from the front rank, next to the bugler, is checking the alignment of the rear rank.

Old Ref: 78

2/1/69 Lieutenant Hasson Hassoon and Staff Sergeant Abdul Aziz 1964-1966

Two stalwarts of B Company NFR, Lieutenant Hassan Hassoon and Staff Sergeant Abdul Aziz, Ibri camp. Lieutenant Hassan Hassoon who must have been about forty five years of age, was one of the longest serving Local Officers in the Sultan's armed forces at this time and the father of twelve children.

Old Ref: 79

2/1/70 Camels outside Ibri Fort 1964-1966

Camels couched outside Ibri Fort, waiting for their owners to return from the suq (market) close by. Having brought to the kneeling position a halter was tied round one foreleg to prevent them rising and wandering off.

Old Ref: 80

2/1/71 Ibri Suq entrance 1964-1966

The entrance to Ibri Suq this provided a market for an area of hundreds of square miles and was a purchasing centre for all the nomadic tribes. The market area was shaded by sacks and cloth draped across beams supported by the rows of single storey, stone and mud, open fronted shops. There would be a step up to ensure the shop would not be flooded after heavy rain and the owner sat cross legged amongst his wares on the floor. When the shop was not open, wooden shutters would be folded over the front of the shop and fastened with a hasp and padlock on the outside. As can be noted from the tribesmen in the picture all went armed and it

was the men not the women who were responsible for purchasing food and the day to day items. The two objects leaning against the wall on the right of the picture are small date palm plants for sale.

Old Ref: 82

2/1/72 Ibri Suq 1964-1966

Another view of Ibri suq.

Old Ref: 82a

2/1/73 Coffee shop hotel sign 1964-1966

There were no hotels in Muscat and Oman at this time, as the handful of outsiders, mainly Indian, allowed in to the country on business each year were expected to be accommodated in the house of whoever they were visiting in the country. Not only had this far sighted coffee shop proprietor decided to call his establishment 'a hotel' but his sign was also in English, presumably for the benefit of the only three British nationals resident in Ibri at this time!

Old Ref: 83

2/1/74 New house being built in Ibri date gardens 1964-1966

A new house being built in the date gardens in Ibri. The thick walls of mud brick baked on site, are pierced high up by small, unglazed windows and at ground level by two doorways. Roof timbers of date palm trunks are being placed across the tops of the walls to receive the mats of woven date palm leaves over which would be laid mud, eighteen inches deep which when dry, would form the roof.

Old Ref: 84

2/1/75 Children gathered round land rover 1964-1966

The novelty of the motor vehicle. Children at Eid in Ibri hoping to be able to climb on to a SAF Land Rover, better still, to sit in it while it moved, if only for a few feet.

Old Ref: 85

2/1/76 Villagers running to meet the land rover 1964-1966

The running figures in the foreground are villagers. The arrival of a vehicle from outside the immediate area was an event of importance. In the absence of radio, TV, newspapers, or a postal service, travellers were a vital source of 'news' and this was always sought on meeting. Also as the army possessed mechanical transport denied to the general population lifts were also often sought by people whose lives were governed by how far they could walk or ride by camel or donkey in a day. Whilst we were under strict instructions not to give lifts to civilians, this rule was breached in cases of emergency.

Old Ref: 86

2/1/77 Corporal Ali bin Saif and Giles le Maitre 1964-1966

Corporal Ali bin Saif who accompanied me and Giles le Maitre, my Orderly and my Driver on an 8 mile walk round the base of Jebel Kaur, whilst we were stationed at Ibri. Jebel Misht is in the background.

Old Ref: 87

2/1/78 Shelters near Jebel Kaur 1964-1966

On our walk round Jebel Kaur we came across some semi underground shelters dug close to a well. They were unoccupied at the time. Captain Giles le Maitre of Muscat Regiment (on the left) Corporal Ali Saif, my driver and my Orderly, Rahimbuksh, check them out.

Old Ref: 88

2/1/79 David Coppin with Jebal Misht in background 1964-1966

David Coppin with Jebal Misht in the background. Mid day in August with the shade temperature of 120 degrees farenheight was, on reflection, not perhaps the best timing for this walk.

Old Ref: 89

2/1/80 Araqi villagers dancing at Eid al Fitr 1964-1966

Villagers in Araqi village near Ibri dancing at Eid al Fitr. Araqi was well known for its Eid celebrations including dancing. A nine year period of mourning for the death of the Imam of Oman had fairly recently elapsed. The period of mourning involved a

complete ban on drumming and dancing across the country and there was therefore much enthusiasm that Eid. The dance involved the men dancing to the rhythmic beat of drums whilst twirling their rifles and periodically firing them in to the air. Injuries to spectators and participants were not uncommon and small boys would dash amongst the dancers' feet in competition for the ejected brass cartridge cases which could be refilled with powder and bullets and resold. The civilian population were almost all armed with the .450 inch, single shot, Martini Henry action rifles of a design dating from the 1870s.

Old Ref: 90

2/1/81 Araqi village dancers 1964-1966

Another view of dancers in Araqi village. Fifth in line is Lieutenant Ali bin Rashid, NFR who was awarded The Military Medal by the British for rescuing a wounded British soldier under fire in the Jebel Campaign of the late fifties. All the dancers in this picture are soldiers on leave, as evidenced by the Lee Enfield Number 4 rifles they are carrying.

Old Ref: 91

2/1/82 Araqi village dancers 1964-1966

Dancers in Araqi village.

Old Ref: 92

2/1/83 Araqi village dancers 1964-1966

Dancers in Araqi village

Old Ref: 95

2/1/84 Main gate SAF Training Centre at Ghallah 1964-1966

The main gate of The Sultan's Armed Forces Training Centre, Ghallah, on the coast, some fourteen miles from Muscat, a journey of between fifty minutes and an hour and a half, dependent on the season and the effects of rain on the track through the wadi beds. The Centre was built in a sand and gravel plain with sand dunes up to two hundred feet high between it and the jebel range, seen in the background. The jebel provided a never ending delight as its colour changed through gold to ochre

to purple depending on the season, time of day and the moving shadows of clouds. Roads and the parade ground were delineated with lines of whitewashed rocks the camp was planted with thorn trees to provide shade and at various points three foot earthenware pots were placed and filled daily with water by the vehicle bowser. The water remained cool throughout the heat of the day due to evaporation through the pot walls, This meant that cool drinking water could be enjoyed by anyone lifting the wooden cover and using the tin mug provided. The water for the village of Ghalla, hard up against the foot of the jebal and the camp came sweet and untreated from a spring at the base of the mountains and thence to the camp through a 1” galvanized steel pipe. Electricity for the camp was provided by a generator, the only mechanical sound to break the silence.

Old Ref: 96

2/1/85 Baluch recruits 1964-1966

Baluch recruits on the 3 ton truck waiting to leave for an afternoon trip to Muttrah. This was a recreational trip for all recruits once a week, to allow them to make personal purchases in the suq. These soldiers came from Gwador Western Baluchistan, Pakistan. At this time the Baluch made up fifty percent of Sultan’s Armed Forces. Gwador had been given to the then Sultan in 1785 by the Khan of Kelat. Sultan Said bin Taimur had sold it back to the Pakistan Government in 1958, but retained the right to recruit soldiers from there, an arrangement that benefitted not only him but also the Government of Pakistan and not least the Baluch who lived in a desert environment with otherwise no way of bettering themselves. The men would join the Sultan’s Armed forces on contract and after serving for five or six years would be able to return home with funds to set themselves up in business.

Old Ref: 101

2/1/86 Omani recruits 1964-1966

Two typical Omani recruits to the Sultan's Armed Forces on the third day after arrival at the Training Centre, Ghallah, pictured outside the Centre Offices. Small in stature but extremely tough, they took to military life remarkably quickly. At any one time 120 recruits were under training in squads of 30. Half of these were Omani and half Baluch.

Old Ref: 102

2/1/87 Omani Corporal Instructor 1964-1966

An Omani Corporal instructor. Extremely smart in dress and bearing, Omanis made excellent soldiers, tough, cheerful, willing and a pleasure to serve with.

Old Ref: 103

2/1/88 Omani NCO Instructors 1964-1966

Three Omani NCO Instructors in civilian dress, outside the Training Centre offices. It was always a battle to get the Battalions to release their best NCOs to be instructors at SAFTC despite it being in their interest in the long run to have well trained recruits to join their units at the completion of their training.

Old Ref: 104

2/1/89 Sergeant Lal Baksh (Baluch Instructor) 1964-1966

Sergeant Lal Baksh, a Baluch Instructor at the Training Centre. The Baluch which we recruited came from the desert area in the far south west of Pakistan where they used camels and Lal Baksh on occasions accompanied me on my afternoon camel rides

Old Ref: 104a

2/1/90 Major Jim Sheridan and Omani Sheikhs 1964-1966

Late afternoon in Ghallah village. Left to right, RSM Khalfan bin Salim, Sheikh Khamis, Major Jim Sheridan, Commander of the Training Centre, Sheikh Juma bin Sulieman and one of the Sheikhs retainers. We had just paid a visit to take coffee with, Sheikh Khamis the headman of Ghallah.

Old Ref: 104b

2/1/91 Recruit squad training 1964-1966

A recruit squad undergoing Light Machine Gun training. Where possible static training would be carried out under shade areas in the summer when temperatures in the sun could reach 140F with 90 % humidity by seven in the morning.

Old Ref: 105

2/1/92 Group photo of Number 64 (Omani) Squad 1964-1966

Number 64 (Omani) Squad with their Platoon Sergeant Instructor, Nasib Hamad (front, pointing) and a Corporal, on the mountain ridge behind the Training Centre. Behind and directly below the group is Ghallah village while the Training Centre can be seen further down the wadi towards the centre top of the picture. The jebal was used both to teach the recruits tactical movement and to improve their physical fitness.

Old Ref: 106

2/1/93 Recruits resting on hill behind Ghallah village 1964-1966

Recruits resting, having climbed up to the crest of the hills behind Ghallah village. Their denim fatigue trousers and shirts were standard training uniform as were the curious pillbox hats which consisted of a single square of denim folded to produce the desired shape. This seems to have followed a pattern which originated in the old British Indian Army and have arrived in the Sultan's Armed forces with contract officers who had previously served in India.

Old Ref: 107

2/1/94 Sergeant Nasib Hamad and recruits on hill ridge 1964-1966

Sergeant Nasib Hamad, a Corporal Instructor and four recruits, on the crest of the ridge, looking back down to SAFTC (behind the left hand recruits shoulder). This picture shows the isolated situation of the Training Centre which allowed almost unlimited space for field training.

Old Ref: 108

2/1/95 Baluch recruits eating lunch 1964-1966

Baluch recruits having a lunch meal in the shade of a barrack block. All meals would be served on a single dish to

accommodate group eating as is the Moslem custom. The fact that the recruits are wearing only shalwar (baggy trousers) indicates that they are off duty and the picture was taken in summer. Rations would consist of goat or fish in a local curry type stew with rice and chapattis and local limes would also be served to squeeze over the curry. Tea would also accompany the meal. It was always noticeable what an improvement in physical wellbeing would occur only a short period after arrival at the Training Centre due to regular and substantial feeding.

Old Ref: 109

2/1/96 Group photo of Omani squad 1964

An Omani squad with Sergeant Mohammed Mohinna and two Corporals on the day of the squads Passing Out Parade. After seven months basic training, recruits would be sent off to join either Northern Frontier Regiment or Muscat Regiment, the two infantry battalions which constituted The Sultans Armed Forces. In 1964 recruit training for The Oman Gendarmerie (a Paramilitary force of some five hundred men) also started at SAFTC. Before this time training was carried out by the Gendarmerie independently.

Old Ref: 109a

2/1/97 David Coppin riding a camel 1964-1966

David Coppin out camel riding. Out of duty hours I would either spend time making social visits to local village and gathering news from the area, swim off the beautiful and almost deserted beaches a short drive away, or go camel riding with two or three Omani and Baluch NCO Instructors. I hired camels from Bedu camped on a well a couple of miles from SAFTC.

Old Ref: 110

2/1/98 Sergeant Nasib Hamad and Corporal Ali Saif 1964-1966

Sergeant Nasib Hamad and Corporal Ali Saif at SAFTC camp ready to set off for an afternoon of camel riding. The camel is saddled for riding but the wooden yoke to which the saddle pad is attached is one normally used for load carrying. Riding yokes

are smaller and often ornately carved. The animals we hired, were used for load carrying on a day to day basis and generally tied nose to tail. They were less happy being ridden individually and their speed and enthusiasm increased when they were returning in the direction of their owner's encampment at the end of the afternoon.

Old Ref: 111

2/1/99 David Coppin riding a camel 1964-1966

David Coppin camel riding. The nose rope was used to control the animals speed and the thin camel stick used to tap the side of the neck to change direction. When the camel couched kneeling, it would get up rapidly when it felt the riders weight on its back so it was necessary to get on quickly to avoid being left behind when mounting.

Old Ref: 112

2/1/100 Bedu family 1964-1966

The men and children of the bedu family from whom we hired the camels for riding. Corporal Ali Saif is on the right of the group. The family's only possessions apart from their camels, were a few goats, a couple of cooking pots, a brass coffee pot and two camel rugs, one of which they placed over the thorn tree under which they lived, to provide shade. Our hiring of the camels when they would otherwise been hobbled and grazing formed a useful financial addition to their subsistence living, carrying goods from the interior to the market in Muttrah.

Old Ref: 113

2/1/101 Sergeant Nasib Hamad and Corporal Ali Saif 1964-1966

Sgt Nasib Hamad and Cpl Ali Saif ready to start off from SAFTC for a camel ride with me.

Old Ref: 116

2/1/102 Omani family riding camels 1964-1966

An Omani family on the move by camel in the heat of a summer's afternoon near Ghallah.

Old Ref: 117

- 2/1/103 Camel train 1964-1966
A camel train moving cross country in the searing heat of an Omani summer. Shade temperature near the coast could reach 115 degrees and the humidity, top 85 percent. One of the men is crossing over to exchange greetings and “the news” In a land where there were no newspapers, no TV, radio, cinema, telephone, fax or computers, the only way of learning of events outside one’s direct area was by talking to travellers.
Old Ref: 118
- 2/1/104 Omanis on camels 1964-1966
A group of Omanis carrying goods to market through the searing heat of a summer’s afternoon having just passed the village of Sunub in Wadi Bawsher, close to SAFTC. Waking early on my first morning in the Sultanate, I had looked out of the window of my room in Bait al Falaj camp. This was next to the perimeter fence by the road into Muttrah and I had seen some 200 camels with their owners, in strings of half a dozen padding towards the suq in Muttrah, loaded with produce from the interior for sale.
Old Ref: 119
- 2/1/105 Omani riding a camel 1964-1966
An Omani from the interior near Ghallah in the evening, taking goods to market in Muttrah,. Interestingly the rider has let go of the camels headrope and is controlling it’s pace and direction only by pressure from his feet.
Old Ref: 120
- 2/1/106 Fishermen beaching their boat 1964-1966
Fishermen bringing their boat up on to the beach near Ghubrah. The method of getting the very heavy boat up the beach involved a series of wooden poles being placed under the keel and moved forward as the boat moved beyond the last one. The man on the left is placing the first of these poles under the bow. A common method of fishing involved the wooden boats being rowed out from the shore after dropping one end of a net with helpers on the beach. The fishermen would pay out the net in an arc, returning

to the beach close to their starting point. Both ends of the net would then be hauled in until the catch of fish was dragged up on to the beach.

Old Ref: 121

2/1/107 Omanis sitting on beach exchanging news 1964-1966

The beach was a route used by people moving between coastal villages and on my afternoon trips to swim off the beach, travellers would often stop for a chat and to learn 'the news'.

Old Ref: 122

2/1/108 Omanis sitting on beach exchanging news 1964-1966

More passers by stopping for a chat near Ghobrah. The small boy has a twig between his teeth, of a bush commonly used as a toothbrush by the Omanis.

Old Ref: 123

2/1/109 Villager riding donkey on the beach 1964-1966

A villager returning from market along the beach near Ghobrah on his donkey. Tied round his head cloth, is the cord which would be used to hobble the donkeys front legs to stop it wandering off when he was not riding it.

Old Ref: 124

2/1/110 Pack camels and owners 1964-1966

Pack camels with their owners returning from Muttrah market along the beach near Ghobrah. This picture is unusual in that Omanis normally wore at least a singlet to cover their torso even in the middle of a searingly hot summer afternoon such as the one on which this picture was taken.

Old Ref: 124a

2/1/111 Shasha boats on the Batinah coast 1964-1966

Shasha boats on the Batinah coast at sunset. These boats were made of the spines of date palm leaves lashed on to a framework to produce a canoe, pointed at both bow and stern. The fisherman sat in the water inside it and paddled or used a sail. It was necessary to remove the shasha from the sea when not in use, to allow the palm spines to dry out and regain buoyancy.

- Old Ref: 125
- 2/1/112 Hamid bin Hamad and his sons 1964-1966
- Hamad bin Hamad (second right) with four of his sons in his gardens at Hayl Al Umayr close to Sib on the Batina coast. Ali (on the right) worked in the Officers Mess at SAFTC. The two smaller boys Said and Khalifa, on the left were unfortunately deaf and unable to speak. Hamad was generous enough to issue a standing invitation to visit him whenever I was off duty and as result of this. I spent many happy hours during off duty days with the family, chatting and walking round their small date and citrus fruit plantation. The family who were poor but generous to a fault, existed on selling their produce at market and by fishing.
- Old Ref: 126
- 2/1/113 Hamid bin Hamad and his family 1964-1966
- Hamad and male members of his family sitting in the shade outside his palm frond hose and drinking coffee. One of his small sons is pouring the coffee from a traditional pot for each person in turn.
- Old Ref: 127
- 2/1/114 Market on beach at Sib 1964-1966
- The ready made food section of the daily market on the beach at Sib. A stall selling meat filled pastries can be seen in the middle of the picture whilst another with kebabs is on the left.
- Old Ref: 128
- 2/1/115 Sib market 1964-1966
- Children in the market at Sib showing much interest in the cooking of goat kebabs.
- Old Ref: 129
- 2/1/116 Ox powered water hoist 1964-1966
- An Ox powered water hoist from a water well on the Batinah coast.
- Old Ref: 129a
- 2/1/117 Ox powered water hoist 1964-1966
- An Ox powered water hoist, another view.

- Old Ref: 130
- 2/1/118 Ox powered water hoist 1964-1966
- A Batinah farmer and his ox hoisting water from a well to irrigate his trees. This system using animals to raise water was common at this time. A complete animal skin closed apart from the neck end or large container made of rubber was attached to a rope which was passed through a pulley hanging from a tall frame above the well, a second rope attached to the opposite closed end of the skin bag passed over a second higher pulley. When the animal was at the top of the slope, nearest to the frame the skin would be filling from the water in the well. As the animal moved down the slope the skin was raised in the air until the second rope tautened and caused the skin to tip and water would then fall into the stone channel leading to the irrigated area. In the bright sunlight the skin can be seen disgourging the water. The farmer would turn the ox and lead it back up the ramp thus causing the ropes to pay out and allow the skin to fall back into the well. The squeal of the pulleys could be heard all along the Batinah coast as the sun went down.
- Old Ref: 130a
- 2/1/119 Sib fish market 1964-1966
- The fish market at Sib. Each day fishermen unloaded their catch on the beach and men would assemble to buy the fish. With the total absence of refrigeration in the country it was vital that fish were purchased straight from the sea and cooked the same day. Shark was frequently salted and dried. Sardine type fish were also dried in the sun and used as cattle feed.
- Old Ref: 131
- 2/1/120 Barusti house being constructed 1964-1966
- A barusti (palm frond) house being put up outside the perimeter fence at SAFTC. The RSM, Khalfan bin Salim has enlisted the help of three recruits in the construction.
- Old Ref: 132
- 2/1/121 Barusti houses in Seeb 1964-1966

Barusti (plaited palm fronds) houses in Seeb. This type of construction was common in the Sultanate, mostly on the Batinah coastal strip. It was quick and easy to construct, less costly than mud brick and whilst affording privacy allowed the unhindered flow of cooling air through the dwelling.

Old Ref: 132a

2/1/122 Women at well near Seeb 1964-1966

Women drawing water from a well near Seeb. The colour of their clothing is typical of the Batinah. They would draw the water by hand and then carry it back to their homes usually in a pot balanced on their heads.

Old Ref: 133

2/1/123 Rostaq Fort 1964-1966

Rostaq fort from the market area. At one time the capital of Oman, Rostaq remained an important town on the sea side of the Jebal Akhdar with a large suq and a formidable fort. An Armed Forces camp was maintained there.

Old Ref: 134

2/1/124 Rostaq Fort 1964-1966

Another view of Rostaq fort from the market area.

Old Ref: 135

2/1/125 Ghulam Nabi 1964-1966

My Baluch Orderly (soldier servant) Ghulam Nabi in civilian dress on a visit which I made to Rostaq. The tented army camp can be seen in the background.

Old Ref: 136

2/1/126 Land Rover in Batinah date gardens 1964-1966

My Land Rover from the Training Centre with Dostshambe at the wheel on the narrow track through the date gardens up the Batinah. This track was the only motorable route up 200 miles of the Batinah Coast. The easier and faster route was along the beach, but this was only viable at low tide.

Old Ref: 137

2/1/127 Baluch Driver Dostshambe 1964-1966

Baluch Driver Dostshambe near to SAFTC at the beginning of the 500 mile drive which took us from the Training Centre at Ghallah up the coast and into the mountainous interior, before returning through the mountains to the coast and back to our starting point . We fuelled the vehicle up at each of the army camps as no other petrol points existed in the country. On reflection now we were very fortunate to arrive back without mishap as we had no means of communication had the vehicle broken down. While travelling for four days we saw no other vehicle and not more than three or four dozen people, almost all on the coast. Day one took us 110 miles, via Bid Bid, Izki, and Firq to Nizwa on a six hour journey. We spent the first night with NFR in their camp there. The second day, was a six hour 80 mile drive to Ibri via Tanuf, Bahla and Jabrine, again spending that night in NFR's camp. The third day involved a 170 mile trip including a four hour dusty drive through sand towards Buraimi before turning down the Wadi Jizi over rocks and boulders and through running water for six hours, to the Batinah plain and Sohar. That night was spent camping under the stars on the beach near Sohar. The following morning we were fortunate with the tide which was low and the two hundred mile drive back to SAFTC was accomplished in an exhilarating race along the beach over the smooth hard sand at the tide line before turning inland at Sib to reach SAFTC.

Old Ref: 138

2/1/128 Jebal Hafit 1964-1966

Jebal Hafit on the way to Buraimi oasis. A notable whale backed feature of the landscape visible from a considerable distance.

Old Ref: 139

2/1/129 Fort on track from Ibri to Buraimi 1964-1966

A Sultanate fort on the track from Ibri to Buraimi.

Old Ref: 139a

2/1/130 Abu Dhabi Army Soldiers 1964-1966

Soldiers of the Abu Dhabi army returning from leave to Buraimi hitching a lift in my Land Rover.

Old Ref: 140

2/1/131 The Sultan's Buraimi Fort 1964-1966

The Sultan's Buraimi Fort. One of several forts in Buraimi, belonging to either Sheikh Shakbut of Abu Dhabi or Sultan Said bin Taimur of Muscat and Oman.

Old Ref: 141

2/1/132 Abu Dhabi Fort at Buraimi 1964-1966

The main building of the Abu Dhabi fort at Buraimi.

Old Ref: 142

2/1/133 Abu Dhabi Army Soldiers 1964-1966

The soldiers of the Abu Dhabi army reporting to their fort with my Land Rover in the foreground.

Old Ref: 190

2/1/134 Land Rover approaching Wadi Jizi 1964-1966

Our Land Rover approaching the entrance to Wadi Jizi. As can be seen the landscape is altering from open sandy country to more rocky terrain.

Old Ref: 191

2/1/135 Toll entrance to Wadi Jizi 1964-1966

At the entrance to Wadi Jizi there was a makeshift barrier manned by local tribesmen who charged a toll to all travellers. The Armed Forces were exempt from this charge so we were able to just drive through. As can be seen from this picture the track just consisted of tyre tracks which were invisible on rocky ground and where water was flowing. The motorable route wound in and out of the boulders and back and forth across water. It was therefore a very slow journey picking a route through the rocks with frequent stops to test the depth of water and underwater obstacles on foot before committing the vehicle to a crossing. The journey of about 170 miles from Ibri via Buraimi to Sohar took 10 hours at an average speed of 17 miles per hour, the average speed in Wadi

Jizi was nearer 5 miles per hour through the blistering heat which bounced back from the rocks.

Old Ref: 192

2/1/136 Crossing through Wadi Jizi 1964-1966

Dostshambe scanning the wadi to work out a route through the rock strewn area ahead.

Old Ref: 194

2/1/137 Crossing through Wadi Jizi 1964-1966

A particularly difficult stretch of the Wadi Jizi in the heat of mid day. From the tyre tracks in the foreground on the left, the route crosses the water, emerging in front of the large grey rock on the far bank and continuing up to the right.

Old Ref: 195

2/1/138 Rest stop in Wadi Jizi 1964-1966

Stopping to let the Land Rover engine cool down and to top up the radiator (and ourselves) from the cool running water in the wadi.

Old Ref: 196

2/1/139 Batinah plain north of Sohar 1964-1966

Out of the furnace of Wadi Jizi and on to the grassy park like open ground of the Batinah plain north of Sohar on the evening of the third day. As well as providing material for houses the ubiquitous palm frond also was used for fencing to keep goats and donkeys out of vegetable plots, as on the left of the picture.

Old Ref: 197

2/1/140 Sohar Fort 1964-1966

Following a night spent sleeping on the beach under the stars we passed Sohar fort as we moved out and on to the beach for the final day's run back to Ghallah and our starting point of SAFTC.

Old Ref: 198

2/1/141 Omanis riding camels on beach 1964-1966

As we roared back down the beach we passed numbers of Omanis on foot, on donkeys and camels also using the beach as a highway.

- Old Ref: 201
- 2/1/142 Village market on beach 1964-1966
 Passing a village market on the beach in the early morning on our return to SAFTC at Ghallah.
- Old Ref: 202
- 2/1/143 Abu Dhabi security personnel meeting flight from Bahrain 1964
 Security personnel at Abu Dhabi meeting twice weekly Gulf Aviation flight from Bahrain 1964
- Old Ref: 298
- 2/1/144 Brigadier Chauncy's house in Muscat 1964
 House in Muscat of Brigadier P Chauncy, Military Advisor to Sultan Said bin Taimur 1964.
- Old Ref: 299
- 2/1/145 Sergeant Major Juma and villagers 1964
 Sgt Major Juma of B Company NFR, with two villagers outside their house in Birkat al Moze 1964.
- Old Ref: 300
- 2/1/146 Corporal Ali and Sulieman bin Himyar's Fort 1964
 Corporal Ali Saif NFR looking down on Sulieman bin Himyar's fort at Birkat al Moze, with the entrance to Wadi Muaydin to the right 1964.
- Old Ref: 301
- 2/1/147 View of Nizwa army camp 1964
 A view of Nizwa army camp from the foot hills of the Jebel Akhdar behind it. The town of Nizwa is just out of shot on the right.
- Old Ref: 302
- 2/1/148 Main gate Nizwa army camp 1964
 The main gate of Nizwa army camp with the Guard Room and an NFR Regimental Policeman . The stand of four polished shell cases acted as an alarm.
- Old Ref: 303
- 2/1/149 Nizwa army camp signals centre 1964
 The Signals Centre Nizwa army camp.
- Old Ref: 304

- 2/1/150 Nizwa military air strip 1964
Nizwa military air strip seen from inside the camp perimeter. A Beaver aircraft of SAF is parked off the runway. The stone construction on the right of the picture is a sangar which provided cover in the event of attack on the camp. Transparency 302 was taken from the jebel in this picture.
Old Ref: 305
- 2/1/151 Private Rahimbaksh 1964
My Orderly Private Rahimbaksh. Nizwa Camp.
Old Ref: 306
- 2/1/152 Accommodation at Nizwa camp 1964
My accommodation (on the left) Nizwa camp. The Regimental Medical Officer's quarter was next door with his Land Rover outside. The quarters consisted of a bedroom with a bed, desk, chair, metal cupboard and wash hand basin and a connected shower room / lavatory. Water from the shower exited through a hole in the wall and was an entry point for frogs and the occasional snake.
Old Ref: 307
- 2/1/153 Nizwa army camp 1964
Nizwa army camp with the NFR Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Douglas Dalglish MC seconded from the Leicestershire Regiment's house and garden in the foreground. The Officers Mess is on the higher ground on the left of the picture. The Colonel and officers of NFR spent our off duty hours in spring 1964, building a path of steps up to the front of the mess and constructing a terraced garden.
Old Ref: 308
- 2/1/154 Omani soldiers 1964
From the left, Private Rahimbaksh, Corporal, acting CQMS, Habibullah and Private Allabaksh, all of B Company NFR outside the Company office, Nizwa camp.
Old Ref: 309
- 2/1/155 Soldiers bathing in wadi Mar 1964

Soldiers of NFR bathing in the wadi opposite the main gate of Nizwa camp.

Old Ref: 310

2/1/156 Land Rover outside Izki 1964

My Land Rover outside Izki town en route for Nizwa.

Old Ref: 311

2/1/157 Land Rover outside Izki 1964

My Land Rover outside Izki . From the left, Lieutenant Said bin Salim NFR (he and Lieutenant Ali Mohammed of Muscat Regiment were at this time on the first ever Lieutenant to Captain course at SAFTC Ghallah being run by Captain David Betley, Muscat Regiment, on secondment from The Lancashire Fusiliers). On his left is the driver Private Dostchambe and in the back are three Mess servants.

Old Ref: 312

2/1/158 Omani children 1964

Two Omani children, Nizwa.

Old Ref: 313

2/1/159 Nizwa street scene 1964

Street scene in Nizwa. The figures in the foreground are, from the right Captain Colin Mclean, Company Commander B Company NFR, Sergeant Nasib bin Hamad and the Company Sergeant Major B Company.

Old Ref: 314

2/1/160 Group photo at Hamad bin Salim's house 1964

Group taken at Hamad bin Salim's house, Nizwa 1964. Standing from the left, Captain Colin Maclean NFR, seconded from The Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, Hamad bin Salim al Ruwahi, Head Askar to the Wali of Nizwa, Sergeant Nasib bin Hamad bin Salim al Ruwahi, NFR (later to be Major General and the first Omani Commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces), a member of Hamad's household, Company Sergeant Major NFR. Kneeling on the left Abdullah bin Hamad, half brother to Nasib (later to retire as a Major from the Sultan's Armed Forces)

- Old Ref: 315
2/1/161 Omani boy 1964
Abdullah bin Hamed bin Salim Al Ruwahi. Nizwa.
- Old Ref: 316
2/1/162 Baluch soldiers playing volleyball 1964
Baluch soldiers of NFR playing volleyball in Nizwa camp.
- Old Ref: 317
2/1/163 Copper workers Nizwa 1964
Copper workers, Nizwa. Domestic articles such as bowls, plates, spoons, trays, jars and pots were made over charcoal fuelled fires.
- Old Ref: 318
2/1/164 Nizwa Suq 1964
Fruit and vegetables section of Nizwa Suq. Late afternoon.
- Old Ref: 319
2/1/165 Bathing and washing access point 1964
Bathing and washing access point on an underground falaj at Bilad Sait.
- Old Ref: 320
2/1/166 Land Rover on track out of Nizwa to Jabrin and Ibri 1964
My NFR Land Rover on the track out of Nizwa to Jabrin and Ibri. Part of the date palm plantations of Nizwa in the background. The watch tower on the right could only be accessed by a ladder inside which was then lifted up into the top platform.
- Old Ref: 321
2/1/167 Bild Sait rock feature 1964
Rock feature at Bild Sait seen from a watch tower outside the village.
- Old Ref: 322
2/1/168 Bilad Sait tented camp 1964
NFR platoon tented camp outside Bilad Sait. The Sultan's Armed Forces maintained a 30 man detachment outside this, the home village of Ghalib bin Ali al Hinai, pretender to the Imamate of Oman and his brother Talib, the two principle leaders of the failed revolt against Sultan Said bin Taimur during 1954-1959.

- Old Ref: 323
- 2/1/169 Soldiers in Bilad Sait detachment 1964
 Captain Colin Mclean photographs four members of NFR's Bilad Sait's detachment.
- Old Ref: 324
- 2/1/170 Bilad Sait tented camp 1964
 NFR platoon's tented camp outside Bilad Sait.
- Old Ref: 325
- 2/1/171 Jabrin painted ceiling in house 1964
 Painted ceiling at Jabrin.
- Old Ref: 326
- 2/1/172 Jabrin painted ceiling in house 1964
 Painted ceiling at Jabrin.
- Old Ref: 327
- 2/1/173 Talib's cave near Saiq 1964
 'Talib's cave' near Saiq at the top of Jebel Akdhar. One of the last resistance points in the Jebel Akdhar campaign, the clear area in front of the cave made it a problem to attack. This was solved by lowering a soldier on a rope to one the side of the cave opening and swinging him across the entrance. As he crossed the opening he threw a primed grenade in, killing the rebels inside. Talib bin Ali was not present in the cave at the time.
- Old Ref: 328
- 2/1/174 Saiq village 1964
 Part of Saiq village, Jebel Ahdhar.
- Old Ref: 329
- 2/1/175 Hamed bin Mohammed 1964
 Hamed bin Mohammed. Company Commander's Driver. B Company NFR. Near main gate of Nizwa Camp.
- Old Ref: 330
- 2/1/176 Nizwa wadi and the great tower 1964
 Nizwa wadi with the Great Tower after the first rain in eight years.
- Old Ref: 331
- 2/1/177 Camel caravan inside Nizwa fort 1964

- Camel caravan bedding down for the night inside the fort at
Nizwa.
Old Ref: 332
- 2/1/178 Camel train by Ibri camp 1964
Camel train passing Ibri Camp late evening.
Old Ref: 333
- 2/1/179 Woman and child 1964
Woman and child approaching NFR Medical Officer Ibri Camp
for help.
Old Ref: 334
- 2/1/180 Donkeys and camels by Ibri fort 1964
Donkeys and camels in the area by Ibri fort where they were left
hobbled while their owners went to the Suq. The camels are
eating cut lucern.
Old Ref: 334a
- 2/1/181 Camel saddle 1964
Omani camel saddle. Ibri fort.
Old Ref: 335
- 2/1/182 Soldiers Ibri camp 1964
Mohammed bin Saif and Nasser bin Saif, soldiers of B Company
NFR in Ibri Camp.
Old Ref: 336
- 2/1/183 Officers Mess garden Ibri camp 1964
Officers Mess garden Ibri Camp. Flood irrigation was used to
water the date palms, lime trees and banana plants. The main
water channel is in the foreground of the picture with openings to
the individual plants closed with mud and rags, these would be
removed to allow the water to be distributed in turn to each plant.
Old Ref: 337
- 2/1/184 Officers Mess accommodation Ibri camp 1964
Officers Mess accommodation Ibri camp. The buildings which
were traditionally constructed of stone and local mud cement, had
thick walls and a thick flat roof of compacted mud laid over
woven palm frond mats supported by wooden (chandles) poles.

This provide good insulation against the searing heat. The accommodation was a sitting room, a bedroom and bathroom with shower.

Old Ref: 338

2/1/185 Staff Sergeant Mohammed Mohinna 1964

Staff Sergeant Mohammed Mohinna, NFR (in shirt worn outside patterned wuzra) in Ibri with his purchase of sandals from the Suq.

Old Ref: 339

2/1/186 Ibri street scene 1964

Ibri street scene.

Old Ref: 340

2/1/187 Ibri street scene 1964

Street in Ibri. In the centre, in a green shirt Captain David Betley, Muscat Regiment and on the right in white shemarg Captain Colin Mclean Northern Frontier Regiment.

Old Ref: 341

2/1/188 Sheikh Sulaif 1964

A courtesy visit which I made to the sheikh of Sulaif, near Ibri. From the left the sheikh of Sulaif, one of the sheikhs retainers, CQMS Habibullah and my Orderly Private Rahimbaksh, both of NFR.

Old Ref: 342

2/1/189 Sheikh of Aynayn near Ibri 1964

The sheikh of Aynayn near Ibri. Taken at sunset.

Old Ref: 343

2/1/190 Aynayn Fort near Ibri 1964

The fort at Aynayn near Ibri.

Old Ref: 344

2/1/191 Lucern field at Araqi near Ibri 1964

Field of lucern at Araqi near Ibri. Taken in the evening, the field is being irrigated from the village falaj.

Old Ref: 345

2/1/192 SAF recruit 1964

- SAF recruit (on the left) with his brother at Araqi near Ibri. Eid al Fitr.
Old Ref: 346
- 2/1/193 Spectators at Araqi village dancing 1964
Spectators at the dancing in Araqi village at the Eid al Fitr celebration.
Old Ref: 347
- 2/1/194 Araqi village dancers 1964
Dancers at Eid al Fitr celebrations in Araqi village.
Old Ref: 348
- 2/1/195 Araqi village dancers and drummers 1964
Drummers and dancers. Araqi , Eid al Fitr.
Old Ref: 349
- 2/1/196 Women and girls watching dancing 1964
Women and young girls in their Eid finery watching the dancing in Araqi village.
Old Ref: 350
- 2/1/197 Newly planted flower garden 1965
My embryonic flower garden (possibly the first in the Sultanate) laid out behind the officers mess accommodation at SAFTC, Ghallah. I sent to Messrs Carters Tested Seeds in UK for advice on flowers which would do well in a middle eastern climate and packets of their seeds. The garden was prepared in the sandy soil of the camp which otherwise only had thorn trees for shade purposes. Using copious goat droppings as fertilizer, the traditional watering method of flood irrigation, and tended by the enthusiastic mess servants, within a few weeks of planting the garden was a mass of colour.
Old Ref: 351
- 2/1/198 Sheikh Juma bin Sulieman and his son 1965
Sheikh Juma bin Sulieman and his young son, taken in early evening in Ghallah village.
Old Ref: 352
- 2/1/199 Sulieman bin Hamed and his son 1965

Sulieman bin Hamed, a villager of Ghallah, employed as a civilian camp cleaner at SAFTC, with his young son.

Old Ref: 353

2/1/200 Omani recruits 1964

Omani recruits on arrival for training, outside the SAFTC offices, Ghallah.

Old Ref: 354

2/1/201 Royal Marine giving training to an Omani recruit 1965

A Royal Marines NCO talking through the shot grouping achieved by an Omani recruit on the SAFTC 25 yard Range. Two Omani NCO Instructors stand behind. All are dressed in summer training dress at the Centre.

Old Ref: 355

2/1/202 Omani recruit on shooting range 1965

An Omani recruit firing a Bren gun on the SAFTC 25 yard range supervised by an Omani NCO.

Old Ref: 356

2/1/203 Number 64 (Omani) Squad hiking 1964

Number 64 (Omani) Squad climbing the mountain ridge behind SAFTC.

Old Ref: 357

2/1/204 Number 64 (Omani) Squad hiking 1964

Number 64 Squad commanded by Sergeant Nasib bin Hamad (in foreground) climbing the mountain ridge behind SAFTC. Ghallah village palm trees are directly below and SAFTC camp is on the left in the background. (Beyond the camp and to the left is the area on the coast where, in 1970, Seeb International Airport would be built).

Old Ref: 358

2/1/205 Number 64 (Omani) Squad hiking 1964

Number 64 Squad descending the ridge behind SAFTC on their return to the camp.

Old Ref: 359

2/1/206 View towards Sad, Falaj and Bawsher villages 1964

- Looking south east from the high sand dune near SAFTC towards the villages of Sad, Falaj and Bawsher.
Old Ref: 360
- 2/1/207 Barusti houses 1965
A typical Batinah village of Barusti houses.
Old Ref: 361
- 2/1/208 Ox powered water hoist 1965
Ox powered well water haulage system. Near Sib, Batinah coast. The full water bucket has been drawn up from the well and reached the tipping point, disgourging the water into the water channel taking it into the cultivation.
Old Ref: 362
- 2/1/209 Live firing demonstration 1965
A live firing demonstration at SAFTC by two 5.5 inch guns from The SAF Artillery Troop, commanded by Captain David Thatche, seconded from the Royal Artillery. This demonstration was attended by the recruit squads under training.
Old Ref: 363
- 2/1/210 Live firing demonstration 5.5 inch gun 1965
A 5.5 inch gun of SAF Artillery Troop with gun crew during live firing demonstration at SAFTC.
Old Ref: 364
- 2/1/211 Live firing demonstration 1965
A live firing demonstration at SAFTC. Attended by the recruits and The Commander Sultans Armed Forces, Colonel AD Lewis DSO (standing on right) and Artillery Troop Commander Captain David Thacher (seated centre)
Old Ref: 365
- 2/1/212 Group photo of Number 58 Baluch Squad 1964
Number 58 Baluch Squad commanded by Sergeant Lalbaksh (seated centre with red sash flanked by his three training Corporals) after the recruits Passing Out Parade, on completion of their training. At the back, in the green beret, is a Royal

Marines NCO on three months attachment from his unit in Aden to assist with training.

Old Ref: 366

2/1/213 Shooting team 1964

SAFTC 5 man Shooting Team 1964. (Standing from the right) Sergeant Major Khalfan bin Salim, two recruits, attached British NCO Team Coach. (Kneeling in front) recruit and Corporal, Training NCO.

Old Ref: 367

2/1/214 Prize giving at end of SAF Week at Bid Bid 1964

Prize giving at the end of SAF Week at Bid Bid, 1964. SAF Week was seven days of inter unit competitions held annually, when teams from the army units of Muscat Regiment, Northern Frontier Regiment, Oman Gendarmerie, SAF Artillery Troop and Sultans Armed Forces Training Centre came together from all over the Sultanate to compete in shooting with rifle and Bren gun, vehicle driving, mountain running, volley ball and tug of war. In this picture a silver cup is being awarded to a Muscat Regiment Squad under Major NA 'Spike' Powell MBE (saluting) by Said Shahab Al bu Said (in royal headdress) with on his left Commander Sultan's Armed Forces, Colonel Hugh Oldman. The officer with white hair, back to camera, on the right in a red beret is Major Bob Warner, Force Paymaster.

Old Ref: 368

2/1/215 Prize giving at end of SAF Week at Bid Bid 1964

Prize giving at the end of SAF Week 1964. Prize for unit driving competition is being awarded to Northern Frontier Regiment team under Captain Mohammed Jaffer Regimental Motor Transport Officer(on loan from the Pakistani Armed Forces) seen here receiving the prize from Said Shahab al bu Said. On Said Shahab's left is CSAF Colonel Hugh Oldman and on the right with bandaged left hand is Major Peter Rook, Brigade Major. On the extreme left of the picture in service dress cap and Sam Brown

belt with his back to camera, is Colonel Colin Maxwell, Deputy
Commander SAF.

Old Ref: 369

2/1/216 Group photo of winners of Minor Units Shooting Prize 1964

The winners of the Minor Units Shooting Prize SAF Week 1964.
Sultans Armed Forces Training Centre Team comprising nine
Instructors and Recruits. Seen with the silver coffee pot trophy,
Major Jim Sheridan, Commander The Training Centre, with on
his left, Royal Marines Shooting Team Coach, SAFTC.

Old Ref: 370

2/1/217 Fish market at Sib 1965

Fish market at Sib. The market was on the beach where the
fishermen landed their catch. Animal transport waiting for buyers
to load their purchases.

Old Ref: 371

2/1/218 Fish on beach at Sib fish market 1965

Fish catch laid out for purchase. Sib fish Market.

Old Ref: 372

2/1/219 Customers at Sib fish market 1965

Purchasers at Sib fish market. In the background Land Rover
taxis allowed to travel along the Batinah coast to Muttrah and
Muscat only, not inland. Even Muttrah and Muscat residents with
smallholdings in Sib were charged duty at Ruwi Customs Post on
the road to the capital, on their fruit and vegetables from Sib.

Old Ref: 373

2/1/220 Stingray for sale at Sib fish market 1965

Sib fish market. A stingray for sale.

Old Ref: 374

2/1/221 Juma buying fish for the officers' mess 1965

Juma, a mess boy at SAFTC, purchasing fish for the officers'
mess from fisherman near Sib.

Old Ref: 375

2/2 Oman Photographic Prints 1964-1966, 78 prints

Black and white photographic prints, with a few a 1974
colour prints, taken during David's Coppin's
service in the Sultan's Armed Forces 1964-1966,
with one image of Nizwa town wall from 1974.

The photographs include images of Nizwa (the
great tower and wall), Muscat (the waterfront and
a view of Muscat from the Muttrah Road), as well
Ibri and Firq village.

Military images include photographs of British
and Omani soldiers, Iziki and Ibri Army camps
and the Sultan's Armed Forces training camp
(SAFTC). The photos from the training camp
include images of Omani recruits, roll call, rifle
and field training and refreshment breaks.

Photographs of local Omanis include group
photographs of families, a camel train, fishing by
hand, carrying water and Eid al Fitr celebrations
in Ibri, such as dancing. There is also a series of
photographs from a Bedu wedding showing
camel racing, a shooting competition, the bride
and her family and dancing.

2/2/1 Nizwa great tower 1964

Nizwa Great Tower, seen from the north 1964. Main motorable
route on left of picture. Firq 'dragon back' hill feature in the left
background.

Old Ref: A1

2/2/2 Nizwa town wall 1974

Nizwa town wall to north of Great Tower 1974. (Since demolished). The gateway with the pointed top on the left of this photograph linked is the same gateway on the right of photograph 2/2/1 (A1). Apart from the line of poles in front the wall had remained unchanged since the 1960s.

Old Ref: A2

2/2/3 Track from Muscat to the interior 1966

Graded track from Muscat to the interior at Fanjah in Bid Bid Wadi.

Old Ref: A3

2/2/4 Iziki army camp 1965

Iziki army camp 1965. Based on some stone and mud buildings, such as the main gate guard room with manned watch tower in the picture, a number of more modern barrack blocks had recently been constructed to replace the tents originally housing the rifle company based there.

Old Ref: A4

2/2/5 Firq village 1964

Firq village 1964, after the point where the track to Nizwa branched off from the main track graded by Shell which led to their exploration area. The narrow, rough track to Nizwa can be seen faintly in foreground of the picture. It amounted to little more than tyre tracks left by any recent army vehicles.

Old Ref: A5

2/2/6 Firq village 1964

Firq village 1964 another view. The track to Nizwa can be seen skirting the date gardens below the hillside.

Old Ref: A6

2/2/7 Firq village 1964

The centre of Firq village

Old Ref: A7

2/2/8 Nizwa 1964

Nizwa 1964. The area for buying firewood. Once selected the purchaser would load the wood onto his donkey and take it home.

- Old Ref: A8
- 2/2/9 Lecture 1964-1966
- The RSM Northern Frontier Regiment giving a lecture on tracking humans and their donkeys using two animals from the battalions donkey lines. There was a low level of mine laying still taking place on any tracks used by the army, and rebels would often transport mines into the final laying position on donkeys or camels.
- Old Ref: A9
- 2/2/10 Bugler Northern Frontier Regiment 1964
- Bugler Northern Frontier Regiment, in guard mounting order of dress, Nizwa Camp.
- Old Ref: A10
- 2/2/11 Group photo B Company shooting team 1964
- B Company shooting team. Nizwa 1964. Capt DM Coppin, Coy Second in Command on left of picture.
- Old Ref: A11
- 2/2/12 Captain Colin Mclean's Orderly 1964
- Captain Colin Mclean's Orderly. Northern Frontier Regiment, Nizwa Camp 1964. With main gate and guard room to the camp in the background.
- Old Ref: A12
- 2/2/13 Corporal Ali Saif 1964
- Nizwa Camp 1964. Corporal Ali Saif, Northern Frontier Regiment. Winner of the Champion Khud Racing Shield. Khud racing involved races up and down broken rock hillsides of several hundred feet at breakneck speed. It was the only sport taken part in by Omani soldiers at that time and was of great benefit as fitness training. The Baluch soldiers also played volleyball.
- Old Ref: A13
- 2/2/14 Muscat waterfront 1965
- Muscat waterfront 1965 with Fort Mirani on the right. The quay below the fort was used to load and unload small items such as

timber and sacks of dried dates and limes by lighter from cargo vessels in the harbour. The customs house and Sultan Said bin Taimur's palace are on the left of the photograph. There are two badams, high prowled wooden boats, typical of the Batinah coast moored off the beach.

Old Ref: A14

2/2/15 Muscat waterfront 1965

Muscat waterfront 1965. A similar view to image 2/2/14.

Old Ref: A15

2/2/16 Muscat view from road from Muttrah 1966

Muscat 1966 seen from the top of the final pass on the steep, narrow, winding concrete road from Muttrah. This road constructed in the 1930s replaced a foot track, previously the only land link between Muscat and Muttrah. The concrete road from Muscat to Bait al Falaj through Muttrah approx 5 miles, long constituted the only surfaced road in the Sultanate.

Old Ref: A16

2/2/17 Sidab village 1966

Sidab village 1966. Adjacent to Muscat, Sidab depended on fishing for its livelihood. Its wooden fishing fleet can be seen pulled up on the beach.

Old Ref: A17

2/2/18 Muscat from low pass 1966

Muscat 1966 from the low pass that divided it from Sidab. Several figures can be seen walking into Muscat from the village.

Old Ref: A18

2/2/19 Group photo of Omani family and neighbours 1965

A family and neighbours group photograph taken at Hayl Awamir on the beach near Sib on the Batinah Coast 1965. The Omani holding a small child (second adult from right) Ali, worked as a civilian at the Sultans Armed Forces Training Centre where I was in charge of recruit training. His father Hamed with beard and kumma (skullcap) to his right, generously invited me to me to join the family at their small barusti (palm frond house)

in my free time and I spent many happy Fridays with the family drinking coffee chatting and wandering round their small lime, banana and date smallholding from which, together with fishing, they scraped a living. My SAFTC Land Rover is behind the villager on the left. Such was Oman's isolation and lack of knowledge of the outside world that when I returned to UK in 1966 Hamed, who came to Bait al Falaj airstrip to see me off on the first leg of my journey, having learned that my journey would take fourteen hours on two separate flights, spread over two days, brought a stand of bananas in a sack so that I should not go hungry on the way. He also gave me strict instructions that I should pass his greetings to everyone in London. When I returned to Oman nine years later after not being able to contact him during the intervening years, I went to Hayl Awamir to look for Hamed and met him unexpectedly coming round the corner of a small stone house which had replaced the former palm frond home. It was an emotional reunion and touchingly he was carrying my photograph in his wallet

Old Ref: A19

2/2/20 Hamed and his cousin Aug 1965

Hamed (on the left) and his cousin outside my accommodation in SAFTR Camp with the recruits barrack blocks in the background. August 1965. They were walking from Hail Awamir to Muttrah. I was able, at least in part, to return Hamed's hospitality by giving them refreshments and a rest in my air conditioned room before they walked the remaining fourteen miles into Muttrah.

Old Ref: A20

2/2/21 Camel train 1965

Camel train moving through Ghubrah village on the coast twelve miles from Muscat 1965. The village consisted mainly of barusti buildings.

Old Ref: A21

2/2/22 Camel train 1965

- Villagers from the Interior bringing goods, probably dried dates, to market in Muttrah photographed on the track from SAFTC.
Old Ref: A22
- 2/2/23 Camel train 1966
Villagers bringing goods for sale by camel to Muttrah from the interior . On the track to SAFTC.
Old Ref: A23
- 2/2/24 Villagers carrying firewood by donkey 1966
Omani villagers on the track outside Sunub village near SAFTC 1966. They were bringing firewood by donkey to sell in the market in Muttrah
Old Ref: A24
- 2/2/25 Bausher village view 1966
Looking towards Bausher village from the 200 foot sand dunes behind SAFTC.
Old Ref: A25
- 2/2/26 Bedu with his children 1966
A Bedu with his children who lived on a well near Hammam al Ali, from whom I hired camels to ride. SAFTC 1966.
Old Ref: A26
- 2/2/27 Villager with loaded camels 1965
A villager coming back from Muttrah towards Seeb along the beach with his loaded camels 1965. The beach provided a convenient highway from the capital to villages along the Batinah Coast. He has the almost universally carried Martini Henry action rifle slung over his shoulder.
Old Ref: A27
- 2/2/28 Fishing by hand 1966
A villager casting his net. Hand fishing off the beach near Ghubrah.
Old Ref: A28
- 2/2/29 Fishing by hand 1966
A poor result from his cast. Hand fishing off the beach near Ghubrah.
Old Ref: A29

- 2/2/30 Fishing boats near Ghubrah 1964-1966
Fishing boats drawn up on the beach near Ghubrah. High prowed Badans, part stitched wooden craft would be rowed out from the beach by up to twelve oarsmen leaving one end of a large net on the beach in charge of a couple of helpers. On returning to the beach with the other end of the net, all the fishing party would haul the net in, catching all the fish within its circumference. The catch would frequently be of a sardine type which would be dried in the sun on the beach to provide animal feed.
Old Ref: A30
- 2/2/31 Women carrying water 1965
Women carrying water from a well near Sib.
Old Ref: A31
- 2/2/32 Major Jim Sheridan 1965
Major Jim Sheridan, Commanding Officer SAFTC 1965
Old Ref: A32
- 2/2/33 Captain David Coppin 1965
Captain David Coppin NFR, Officer in charge of Recruit Training SAFTC.
Old Ref: A33
- 2/2/34 Baluch Recruit Ghulam Nabi 1965
1965 Baluch Recruit Ghulam Nabi. I took him on as my Orderly after he was a witness at the trial of the Training Centre RSM who was found guilty of gross misconduct, dismissed the service and sent immediately back to Gwadur. There was then a serious risk that Ghulam Nabi would be killed by members of the RSM's tribe for his part in the trial and it was considered that if he was my Orderly it might give him a measure of protection. This appeared to work.
Old Ref: A34
- 2/2/35 My Driver Dostchambe 1966
My Driver Dostchambe on my farewell drive round from SAFTC to Nizwa, Ibri, Bureimi and through the Waddi Jizi to Sohar and down the Batinah coast back to SAFTC.

- Old Ref: A35
2/2/36 Omani Recruits 1965
Omani Recruits in 61 Squad on their first day at SAFTC, outside the Centre offices waiting to have paperwork completed.
- Old Ref: A36
2/2/37 Omani Recruits 1965
Recruits in 61 Squad on their third day formed up in three ranks awaiting the issue of uniforms.
- Old Ref: A37
2/2/38 Omani Recruits 1965
Recruits in 61 Squad on their third day before being issued uniforms.
- Old Ref: A38
2/2/39 Omani Recruits 1965
Oman Gendamerie recruits with their platoon Sergeant instructor 1965. This was the first intake of Oman Gendarmerie recruits to be trained at SAFTC. Previously recruits for Muscat Regiment and Northern Frontier Regiment, the only two infantry units in SAF had been trained there and Oman Gendarmerie had been responsible for training their own recruits at their Seeb base.
- Old Ref: A39
2/2/40 Evening roll call 1965
Evening Roll Call SAFTC.
- Old Ref: A40
2/2/41 Recruits rifle range training 1966
Recruits from a Baluch squad under training on the rifle range at SAFTC.
- Old Ref: A41
2/2/42 Drinking tea 1965
Omani Staff and recruits enjoying an off duty cup of tea near the cookhouse SAFTC 1965
- Old Ref: A42
2/2/43 Recruits field training 1966
Recruits from an Omani squad on field training near SAFTC.
- Old Ref: A43

- 2/2/44 Overtured truck 1966
 The result of cornering too fast in a three ton Bedford truck on the main track to Muttrah from Ghobrah, Fortunately none of the recruits (seen sitting in the shade at the back of the picture) who were going down to Muttrah from SAFTC for the evening, were injured.
 Old Ref: A44
- 2/2/45 Rusail watchtower 1966
 Watchtower at Rusail near Sib on the route to the Interior.
 Old Ref: A45
- 2/2/46 Inspection of the night guard 1966
 The night guard at Sultans Armed Training Centre being inspected by the Duty NCO before going on duty 1966. The round 'pillbox' hat worn by recruits only, were formed by folding and pressing a square of khaki material. This form of headwear was imported to the force by ex Indian Army officers serving on contract to the Sultan. They were a most impractical form of headgear on field training where they invariably fell off and during my tenure as Recruit Training Officer the material was worn with an agal instead and more resembled the red and white shemargh which was issued to all soldiers at the end of training when they joined their battalions
 Old Ref: A46
- 2/2/47 Recruits taking a break 1966
 Two recruits taking a break and a drink from a falaj in the shade of a tree outside Falayj ash Sham village near SAFTC during field training 1966. Money for clothing, arms, ammunition and equipment was in short supply as evidenced by the torn denim trousers worn by the recruit on the right. The Centre's Durzi (tailor) was kept fully employed on make do and mend. It will be noted that the recruits are wearing the headgear worn in picture 2/2/9 but unfolded and circled by an agal (black head cord).
 Old Ref: A47
- 2/2/48 Ibri army camp 1964

- Ibri army camp seen from the hills to the East, with the date gardens of Ibri town on the right.
Old Ref: A48
- 2/2/49 Wadi near Ibri 1964
The wadi between the army camp and Ibri town in spate.
Old Ref: A49
- 2/2/50 Eid al Fitr celebrations Ibri 1964
Eid al Fitr celebrations Ibri 1964. Captain Colin Mclean Northern Frontier regiment watching the dancing in Ibri with Omanis from NFR, the Baluch soldier in shalwar and khamis on the left of the picture is also a soldier of NFR. As can be seen from all the photographs of the Eid al Fitr celebrations the sky was overcast with frequent heavy rain, a cause of celebration as there had been no rain in Oman for the previous eight years
Old Ref: A50
- 2/2/51 Children's market, Eid al Fitr, Ibri 1964
The children's market Eid al Fitr, Ibri 1964 Children would set up little stalls to sell sweets to other children whilst the men danced in the main square.
Old Ref: A51
- 2/2/52 Baluch boy 1964
Small Baluch boy with umbrella at children's market Eid al Fitr. Ibri.
Old Ref: A52
- 2/2/53 Drummer 1964
Drummer at Eid al Fitr dancing in Ibri
Old Ref: A53
- 2/2/54 Spectators 1964
Spectators at Eid al Fitr dancing, Ibri.
Old Ref: A54
- 2/2/55 Spectators 1964
Spectators at Eid al Fitr dancing Ibri.
Old Ref: A55
- 2/2/56 Spectators 1964
Spectators at Eid al Fitr dancing Ibri.

- Old Ref: A56
2/2/57 Dancing controllers 1964
Two of the dancing controllers at the beginning of the dancing at Eid al Fitr, Ibri.
- Old Ref: A57
2/2/58 Dancers 1964
Dancers at Eid al Fitr celebrations Ibri 1964 The dancing involved the men shuffling in a circle to the beat of drums, periodically firing their rifles in the air. Those with more modern rifles would be Wali's Askers (The area Governor's Constables) or SAF soldiers on leave. The general population would be armed with Martini Henry action rifles, unchanged since first produced in the 1870s.
- Old Ref: A58
2/2/59 Dancers 1964
Dancers at Eid al Fitr celebrations, Ibri.
- Old Ref: A59
2/2/60 Dancers 1964
Dancers at Eid al Fitr celebrations, Ibri.
- Old Ref: A60
2/2/61 Bedu wedding: Bridegroom with camel 1964
A bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. As second in command of B Company at that time resident in Ibri Camp I was invited to the third day of the wedding of an NFR soldier. The day involved camel racing, shooting competition, dancing and a meal. The bridegroom, an NFR soldier, is shown with his camel before the racing started.
- Old Ref: A61
2/2/62 Bedu wedding: Bridegroom with camel 1964
A bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The bridegroom couching his camel.
- Old Ref: A62
2/2/63 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964

- A bedu wedding near Jbri 1964. Lt Ali Rashid NFR discusses the merits of two of the mounts before they race.
Old Ref: A63
- 2/2/64 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
A bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. One of the riders mounts his camel prior to his race.
Old Ref: A64
- 2/2/65 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. One of the contestants in the camel racing being led to the start.
Old Ref: A65
- 2/2/66 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. Waiting for the start of the racing. It will be noted that the camel in the picture has a cord through its nostril as well as the normal braking cord looped over its nose. This is because it is, what was described as harr (hot) or in other words difficult to control. The figure in the background with his arm in a sling was nursing an earlier bite from a camel, perhaps the one in the picture.
Old Ref: A66
- 2/2/67 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. Spectators assessing the competing camels before the racing.
Old Ref: A67
- 2/2/68 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The racing took place in pairs and the first two are lined up ready to go.
Old Ref: A68
- 2/2/69 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The two camels in picture 2/2/20 at full speed.
Old Ref: A69
- 2/2/70 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964

- Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The camel on the left is ahead, halfway down the course.
Old Ref: A70
- 2/2/71 Bedu wedding: Camel race 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The bridegroom with family and supporters gathered round his camel.
Old Ref: A71
- 2/2/72 Bedu wedding: Shooting competition 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. In the afternoon there was a shooting competition. The competitors were SAF soldiers as evidenced by the fact that they are using Lee Enfield rifles. At that time, soldiers going on leave took their personal weapon and a bandolier of 50 rounds of ammunition with them. In 1966, with security in the country improved, it was considered that this precaution was not required and soldiers on leave went unarmed.
Old Ref: A72
- 2/2/73 Bedu wedding: Shooting competition 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. Shooting competition. Guests shooting at predetermined targets of rocks and twigs set in the ground.
Old Ref: A73
- 2/2/74 Bedu wedding: Shooting competition 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. Shooting completion.
Old Ref: A74
- 2/2/75 Bedu wedding: bride and her party 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The bride and members of her party sheltering in the thin shade of a thorn tree. My Land Rover being used as seating for the boys.
Old Ref: A75
- 2/2/76 Bedu wedding: bride and her family 1964
Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. The bride and her family. The male relative on the right borrowed my rifle to hold over the group for this picture.
Old Ref: A76

- 2/2/77 Bedu wedding: Dancing 1965
 Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. Male guests dancing in celebration. The second figure from the left in the group of four., wearing a darker disdash is Lieutenant Ali Rashid NFR who was awarded the Military Medal by the British for rescuing a wounded British soldier under fire in the jebel campaign of 1959. On his left is a chief slave of the Duru sheikh who was representing his master at the festivities. He was treated as a guest of honour and accorded the same courtesies as the sheikh had he been there in person.
 Old Ref: A77
- 2/2/78 Bedu wedding: younger guests 1964
 Bedu wedding near Ibri 1964. A group of the younger guests. The one on the left borrowed my rifle for the photograph.
 Old Ref: A78
- 2/3 The Soldiers' Magazine Jul 1964 1 item
 Printed Magazine entitled the 'Soldier' containing an article 'Soldiering under the Sultan's flag' by Russell Miller with pictures by Leslie Wiggs. The article gives a description of the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman including its history, training, current facilities and British involvement.
 Admin Hist: Russell Miller's visit was almost the only journalist visit to Oman permitted by Sultan Said bin Taimur.
- 3** **Dubai Defence Force** **1973-1974** **2 folders**
 Papers and photographs relating to David Coppin's service as a Major, Infantry Squadron Commander in the Dubai Defence Force. The photographs are mainly of Awir camp and training in Wadi Hatti. The papers consist of a nominal roll, results of an inter troop drill competition and an admin aid memoir.
 System of arrangement:
- 3/1 Dubai Defence Force Photographs 1973-1974 50 items

- | | | | |
|------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| 3/2 | Dubai Defence Force Papers | 1973 | 3 items |
| <u>3/1</u> | <u>Dubai Defence Force Photographs</u> Black and white and colour photographs of the Dubai Defence Force including photographs of the ruler of Dubai watching a firing display, the headquarters at Jumairah, Awir camp and the training of troops in Wadi Hatta. The Awir camp photographs include aerial views, photographs of morning parade and drill practise, as well as images showing an accommodation tent, the squadron office and the signals centre. | <u>1973-1974</u> | <u>50 items</u> |
| 3/1/1 | <u>Headquarters at Jumairah</u> Photograph of Dubai Defence Force Headquarter buildings Jumairah. This and the soldiers' Lines, which were tented, were some six kilometres away from Zabil Palace, off the road to Abu Dhabi. In 1973 this was a hard surface single track road. The only other buildings closer than Zabil to the camp were a poultry farm, the Police Training Centre and some bungalows lining two small roads on the coast at Jumairah, two kilometres away. Some of these bungalows housed the Force's eleven British Officers and their families. The large building in the picture, to the right of and behind the Headquarters housed the Force stores and vehicle workshop. (For location, see the map 6/3/2 Guide to Dubai). Old Ref: DD1 | 1973-1974 | |
| 3/1/2 | <u>Ruler of Dubai and dignitaries</u> Sheikh Rashid bin Said al Maktum, Ruler of Dubai, members of his family, leading citizens and British officers and families, watch a demonstration by the Dubai Defence Force. On the extreme left is Lt Colonel AB Wallerstein RTR, Commander of the DDF. Old Ref: DDF2 | 1973-1974 | |
| 3/1/3 | <u>Entrance Gate No 3 Squadron</u> | | Apr 1973 |

The entrance to No3 (Ahmad) Squadron lines Jumairah, with gate guard and squadron transport on the left of the picture.

Note: Ahmad Squadron is spelt on the sign in this photo as Ahmed, but in the nominal roll 3/2/1 as Ahmad.

Old Ref: DDF3

3/1/4 Officers and senior NCOs No 3 Squadron Jul 1973

Officers and senior NCOs of No3 Squadron DDF. From the left, Sergeant Obaid Ali commanding 31 Troop. Staff Sergeant Said Mubarak (shortly afterwards promoted to Squadron Sergeant Major). Major DM Coppin, Squadron Commander. Lieutenant Sheikh Mohammed Ubaid, Squadron Second in Command. Second Lieutenant Said Ahmed. Picture taken outside the Squadron Commanders office tent. Jumaiah

Old Ref: DDF4

3/1/5 David Coppin and Mifta Salim Jun 1973

Major DM Coppin Squadron Commander 3 Squadron shaking hands with Squadron Sergeant Major Mifta Salim who had recently transferred from 3 Squadron to HQ Squadron.

Old Ref: DDF5

3/1/6 Corporal Adullah and trainee drivers Apr 1973

Jumairah Camp April 1973. 3 Squadron MT Corporal Adullah (second left with beard) with three drivers under training.

Old Ref: DDF6

3/1/7 Aqalad Hussain 1973

Aqalad Hussain (late 13th Frontier Force Rifles, Pakistani Army), civilian Orderly/Cook to Major DM Coppin outside the latter's house in Jumairah.

Old Ref: DDF7

3/1/8a Aerial view of camp at Awir 1973

Aerial view of DDF squadron tented camp at Awir, 1973. The camp was 35 kms east of Dubai town. The three infantry squadrons rotated in residency, a month at a time. 3 Squadron was at Awir Camp for the whole of August (the month of Ramadhan in 1973).

- Related material: For the location of this aerial view see item 6/3/1 Map with title Dayd, Union of Arab Emirates and Oman 1:100,000, Sheet NG-40-107. Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
Old Ref: DDF8
- 3/1/8b Aerial view of camp at Awir 1973
Aerial view of DDF squadron tented camp at Awir, 1973. The camp was 35 kms east of Dubai town. The three infantry squadrons rotated in residency, a month at a time. 3 Squadron was at Awir Camp for the whole of August (the month of Ramadhan in 1973).
Related material: For the location of this aerial view see item 6/3/1 Map with title Dayd, Union of Arab Emirates and Oman 1:100,000, Sheet NG-40-107. Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
Old Ref: DDF8
- 3/1/9 Awir camp from the east 1973
Awir Camp seen from the east. 3 Squadron Commander's Land Rover in foreground.
Old Ref: DDF9
- 3/1/10 Awir camp water wellhead and pump 1973
Water wellhead and pump, Awir Camp. 1973. Block built Squadron weapons store and flag at camp main gate on left of picture and double tent of squadron office on right. Officers accommodation tents in centre.
Old Ref: DDF10
- 3/1/11 Sand dunes 1973
Sand dunes behind Awir camp.
Old Ref: DD11
- 3/1/12 Awir camp morning parade Aug 1973
Awir Camp August 1973. Squadron morning muster parade. Troop accommodation tents in background. Squadron in parade dress to practice for inter troop DDF Drill Competition.
Old Ref: DDF12
- 3/1/13 Awir camp morning parade Aug 1973
Awir Camp August 1973. 3 Squadron morning muster parade. Half the Squadron in PT kit.
Old Ref: DDF13

- 3/1/14 Awir camp drill practise Aug 1973
Awir August 1973. The three Troops of 3 Squadron drawn up on Awir airstrip ready to start practicing for the Force Drill Competition.
Old Ref: DDF14
- 3/1/15 Awir camp drill practise Aug 1973
Awir August 1973. No 32 Troop practicing for the Drill Competition.
Old Ref: DDF15
- 3/1/16 Awir Camp Signals Centre Aug 1973
Awir Camp Signals Centre. 3 Squadron Messenger Juma Hassan (who doubled as coffee boy) keeping the Duty Signaller 'fuelled' with Qahwah.
Old Ref: DDF16
- 3/1/17 Juma Hassan with sand viper Aug 1973
Awir Camp August 1973. Messenger Juma Hassan with just killed Sand Viper outside the officers shower building and my tent. Due to the presence of the water well, showers and kitchens, we were having to kill a dozen or more Sand Vipers a day a day, in and around the accommodation, when we arrived in the camp.
Old Ref: DDF17
- 3/1/18 Awir camp accommodation tent Aug 1973
Awir Camp August 1973. My accommodation tent. Ventilation was provided by window and door openings cut in the palm frond walls of the tent and an electric fan which stirred the hot humid air.
Old Ref: DDF18
- 3/1/19 Awir camp squadron office Aug 1973
Awir Camp August 1973. The Squadron Office. The paperwork ably administered by my Malayali Civilian Clerk Prabhasuthan.
Old Ref: DDF19
- 3/1/20 Convoy en route to Wadi Hatta May 1973
No 31 Troop travelling at speed en route from Jumairah to Wadi Hatta for live firing training. May 1973. Wadi Hatta was a totally

unpopulated area and therefore lent itself to military activities such as live firing training. I took a troop at a time there to practice these.

Old Ref: DDF20

3/1/21 Rest stop en route to Wadi Hatta May 1973

No 31 Troop stopping to drink at a village falaj en route for Wadi Hatta..

Old Ref: DDF21

3/1/22 Wadi Hatta May 1973

Wadi Hatta May 1973. The area under the trees, which we used to camp during the week that a troop would remain there. We also used the area to carry out night patrolling and defence exercises.

Old Ref: DDF22

3/1/23 Wadi Hatta 1973

Wadi Hatta seen from the jebel behind our camping area.

Old Ref: DDF23

3/1/24 Wadi Hatta No 33 Troop arriving 1973

Wadi Hatta. No 33 Troop arriving for a week's training.

Old Ref: DDF24

3/1/25 Wadi Hatta No 33 Troop 1973

Wadi Hatta. No 33 Troop. Troop Sergeant Khamis Sabil standing on right.

Old Ref: DDF24a

3/1/26 Wadi Hatta soldier firing at target 1973

Wadi Hatta. A soldier of No 31 Troop accompanied by Squadron Sergeant Major Said Mubarak walking down the live firing course and engaging a target.

Old Ref: DDF25

3/1/27 Group photo of soldiers of No 31 Troop 1973

Wadi Hatta. A group photograph of soldiers of No 31 Troop taken in the evening.

Old Ref: DDF26

3/1/28 Wadi Hatta soldiers greeting civilians 1973

Wadi Hatta. Soldiers of No 31 Troop greeting civilians with pack animals moving through the wadi.

Old Ref: DDF27

- 3/1/29 Wadi Hatta soldiers with pack camel 1973
Wadi Hatta. Soldiers of No 31 Troop with pack camel.
Old Ref: DDF28
- 3/1/30 Wadi Hatta preparation for firing range 1973
Wadi Hatta. Troop Sergeant Ubaid Ali allocating order of firing numbers to members of his Troop.
Old Ref: DDF29
- 3/1/31 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF30
- 3/1/32 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF31
- 3/1/33 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF32
- 3/1/34 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF33
- 3/1/35 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF34
- 3/1/36 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF35
- 3/1/37 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF36
- 3/1/38 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF37
- 3/1/39 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF38
- 3/1/40 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973

- Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF39
- 3/1/41 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF40
- 3/1/42 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
Soldiers of no 31 Troop 3 Squadron DDF Wadi Hatta.
Old Ref: DDF41
- 3/1/43 Wadi Hatta soldiers of no 31 Troop 1973
No 3 Squadron Commander's Signaller, Corporal Bahadur
Ibrahim. Wadi Hatta 1973.
Old Ref: DDF42
- 3/1/44 Ruler of Dubai arriving to watch firing display 1973
Sheikh Rashid bin Said al Maktum, Ruler of Dubai (on the right of
the vehicle) arriving to witness a display of live firing by the
Saladin and Ferret vehicles of The Armoured Car Squadron of the
Dubai Defence Force at Jebel Ali. At this time Jebel Ali was a
completely empty piece of desert.
Old Ref: DDF43
- 3/1/45 Ruler of Dubai at firing display 1973
Sheikh Rashid (passing behind the man in the shirt and trousers)
accompanied by his Emiri Guards (carrying automatic rifles) and
two members of the Dubai Police Force at the Armoured Car live
firing demonstration. Jebel Ali.
Old Ref: DDF44
- 3/1/46 Ruler of Dubai inspecting armoured car 1973
Sheikh Rashid inspecting a Ferret Armoured Car at live firing
demonstration. Jebel Ali.
Old Ref: DDF45
- 3/1/47 Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktum at firing display 1973
Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktum, then The Minister of
Defence of the UAE standing on top of a Ferret Armoured Car at
the live firing demonstration at Jebel Ali.
Old Ref: DDF46
- 3/1/48 Live firing demonstration 1973

The Armoured Car Squadron DDF on target. Jebel Ali. Live firing demonstration.

Old Ref: DDF47

3/1/49 Dubai Defence Force officer in dress uniform 1973

Dubai Defence Force. Officers No 1 Dress Uniform. 1973.

Old Ref: DDF48

3/2 Dubai Defence Force Papers 1973 3 items

Papers relating to David Coppin's service in the Dubai Defence Force consisting of a nominal roll for no 3 Ahmad Squadron, the results of an inter troop drill competition and an admin aid memoir.

3/2/1 Ahmad Squadron Nominal Roll [1973]

Nominal roll of the Dubai Defence Force No 3 (Ahmad Squadron) arranged by service number and giving the rank and name of the members of the squadron including Major D.M. Coppin.

Old Ref: DDF49

3/2/2 Inter Troop Drill Competition Results 21 Nov

Results of Dubai Defence Force Inter Troop Drill Competition 21 November 1973, giving the number of the team and the points scored. The three troops of 3 Squadron achieved first, second and tenth places overall.

Language: In English and Arabic

Old Ref: DDF50

3/2/3 Admin Aid Memoir [1973]

Dubai Defence Force document entitled 'Admin Aid Memoir' giving information relating to water, petrol, ammunition, timings for situation reports, and information required to report a vehicle breakdown. The information on water gives the capacity of different water containers; for petrol the tank capacity, miles per gallon and range of different vehicles and for ammunition the code, description and packing for different types of ammunition.

Language: In English and Arabic

Old Ref: DDF51

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <u>4</u> | <u>North Yemen</u> | <u>1980, 1995</u> | <u>1 folder,</u> <u>1 item</u> |
| | Photographs and an article about a journey David Coppin took from Sana'a to Hodeida in Yemen in 1980. | | |
| | System of arrangement: | | |
| 4/1 | North Yemen Photographs | 1980 | 31 items |
| 4/2 | Article: Journey in Yemen | 1995 | 1 item |
| | | | |
| <u>4/1</u> | <u>North Yemen Photographs</u> | <u>1980</u> | <u>31 items</u> |
| | Photographs from a journey by David Coppin from Sana'a to Hodeida in Yemen. The photographs include images of Sana'a, Wadi Dhahar, Kowkaban, Shibam and the Tihma plain and include landscapes showings mountains, plains, agricultural terracing and houses. There is a series of photographs showing the steep path to Kowkaban village, as well as the gate into the village and houses and villagers. | | |
| | | | |
| 4/1/1 | <u>Sana'a</u> Sana'a after rain. Old Ref: Y1 | | Jan 1980 |
| 4/1/2 | <u>Wimpy restaurant Sana'a</u> A recently opened Wimpy restaurant Sana'a. Old Ref: Y2 | | 1980 |
| 4/1/3 | <u>Wadi Dhahar Houses</u> Houses in Wadi Dhahar. Surrounded by vineyards, pomegranate and apricot trees. The site of the Imam Badr bin Ahmed's residence. Old Ref: Y3 | | 1980 |
| 4/1/4 | <u>Wadi Dhahar Houses</u> Houses in Wadi Dhahar. Old Ref: Y4 | | 1980 |
| 4/1/5 | <u>Goods being transported on path to Kowkaban</u> | | 1980 |

Goods including a wheelbarrow, purchased at the Friday market in Shibam village, being transported up the Himyaritic footpath to Kowkaban village on the plateau above. This ancient path was the only way to get to Kowkaban and involved a stiff climb of more than an hour.

Old Ref: Y5

4/1/6 Villagers climbing path to Kowkaban 1980

Villagers climbing the path to Kowkaban. They are less than half way up and the houses on the outskirts of Shibam can be seen on the left of the picture.

Old Ref: Y6

4/1/7 Bridge on path to Kowkaban 1980

A bridge carrying the Himyaritic footpath to Kowkaban over a re-entrant.

Old Ref: Y7

4/1/8 Villagers climbing path to Kowkaban 1980

Two villagers climbing up the footpath to Kowkaban.

Old Ref: Y8

4/1/9 View of Shibam from path to Kowkaban 1980

Looking back at Shibam from half way up the footpath to Kowkaban.

Old Ref: Y9

4/1/10 Kowkaban gate 1980

The gate into Kowkaban. This gateway was the only way into the village.

Old Ref: Y10

4/1/11 Kowkaban children 1980

Children in Kowkaban.

Old Ref: Y11

4/1/12 Kowkaban house 1980

A house in Kowkaban.

Old Ref: Y12

4/1/13 Kowkaban houses 1980

Houses in Kowkaban.

Old Ref: Y13

- | | | |
|--------|---|----------|
| 4/1/14 | <u>View from Kowkaban</u> Looking down from Kowkaban towards the tarmac road to Shibam. Old Ref: Y14 | 1980 |
| 4/1/15 | <u>View of Shibam from Kowkaban</u> Shibam from Kowkaban village. Old Ref: Y15 | 1980 |
| 4/1/16 | <u>View of plateau from Kowkaban</u> View from the plateau at Kowkaban. Old Ref: Y16 | 1980 |
| 4/1/17 | <u>View of plateau from Kowkaban</u> View from Kowkaban. Old Ref: Y17 | 1980 |
| 4/1/18 | <u>Kowkaban village</u> A view of part of Kowkaban village from the top of the plateau. Old Ref: Y18 | 1980 |
| 4/1/19 | <u>View of plateau and terraces</u> View from the Sana'a to Hodeida road, just outside Sana'a. Old Ref: Y19 | 1980 |
| 4/1/20 | <u>Village surrounded with terracing</u> Terracing round a village Sana'a to Hodeida road. Old Ref: Y20 | 1980 |
| 4/1/21 | <u>Mountains near Sana'a</u> Low cloud in the mountains just outside Sana'a. Old Ref: Y21 | Feb 1980 |
| 4/1/22 | <u>Agricultural terracing</u> Agricultural terracing from the Sana'a to Hodeida road. Old Ref: Y22 | 1980 |
| 4/1/23 | <u>Villagers on road</u> Villagers on the Sana'a to Hodeida road. Old Ref: Y23 | 1980 |
| 4/1/24 | <u>Houses</u> Houses near the Sana'a to Hodeida road. Old Ref: Y24 | 1980 |
| 4/1/25 | <u>House on cliff</u> | 1980 |

- House on the Sana'a to Hodeida road.
Old Ref: Y25
- 4/1/26 View of Sana'a to Hodeida road descending to Tihama plain 1980
The Sana'a to Hodeida road as it commenced its descent towards the Tihama plain 1980. As it snaked down over 7000 feet in a series of hairpin bends, each bend was marked by crashed vehicles in the dry stream beds below the road. The road was built by the Chinese and an ornate Chinese Temple on the hillside just outside Sana'a commemorates the Chinese workers who died on its construction.
Old Ref: Y26
- 4/1/27 View of valley on Sana'a to Hodeida road 1980
Valley with low cloud on the Sana'a to Hodeida road.
Old Ref: Y27
- 4/1/28 Yemenis riding camels 1980
Yemenis riding camels near a quarry site on the Tihama plain. These appear to be bull camels as they are muzzled to prevent them biting. Bull camels become ferocious when on musth. Sana'a to Hodeida road.
Old Ref: Y28
- 4/1/29 Goats grazing 1980
Goats grazing in the fields on the line of a wadi. Tihama plain near the foot of the mountains.
Old Ref: Y29
- 4/1/30 Tihama plain cultivation 1980
Cultivation on the Tihama plain.
Old Ref: Y30
- 4/1/31 Tihama plain haystacks and grass roofed buildings 1980
Haystacks and grass roofed buildings on the Tihama plain. Descending from the Yemen highlands to the coastal plain the change to almost African vegetation and buildings was very noticeable.
Old Ref: Y31

- 5/1/1 Aerial view photographs 1985 5 items
 Aerial photographs of Sultan Qaboos University during its construction in 1985.
- 5/1/1/1 Sultan Qaboos University 1985
 Aerial view the 11 square kilometre Sultan Qaboos University site in 1985. Photograph shows; in the foreground, Cementation International, the contractor's material stores, steel yard, joinery workshop, plant workshop and plant spares store. These facilities were removed on completion of the project. Behind these are the University Teaching Staff accommodation. The swimming pool visible on the left of the picture is part of the Recreational Club for Teaching Staff. In the middle ground inside the loop of the tarmac road and from the left, are the Chancellor and the Deans' houses (the group of bright white buildings). The male Student Residences and gymnasium. Behind them, on the left is the University Mosque building to accommodate 2000 worshipers and in line with this the main Common Facilities building with the five colleges. In front of the right hand of end of the main building are the first works of construction of the 500 bed University Teaching Hospital which was added to the original contract. Beyond this again, are the female Student Residences and gymnasium. The coast is visible in the background.
 Old Ref: OM1
- 5/1/1/2 Sultan Qaboos University 1985
 Aerial view of the construction of the Sultan Qaboos University Project in 1985. With the Male Student residences on the left of the picture. The site of the Teaching Hospital is marked by two orange tower cranes on the right of the picture.
 Old Ref: OM2
- 5/1/1/3 Sultan Qaboos University 1985

Aerial view (looking inland) of the main building of the Sultan Qaboos University under construction in 1985. Housing the Common Facilities, the five Colleges. Library, five Lecture Theatres and the Administration Offices (on the left of the picture. The precision of the alignment of the building meant the standing on the central walkway at Administration (on the left of the picture) it was possible to see the dome of the University Mosque framed through a series of windows on the walkway, at the other end of the University (out of the picture to the right).

Old Ref: OM3

5/1/1/4 Sultan Qaboos University 1985

Aerial view of construction of the Sultan Qaboos University in 1985. To the right of the roundabout are the M&E sub contractors offices, stores, workshops and facilities (all removed on completion of the construction). The group of square buildings were constructed to house the permanent Maintenance Staff for the University.

Old Ref: OM4

5/1/1/5 Sultan Qaboos University 1985

Arial view of Sultan Qaboos University during construction in 1985, showing part of the Labour Camp. The workforce at peak, was over 4000. All 4000 except the 250 Omani workers ,who were bussed in daily from local areas, were accommodated on site. The British senior staff and families were housed in accommodation eventually destined for the University Teaching Staff. This housing was amongst the first construction work on site. 3800 Indians who formed the main body of craftsmen, technicians and labour were housed in the purpose built camp shown on the right of the picture as were 30 Thai plant mechanics and the sole Pakistani, the Joinery Foreman. Four Mess Kitchens and Mess Halls

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------|
| 5/1/3 | <u>Sultan Qaboos University Information booklet</u> Printed booklet by Cementation International Ltd, giving an account of the history, development, design and construction, facilities, colleges, halls of residence, infrastructure and University Hospital of the Sultan Qaboos University. | 1986 | 1 booklet |
| 5/1/4 | <u>Oman Daily Observer</u> Printed newspaper 'Oman Daily Observer' containing an article 'HM Sultan opens his University' which includes the text of his opening speech. | 10 Nov 1986 | 1 item |
| 5/2 | <u>National Day Celebrations</u> Printed books, booklets, magazines and newspapers celebrating the Sultanate of Oman's national day, as well as an invitation card for the military tattoo and a parade programme for the 1985 national day celebrations. System of arrangement: Chronological | 1972-1986 | <u>9 items</u> |
| 5/2/1 | <u>National Day 1972</u> Printed book 'Oman' published by the Department of Information Muscat 'on the occasion of Oman's second National Day, November 18 th 1972'. The book aimed to 'tell the world about Oman, the land and the people, the past and what we are doing about our future.' | 1972 | 1 volume |

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------------|----------------|
| 5/2/2 | <u>National Day 1975</u> | 1975 | 1 booklet |
| | Printed booklet 'Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Education Fifth National Anniversary 18 November 1975'. The booklet sets out the aims of the Ministry of Education and celebrates the progress that has been made in education. | | |
| | Language: In English and Arabic | | |
| 5/2/3 | <u>National Day 1984</u> | 1984 | 1 magazine |
| | Printed magazine 'A tribute to Oman, National Day 1984' produced and published by Apex Publishing. | | |
| 5/2/4 | <u>National Day 1985</u> | <u>1985</u> | <u>5 items</u> |
| | 5/2/4/1 <u>Military Tattoo Invitation Card</u> | 1985 | 2 items |
| | Invitation card to Mr and Mrs David Coppin to the Military Tattoo National Day 1985 and an envelope. | | |
| | Language: In Arabic | | |
| | 5/2/4/2 <u>Parade Programme</u> | 18 Nov | 1 item |
| | Printed 'Programme for the Sultanate of Oman's 15 th National Day Parade 18 th November 1985' | | |
| | Language: In English and Arabic | | |
| | 5/2/4/3 <u>Oman Daily Observer Supplement</u> | 18 Nov | 1 item |
| | The supplement pages from the Oman Daily Observer celebrating National Day 1985. | | |
| | 5/2/4/4 <u>A tribute to Oman</u> | 1985 | 1 magazine |
| | Printed magazine 'A Tribute to Oman National Day 1985' produced and published by Apex Publishing as a supplement of 'The Sultanate of Oman Today'. | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 5/2/5 | <u>National Day 1986</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1 item</u> |
| | The supplement pages from the Oman Daily Observer celebrating National Day 1986. | | |
| 5/3 | <u>Renaissance Day Celebration</u> | <u>23 Jul 1986</u> | <u>1 item</u> |
| | Souvenir anniversary edition of the Oman Daily Observer celebrating the 16 th anniversary of the accession of Sultan Qaboos to the throne on the 23 rd July. | | |
| 5/4 | <u>Liquor Permit</u> | <u>3 Dec 1986</u> | <u>1 item</u> |
| | Royal Oman Police Liquor permit for David Coppin valid from the 3 Dec 1986 until the 30 Nov 1987. The permit granted permission to David Coppin to 'purchase liquor subject to the regulations governing purchase, carriage and consumption of alcoholic beverages...' | | |
| <u>6</u> | <u>Maps</u> | <u>1961-1974</u> | <u>26 items</u> |
| | Maps mainly covering the Sultanate of Oman but also including Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. | | |
| | System of arrangement: | | |
| 6/1 | Northern Oman | 1961-1984 | 9 items |
| 6/2 | Southern Oman | 1968-1972 | 15 items |
| 6/3 | Dubai and United Arab Emirates | 1972-1972 | 2 items |
| <u>6/1</u> | <u>Northern Oman</u> | <u>1961-1984</u> | <u>9 items</u> |
| | Maps of northern Oman including Azaiba, Bahlā, Birkat Al Mawz, Fanjah, Muscat, Nakhl, Rustāq and Şamad. | | |
| 6/1/1 | <u>Azaiba</u> | | 1961 |
| | Map with title Azaiba. | | |

- Muscat-Oman 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NF-40-036.
Edition 2-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, War Office and Air Ministry 1961.
- 6/1/2 'Udhaybah (Azaiba) 1975
Map with title 'Udhaybah (Azaiba).
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NF-40-036.
Edition 6-GSGS.
Produced under the direction of the Director of Military
Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1975.
- 6/1/3 Muscat 1975
Map with title Muscat.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NF-40-044.
Edition 5-GSGS.
Produced under the direction of the Director of Military
Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1975.
- 6/1/4 Bahlā 1984
Map with title Bahlā.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.
Sheet NF40-7A.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984.
- 6/1/5 Birkat Al Mawz 1984
Map with title Birkat Al Mawz.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.

- Sheet NF40-7B.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984.
- 6/1/6 Fanjah 1984
Map with title Fanjah.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.
Sheet NF40-3F.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984.
- 6/1/7 Nakhl 1984
Map with title Nakhl.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.
Sheet NF40-3E.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984
- 6/1/8 Rustāq 1984
Map with title Rustāq.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.
Sheet NF40-3D.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984.
- 6/1/9 Şamad 1984
Map with title Şamad.
Oman 1:100,000.
Series K6611.
Sheet NF40-7C.

Edition 1-GSGS.

Produced for the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of
Oman by Hunting Surveys Limited 1984.

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>6/2</u> | <u>Southern Oman</u> | <u>1968-1972</u> | <u>15 items</u> |
| | Maps of southern Oman including Habarūt, Hāsik, Mā'shadīd, Midway (Thamarīt), Mirbāt, Mudayy, Ra's Darbat 'Alī, Rayzūt, Şadh, Şalālah, Suddah, Wādī Hhat, Wādī Madī and Yahī Risākh. | | |
| | Arrangement: Chronological and alphabetical. | | |
| 6/2/1 | <u>Hāsik</u> | | 1968 |
| | Map with title Hāsik. | | |
| | Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000. | | |
| | Series K668. | | |
| | Sheet NE-40-096. | | |
| | Edition 2-GSGS. | | |
| | Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968. | | |
| 6/2/2 | <u>Mā'shadīd</u> | | 1968 |
| | Map with title Mā'shadīd | | |
| | Muscat-Oman 1:100,000. | | |
| | Series K668. | | |
| | Sheet NE-39-126. | | |
| | Edition 2-GSGS. | | |
| | Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968. | | |
| 6/2/3 | <u>Midway (Thamarīt)</u> | | 1968 |
| | Map with title Midway (Thamarīt). | | |
| | Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000. | | |
| | Series K668. | | |
| | Sheet NE-40-094. | | |
| | Edition 2-GSGS. | | |

- Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968.
- 6/2/4 Mudayy 1968
Map with title Mudayy.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-125.
Edition 2-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968.
- 6/2/5 Suddah 1968
Map with title Suddah.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-128.
Edition 2-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968.
- 6/2/6 Yahī Risākh 1968
Map with title Yahī Risākh.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-40-095.
Edition 2-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1968.
- 6/2/7 Habarūt 1972
Map with title Habarūt.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-127.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.

- 6/2/8 Mirbāt 1972
Map with title Mirbāt.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-40-098 and pt.132.
Edition 3-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/9 Rayzūt 1972
Map with title Rayzūt.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-163
Edition 3-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/10 Ṣadh 1972
Map with title Ṣadh.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-40-099
Edition 3-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/11 Wādī Hhat 1972
Map with title Wādī Hhat.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-161
Edition 1-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/12 Wādī Madī 1972

- Map with title Wādī Madī.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-124.
Edition 1-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/13 Wādī ‘Uyūn 1972
Map with title Wādī ‘Uyūn.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-129.
Edition 3-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972.
- 6/2/14 Ra’s Darbat ‘Alī 1974
Map with title Ra’s Darbat ‘Alī.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-39-162 and pt 165.
Edition 4-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1974.
- 6/2/15 Şalālah 1974
Map with title Şalālah.
Oman and United Arab Emirates 1:100,000.
Series K668.
Sheet NE-40-097 and pt 131.
Edition 4-GSGS.
Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1974.

- | | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| <u>6/3</u> | <u>Dubai and United Arab Emirates</u> | <u>1972-1973</u> | <u>2 items</u> |
| | Map of Dayd and a map with the title 'Guide to Dubai' | | |
| 6/3/1 | <u>Dayd</u> | | 1972 |
| | Map with title Dayd. Union of Arab Emirates and Oman 1:100,000. Series K668. Sheet NG-40-107. Edition 3-GSGS. Published by D Survey, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom 1972. | | |
| 6/3/2 | <u>Guide to Dubai</u> | | 1973 |
| | Photocopy of a map with title Guide to Dubai. Scale 1:20,000 Approx. Compiled by Major G.F.B. Temple MC, Dubai Defence Force. Published by Dubai Defence Force, U.A.E. 1973. Physical condition: Some fading on the photocopy | | |

7 Printed Literature **1974-1991** **2 items**

Ministry of Information and Tourism printed booklet on Dhofar 1974 and an exhibition catalogue for 'Weapons of the Islamic World: Swords and Armour' 1991.

- | | | | |
|------------|---|------------|-----------|
| <u>7/1</u> | <u>Sultanate of Oman Southern Region - Dhofar</u> | Not dated | 1 booklet |
| | Printed booklet entitled 'Sultanate of Oman Southern Region – Dhofar' published by the Ministry of Information and Tourism Sultanate of Oman. The booklet includes a description of 'the military situation' and mainly focuses on development work in Dhofar covering health, education, infrastructure (such as roads, communications and electricity), | | |
| | | [May 1974] | |

water, agriculture, fishing, development of a harbour, an airport and new housing.

- 7/2 Weapons of the Islamic World: Swords and Armour 1991 1 book
- Printed exhibition catalogue entitled 'Weapons of the Islamic World Swords and Armour' produced for an exhibition held at the Islamic Gallery in the King Faisal Foundation Center Riyadh, 1991. The book contains an introduction to styles and types of swords and armour, followed by a catalogue of swords and armour displayed in the exhibition.