

**Reference code:** GB165-0633

**Title:** Daniel Sweeney Collection

**Name of creator:** Sweeney, Daniel (b.1945) Soldier

**Dates of creation of material:** 1975-1982; c.2010s

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1 file

**Biographical history:** Sweeney, Daniel. (b.1945) Soldier

Born 28 Oct 1945, in Listowel, Co Kerry, Ireland. Educated at various village schools in Ireland; Hatfield Secondary Modern, Hertfordshire, England; WGC College of Further Education; and Hatfield Polytechnic. Joined De Haviland Aircraft in 1961 for 6 months, before joining The All Arms Juniors Leaders Regiment in Towyn, North Wales. Adult military service career began with joining the 1/3 East Anglian Regiment in 1963, serving in the 1964 Aden-Radfan Emergency, Berlin 1965-1966, 1966 Aden Emergency, at Tidworth 1967-1969 and UN Cyprus 1969. Also in 1969 took the Malaya Platoon Commandos Tactics Course at the Jungle Warfare School. In 1970 was stationed Aldershot, which included a tour of Northern Ireland and was an instructor at the Army Apprentices College, Arbourfield. 1972-1975 served in the British Army of the Rhine [BAOR]. Then in 1975 took a contract with the Sultan's Armed Forces [SAF] in Oman as a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer [SNCO]/Warrant Officer Instructor till 1978. In 1979 was commissioned into the SAF as an infantry officer and later the Chief Instructor of Southern Oman Brigade till 1982. Over the course of the two contracts in Oman trained c.2000 Baluchi soldiers. Afterwards joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Anglian Regiment as Company Second in Command. In 1983 became Company Director of a Spanish leisure company till 1985 and from 1986 to 1995 worked for Legal and General Assurance as a Sales Manager. For the period 1985-1993 also held the role of Company Commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Anglian Regiment. 1993-1997 was the Northamptonshire County Council Commissioner for St John's Ambulance Brigade and from 1996 until retirement to Spain in 2003 was the Managing Director of a financial services company.

**Scope and content:** Papers relating to Daniel Sweeney's military service in Oman consisting of a memoir written covering his time the Baluch Training Centre and Southern Oman Brigade Training Centre 1975-1982, a digital copy of a cine film of the 1977 recruit

passout parade with accompanying notes, a vaccination certificate, an employment contract and digital copies of photographs taken during his service in Oman c1975-1982.

**System of arrangement:**

1. Memoir
2. 'Passout Parade' Film and Notes
3. Vaccination Certificate
4. Employment Contract
5. Photos

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English with a very small amount of French and Arabic

**Physical Condition:** Photos and film are in digital form and therefore a computer is needed to view them. Please contact the Archivist for further details concerning access.

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns

**Custodial history:** In possession of Daniel Sweeney

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Daniel Sweeney on 30 August 2016

**Location of originals:** Original photographs are in the possession of Daniel Sweeney

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive

The MEC Archive has many collections relating to Oman, especially military history in the 1970s. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to the Oman for further information.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and file and item level description created by Alex Mash, Nov 2016 and revised by Debbie Usher 27 Jan 2017. Biographical history provided by Daniel Sweeney and edited by Alex Mash.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE DANIEL SWEENEY  
COLLECTION**

<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>Memoir</u></b>	<b><u>c.2010s</u></b>	<b><u>11 sheets</u></b>
	<p>Typescript Memoirs of Daniel Sweeney covering his time at ‘The Baluch Training Centre and Southern Oman Brigade Training Centre’ [BTC and SOBTC] from Sept 1975 to Mar 1982, includes details of his recruitment and later promotions, his personal and social life in Oman, specifics of the training programmes, the construction of the training camp, the nature of the Baluchi recruits and the end of training ‘Passout Parades’ for recruits including the 1977 one, which was filmed [see 2/1 Passout Parade Cine film] and one visited by Sultan Qaboos.</p>		
<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>‘Passout Parade’ Cine Film and Notes</u></b>	<b><u>June 1977;</u></b> <b><u>c.2010s</u></b>	<b><u>2 items</u></b>
	<p>A cine film of the June 1977 Passout Parade for Baluchi Recruits and accompanying notes with time references.</p> <p>Related Material: Photos 5/39, 5/40, 5/41, 5/42, 5/43</p>		
2/1	<b><u>Passout Parade Cine Film</u></b>	June 1977	1 VOB File of 23 minutes
	<p>Digital copy of a cine film of the ‘BTC/SOBTC [The Baluch Training Centre and Southern Oman Brigade Training Centre] 1977 Recruit Passout’. Includes drill, presentation ceremony, coordination with the Sultan of Oman’s Air Force [SOAF], use of specialist equipment, an aerial acrobatic display, a parachute drop and a ‘Recruit Company Attack and Fire Power Demonstration’.</p>		

Admin History: Filmed on cine film at the request of Colonel Graham Sherwell, as according to Daniel Sweeney's memoir p.7.

- 2/2 Accompanying Notes c.2010s 2 sheets  
Printed notes accompanying the film (2/1) offering explanations and descriptions of the parade, including information on the weapons and equipment used, with specific time references for each note.
- 3 Vaccination Certificate Jul 1978 – Oct 1984 1 booklet  
'International Certificates of Vaccination-Sultanate of Oman'. Includes stamps and doctor's signatures for vaccinations, for example for small pox, yellow fever and cholera, and also details on the duration of and conditions for the validity of the certificate.  
Language: Arabic, French and English
- 4 Employment Contract 4 Apr 1979 1 sheet  
David Sweeney's contract of employment as a commissioned officer with the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Defence to serve in the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces [SOLF] as 'Ra'ees Training Officer Baluch Unit', specifying basic pay, expat allowance and ration allowance rates. This was his 2<sup>nd</sup> contract.
- 5 Photos c.1975-1982 88 photos  
Digital copies (Jpegs) of photographs taken by Daniel Sweeney during his service in Oman, including photos of the training of recruits, accommodation and buildings and military

personnel involved with the training process.  
Captions in inverted commas are original and were  
provided by Daniel Sweeney.

System of Arrangement: Chronological.

5/01	Skyvan landing at Manston.	1975	1 Jpeg
5/02	Skyvan leaving Manston.	1975	1 Jpeg
5/03	Training Officers, BTC Heiron.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/04	Captain Mohammed Haji, Baluchi recruit company commander.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/05	NQB Daniel Sweeney, Heiron.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/06	BTC Training Officers returning from a weekend in Salalah.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/07	'BTC Permanent Cadre'.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/08	Major Harris of Muscat Regiment observing Baluchi recruits training.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/09	'Baluchi recruits being briefed'.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/10	Baluchi recruit on rifle range.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/11	Baluchi recruits on rifle range.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/12	Baluchi recruits on rifle range.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/13	'BTC GPMG [General Purpose Machine Gun] Training', Baluchi recruit on rifle range.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/14	Baluchi recruits on the '16km jerry can carry'.	c. May 1976	1 Jpeg
5/15	Baluchi recruit on the '16km jerry can carry'.	c. May 1976	1 Jpeg
5/16	Baluchi recruits on the '16km jerry can carry'.	c. May 1976	1 Jpeg
5/17	Baluch recruits on sentry at Battle Camp, most likely in the Wadi Ashoke near Arfit and Mughsayl.	c. May 1976	1 Jpeg
5/18	BTC Medics at Battle Camp, most likely in the Wadi Ashoke near Arfit and Mughsayl.	c. May 1976	1 Jpeg
5/19	BTC Passout Parade visitors, including two British officers: 'L-R Captain Sefi and Major Peter Isaacs both Frontier Force'.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg
5/20	Officer visiting BTC Passout Parade at Heiron.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg

5/21	Baluchi recruit drill- Passout Parade.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg
5/22	Baluchi Recruit March Pass- Passout Parade.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg
5/23	Baluchi Recruit March Pass- Passout Parade.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg
5/24	Brigadier Charles Huxtable speaking to Baluchi recruits after the Passout Parade.	c. June 1976	1 Jpeg
5/25	BTC Baluchi recruits' evening meal.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/26	British Senior Non-Commissioned Officer [SNCO] accommodation at Battle Training Camp [BTC] Heiron.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/27	Pauling Construction Ltd. accommodation.	1976	1 Jpeg
5/28	Captain/Major Bill Foxton.	c. Jan 1977- April 1978	1 Jpeg
5/29	'SOBTC 7 a side rugby. Back row. Graham Sherwell. Angus McDonald, Dan Sweeney, Felix White, WO1 [1 <sup>st</sup> Warrant Officer] Murray'.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/30	L-R Lt Mohd Akbar, Lt Abdul Karim, Staff Sergeant Dan Sweeney, Major Bill Foxton, Captain Mohammed Haji, Staff Sergeant Joe Simmond at BTC.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/31	NQB Daniel Sweeney.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/32	NQB Joe Simmond.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/33	Lieutenant Colonel Graham Sherwell at Manston.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/34	'Position British sapper lost his foot on an APMN [Anti-Personnel Mine], Manston area'.	c. Mar 1977	1 Jpeg
5/35	Baluchi recruits on 30km force march.	c. May 1977	1 Jpeg
5/36	Baluchi recruits on 30km force march.	c. May 1977	1 Jpeg
5/37	'Fun day donkey derby' at Battle Camp, at Arfit.	c. May 1977	1 Jpeg
5/38	Fun day race at Battle Camp at Arfit.	c. May 1977	1 Jpeg
5/39	Brigadier Charles Huxtable inspecting Baluchi recruits in the Passout Parade with Captain Mohammed Haji.	June 1977	1 Jpeg

Related Material: 2/1, 2/2 [No 4]

5/40	'Helicopters having just deployed covering fire platoon' at the start of the Company Attack and Fire Power Demonstration in the Passout Parade. Related Material: 2/1, 2/2 [No 4]	June 1977	1 Jpeg
5/41	Saladin armoured cars supporting company attack in the Passout Parade Recruit Company Attack and Fire Power Demonstration. Related Material: 2/1, 2/2 [No 4]	June 1977	1 Jpeg
5/42	Attack objective being bombed prior to infantry assault during the Passout Parade Recruit Company Attack and Fire Power Demonstration. Related material: 2/1, 2/2 [No 4]	June 1977	1 Jpeg
5/43	Hawker Hunter firing rockets in Passout Parade Company Attack and Fire Power Demonstration. Related Material: 2/1, 2/2 [No 4]	June 1977	1 Jpeg
5/44	BTC Officers' mess with new SNCOs accommodation and ground prepared for the lawn, Heiron.	1977	1 Jpeg
5/45	Daniel Sweeney at Frontier Force base at Raysut.	1978	1 Jpeg
5/46	WO2 [Warrant Officer] Daniel Sweeney, BTC.	1978	1 Jpeg
5/47	BTC Officers Mess, Heiron.	1978	1 Jpeg
5/48	Captain Daniel Sweeney, Jebel Akdar.	1979	1 Jpeg
5/49	'Building Squash Court , SOBTC Aydim'.	1981	1 Jpeg
5/50	Squash court opening at SOBTC, Aydim.	1981	1 Jpeg
5/51	Daniel Sweeney's accommodation and canaries at Aydim.	1981	1 Jpeg
5/52	Brigadier John Akhurst.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/53	Brigadier John Akhurst.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/54	Brigadier John Akhurst with Major Clive Ward.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/55	Captain Abdullah, BTC Quartermaster.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/56	Staff Sergeant Joe Simmond and BTC Doctor.	c.1975-1978	1 Jpeg
5/57	'Camp Sergeant Major WO2 [Warrant Officer] Eli Bux'.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg

5/58	BTC Mess Staff with Lieutenant Zareen [in uniform].	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/59	Baluchi Cookhouse Staff.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/60	'BTC Officers Course at BTC Ground Frontier Force [FF] Raysut'.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/61	Baluchi recruits on rifle range, BTC.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/62	Baluchi recruits on rifle range, BTC.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/63	'BTC GPMG [General Purpose Machine Gun] Training', Baluchi recruit on rifle range.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/64	Baluchi recruits demonstrating GPMG [General Purpose Machine Gun] drills.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/65	Baluchi recruits training.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/66	Baluchi recruits field training.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/67	Mughsayl battle camp.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/68	Mughasyl battle camp.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/69	BTC Speed Marches.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/70	BTC Speed Marches.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/71	Baluchi recruits on '8km march and double'.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/72	Baluchi recruit on the '16km jerry can carry'.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/73	Baluchi recruits on 30km force march.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/74	Baluchi recruits on 30km force march.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/75	Baluchi recruits on 30km force march.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/76	Water resupply on 30km force march.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/77	Water resupply on 30km force march.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/78	Baluchi recruits at Battle Camp at Arfit.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/79	Recruits having a smoking break at Battle Camp.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/80	'BTC', possibly the cookhouse staff.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/81	'Accommodation at SOBTC Manston'.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/82	Cookhouse and some of the permanent staff accommodation.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/83	Baluchi recruit accommodation.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/84	Frontier Force Company HQ, Arfit.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/85	NCOs BTC Accommodation.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg



5/86	New terrace for BTC officers mess.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/87	View of BTC camp from the football pitch.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg
5/88	BTC Water Supply, Medical Centre and Cinema.	c.1975-1982	1 Jpeg