

Reference code: GB165-0799

Title: Christopher Hodder-Williams Collection

Name of creator: Hodder-Williams, John Christopher Glazebrook (1926-1995) musician, songwriter, author.

Dates of creation of material: 1946-1947, 1995, 2021, 2024

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 file

Biographical history: Hodder-Williams, John Christopher Glazebrook (1926-1995) musician, songwriter, author.

Born in London on 25 August 1926, son of Ralph Hodder-Williams (one of the owners of the British publishing firm Hodder and Stoughton). Educated Eton College. Whilst still a schoolboy served as an Air Raid Warden and in the Home Guard. In 1944 enlisted in the Welsh Guards and placed onto the Reserves in order to finish school. In Sept 1944 called up to active service with the Welsh Guards. Due to ill health changed regiment and at the end of 1945 was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Signals. Posted to Cairo and appointed as personal assistant to Major General C.M.F. White, the Signal Officer-in-Chief at GHQ Middle East Forces. Promoted to First Lieutenant in June 1946, transferred to the Third Infantry Division and served as a signals officer at locations across Palestine, including El Bureij and Ramat David. Whenever his duties allowed, he played piano in Cairo's clubs and organised concerts in Palestine. In early 1948 released from the army and returned to the UK. Worked briefly for the family business, the publishers Hodder & Stoughton, but left the firm to pursue a career as a songwriter. He spent some time in New York and then Kenya before returning to London. In 1958 wrote his first novel, *The Cummings Report*, which was published under the pseudonym James Brogan. 14 more novels followed in his own name, together with a number of television scripts and adaptations. Most of his novels would be described as sci-fi, techno-thrillers or even dystopian fiction. Married twice (one son, one daughter). Died in London 15 May 1995.

Scope and content: Transcription of letters home from Christopher Hodder-Williams during his service in the Royal Signals in the Middle East (Egypt and Palestine) from January 1946 to December 1947. The transcription was compiled by Simon Hodder-Williams in March 2021 and includes explanatory notes, as well as some scans of the letters. Biographical information for Christopher Hodder-Williams consisting of a copy of the

obituary for Christopher Hodder-Williams by David V. Barrett published in the Independent 21 May 1995 and biographical information compiled by Simon Hodder-Williams in 2024.

System of arrangement:

1. Letters from the Middle East
2. Biographical information

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Simon Hodder-Williams (son of Christopher Hodder-Williams) on 6 Dec 2024

Location of originals: Original letters held by Simon Hodder-Williams

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

- GB165-0460 John Burt Collection: A memoir of 'The Army Service of 14935920 Sergeant John Burt Royal Signals February 1945 – April 1948' describing his service in 2 Company Palestine Command Signals based in Haifa which was responsible for all the trunk and local communications in North Palestine for military units.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds level description created by Debbie Usher 12 Dec 2024. Series and item level description created by Debbie Usher 19 Dec 2024. Biographical history based on biographical information supplied by Simon Hodder-Williams and The Independent 'Obituary: Christopher Hodder-Williams' by David V. Barrett 21 May 1995.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE CHRISTOPHER HODDER-
WILLIAMS COLLECTION**

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| <u>1</u> | <u>Letters from the Middle East</u> | <u>1946-1947,</u> | <u>46 sheets</u> |
| | Transcription of letters home from Christopher Hodder-Williams, written during his service in the Royal Signals in the Middle East (Egypt and Palestine). The transcription was compiled by Simon Hodder-Williams in March 2021 and includes explanatory notes, as well as some scans of the letters. The letters include a description of his journey to the Middle East, some descriptions of his work, social life (swimming, theatre and music) and the weather, as well as comments on the political situation and his views on the war. | | |
| <u>2</u> | <u>Biographical Information</u> | <u>1995, 2024</u> | <u>2 sheets</u> |
| | Biographical information for Christopher Hodder-Williams consisting of an obituary and biographical information supplied by Simon Hodder-Williams. | | |
| 2/1 | <u>Obituary</u> | <u>21 May 1995</u> | <u>1 sheet</u> |
| | Obituary for Christopher Hodder-Williams written by David V. Barret and published in the Independent newspaper. | | |
| 2/2 | <u>Biographical Information by Simon Hodder-Williams</u> | <u>11 Dec 2024</u> | <u>1 sheet</u> |
| | Biographical information written by Simon Hodder-Williams about his father, Christopher Hodder-Williams. The biographical information includes a description of the impact on of the Second World War, his military career, his love of music and his later career as a musician and songwriter and then as a novelist. | | |