Frederick J Howard Collection

Size
2 boxes, 1 parcel

Contents
Correspondence, diaries, manuscripts and typescripts, newspaper cuttings, photographs

Date range
ca. 1900-1982

Biography
Frederick James Howard was born at Wandsworth, London on 17 October 1904. He attended Alleyn’s School, Dulwich until he migrated to Melbourne with his family in 1920. Working in a bank and doing some journalistic work, his first novel *The Emigrant* was published in 1928. This was followed by *Return Ticket* in 1929, publication of which coincided with his travels in North and South America.

From 1931 Howard worked as a journalist with the Melbourne *Herald*. His outlook and journalistic commitment brought him into favour with Sir Keith Murdoch. Encouraged by Murdoch he visited Russia, Europe and North America in 1935. In 1936 and 1938 his third and fourth novels *Leave us the Glory* and *The Negroes Begin at Calais* were published.

On 11 December 1939, soon after war was declared, Howard enlisted as a journalist. As an official War Correspondent with the rank of Major, he served and reported from the Middle East and was officer in charge of the Historical Records Section in North Africa in 1941 before John Treloar took over. He was responsible for the early development of the Australian War Memorial’s North Africa collections. He later worked as the Public Relations Liaison Officer, General Headquarters, South West Pacific Area (SWPA) before being discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 28 September 1944.


Having divorced his first wife, he married Margaret de Visme Gipps on 9 February 1943 at the Albert Street Methodist Church, Brisbane. Childless and survived by his wife, he died on 20 August 1984 at Heidelberg West, Victoria.

[Information taken from AWM and ADB]

Notes
Unrestricted access. Arranged chronologically.
Box 1

Folder 1
Ca. 20 family photographs, some later copy prints. Includes a c1900 studio photograph of a couple taken by G D Croker of Waterford, Ireland (possibly Howard’s parents); a copy print of a family photograph of the same couple with five children, c1910; Howard as a 6 ½ month old baby, 1905, taken by Treble of London; a small portrait photograph of Howard captioned ‘Galway, June 1916’.

Folder 2
Alleyn’s School, Dulwich, Journal for Frederick Howard, 1919

Portrait photograph of Frederick Howard (?), approximately aged in his mid-twenties, on card in a folder, c1930

Folder 3
Envelope titled ‘Assorted press cuttings (mainly early novels)

Newspaper cuttings, 1928 to 1930, with reviews of Howard’s early novels The Emigrant and Return Ticket.

Folder 4
Request for Immunity from Customs Examination for Frederick Howard as dispatch bearer from the British Embassy in Argentine to the British Consulate in Chile. Signed by Malcolm A Robertson, the British Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, 21 Jan 1929
[In Spanish. Howard travelled in North and South America in 1929, see ADB entry]

Correspondence, 1930 to 1944

? Beauchamp to Frederick Howard, 7 Nov 1930

Walter Murdoch to Editor [Stead’s Review], 7 Sep 1931

Editor of the Herald, ? to Frederick Howard, 2 Nov 1933 [Herald House memo], congratulating him on the ‘Supplement’

Keith Murdoch to Frederick Howard, 4 Nov 1933 sending ‘a cheque we can afford to pass on to you’ for ‘special work’

Charles Halbert to Frederick Howard, 27 Nov 1933

K A Murdoch (Keith Murdoch) to Frederick Howard, 13 Dec 1939, wishing him a ‘useful and most satisfactory career in the Army’

? to Frederick Howard, 13 Dec 1939

Editor [The Herald] to Frederick Howard, 4 Jan 1940

Keith Murdoch to Frederick Howard, 4 Jan 1940

? to Frederick Howard, 4 Jan 1940
Kenneth Slessor to Frederick Howard, regarding his recent appointment as Official War Correspondent, 7 Apr 1940

Henry Gullett, Acting Minister for Information, to Frederick Howard, regarding the collection of official records and diaries in the field during WWII, 20 Apr 1940

Keith Murdoch to Frederick Howard, welcoming him back on the staff of the Herald newspaper, 29 Sep 1944

Newspaper cuttings

Folder 5
Notebook filled with newspaper cutting reviews of Leave us the glory (1936) and No music for generals (1951), as well as a few early articles by Howard, 1930s

One issue of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd’s House News (Vol. 6 No. 1, January 1936), with Howard’s article on his travels in Europe and North America. The photograph on the front cover shows him with Hollywood film stars Barbara Stanwyck and Herbert Mundin. The negative and a print of this photograph are in Box 2, Folder 9

Folder 6
*Michael Joseph, Spring books 1936*, containing a one-page announcement of *Leave us no glory*, 1936

Newspaper cuttings, reviews of *Leave us no glory*, 1936

Folder 7
Ca. 50 small photographic prints, as well as ca. 20 later enlargements in a brown envelope titled *Photographs Birdsville*. A few small prints stamped verso ‘Herald 26 July 1939’ (most likely for the ‘Herald House News’)

The photographs appear to document a trip along the Birdsville Track in a truck with owner’s name on the door ‘H E Ding, Yunta’. Many photographs were possibly taken at Mungerannie Station, c1939. [Henry Edgar ‘Harry’ Ding was a prominent South Australian trucker]. Some photographs show the Ding truck bogged in desert dunes.

Folder 8
30 small photographs, documenting war service in the Middle East and North Africa, some portraits, some captioned verso, 1940 to 1942. Including

1. *My lieutenant and our vehicle on a nice bit of mountain road in Syria. The Mediterranean in the distance;*
2. *A valley in the Lebanon mountains;*
3. *Part of a unit camp, somewhere well into Libya;*
4. *Anti-aircraft team in a Libyan town – there was an air raid going on at the time – but not very near;*
5. *Air raid at Tobruk. Bomb bursts across the harbour and anti-aircraft shells in the sky. The little speck with a trail of smoke – under the telephone wire – is a STUKA coming down in flames;*
6. On the road down to Derna [Libya];
7. One of our camps, west of Derna, in a rare patch of timber. My little tent, of Wop ? sheets, is against our camouflaged truck. Taken at dawn light;
8. Front line. Men are watching a patrol in the distance, skirmishing with an enemy patrol. It’s very hard to see much of the fighting in the open and dusty country.

Two photographs titled verso Myself in work attire on the roof of HQ and Temple ruins at Thebes, Upper Egypt, both dated verso Feb 1942

3 sepia toned photographs of propeller aeroplane

General Orders of the Allied Land Forces in South West Pacific Area, 26 Oct 1942, including on page 94/95 a list of men ‘Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinctive services in the Middle East. The list includes Major F.J. Howard

Item 1
Bound ledger titled Newspaper Clippings, contains cuttings and on pages 100-121 handwritten diary entries regarding WWII career. Includes drawing of ‘a system of handing records back, through war phase to post-war museum’, 11 Dec 1939 to 21 Aug 1940.

For more related material see Frederick Howard’s papers at AWM: https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1141191

Box 2
Folder 1
Typescript: Personnel: A satirical comedy in three acts [unpublished], 91p, ‘The action takes place on an island of the Great Barrier Reef in two months of early summer in the Reconstruction Years following the termination of the Second World War’, c1950

Folder 2
Christmas cards received from John Kinmont Moir and Max Dunn, 1950s

Two Agreements with publishers, 1951 and undated.

Folder 3
Poster size reprint of newspaper article from the Herald with an obituary of Sir Keith Murdoch

Newspaper cuttings, four articles on the Australian Governments new Defence Programme, 30 Apr to 3 May 1957

Folder 4
Records relating to purchase of a property at Buderim, 1968

9 photographs, 1948 to c1965

Folder 5
Envelopes with correspondence relating to driving licence and sales tax exemption on purchase of motor vehicle following surgery to amputate one of his legs, Nov 1968
Envelopes with correspondence relating to insurance, 1978 and the RSL, no date

Letter from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 12 Dec 1980, acknowledging his resignation from the Arts Panel

**Folder 6**
**Correspondence relating to a biography of Sir Wilfrid Selwyn "Bill" Kent Hughes, published in 1972**

Frederick Howard to Robert Menzies, 25 Jan 1971 [copy]

Robert Menzies to Frederick Howard, 28 Jan 1971

Richard? to Frederick Howard, 13 Jun 1971

Frederick Howard to T. T. Colquhoun, 23 Sep 1971 [note attached]

? to Frederick Howard, 8 Feb 1972 [Oxford University Press letterhead]

Jen Thyer to Frederick Howard, 9 Feb 1972

Frederick Howard to Angus Robertson, 15 Feb 1972 [copy]

Frederick Howard [?] to Rex Hall, 16 Feb 1972 [copy]

T. T. Colquhoun to Frederick Howard, 4 Apr 1972 [copy attached]

Frederick Howard to T. T. Colquhoun, 8 Apr 1972 [copy]

Jen Thyer to Frederick Howard, 10 Oct 1972

Frank Power to Frederick Howard, 14 Oct 1972

Frederick Howard to Jim, 16 Oct 1972 [copy]

John Jacobs to Frederick Howard, 25 Oct 1972

John Suio? To Frederick Howard, 12 Dec 1972

Rex Hall to Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes memorial committee, 12 Dec 1972

Frederick Howard to Sir Wilfred Kent Hughes memorial committee, 15 Dec 1972

Edward Lilly to Frederick Howard, 15 Mar 1973

A.S.L. Hamilton to Frederick Howard, 27 Feb 1974

Frederick Howard to Editor [The *Age* (Melbourne)], 6 May 1975 [copy]
? to Frederick Howard [nd, card]

Frank Eyre to Frederick Howard, 11 Feb ? [copy]

Photocopy of J.H. Thyer, *Sinister twilight*

J.H Thyer, Report of Lecture to officers and sergeants at POW camp, Changi, 1942

Summary of contacts made so far with publishing houses by Frederick Howard 14 Feb 1972?

Sample advance order invitation for the biography of *Kent Hughes*. Aug 1972

**Folder 7**

**Correspondence Thyer (Defence) K.H. Biography-Olympic honours**

Correspondence:
Memo from Chief Secretary of Victoria to Frederick Howard, 29 Nov 1971 [manuscript excerpts attached]

Frederick Howard to Bill ?, 13 Dec 1971

W.H. Hall to Frederick Howard, 14 Dec 1971

Frederick Howard to ?, Mon, 5 Jun 1971

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 15 Jun 1972

Frederick Howard to Rex Hall, 18 Jun 1972

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 18 Jun 1972

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 20 Jun 1972

Frederick Howard to Rex Hall, 21 Jun 1972

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 25 Jun 1972

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 26 Jun 1972

Rex Hall to Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes memorial committee, 26 Jun 1972

Monty Kent-Hughes to Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes memorial committee, 27 Jun 1972

Dick Hamer to Rex Hall, 17 Jul 1972 [card dated 21 Jul 1972 attached]

Jen Thyer to Frederick Howard, 7 Nov 1974 [J. Thyer, Foreign policy and a credible defence attached]

Rex Hall to Frederick Howard, 21 Feb 1975
Also in folder:
Bundle of notes
Article: Trade unionism killing socialism

Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes memorial committee minutes, 5 May 1972

Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes memorial committee minutes 28 Jun 1972

Notes and photocopied correspondence re: Olympic honours

Folder 8
Membership Certificate from *The Naval and Military Club*, Melbourne, 16 May 1981

Folder 9
14 photographs, including

1. Howard with Hollywood film stars Barbara Stanwyck and Herbert Mundin, 1936 [negative and vintage print]. The photograph was used for an issue of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd’s *House News* (Vol. 6 No. 1, January 1936), with Howard’s article on his travels in Europe and North America. (see Box 1, Folder 5)

2. Studio portrait photograph of Howard in uniform by Spencer Shier, signed on the mount by the photographer and dated, Melbourne, 1940 [2 prints]. Spencer Shier (1884 – 1946 or 1950) was a commercial portraitist who specialised in photographing public personalities, including politicians, actors and society figures.

3. Photograph of the portrait painted of Howard in New Guinea by war artist William Dargie

Parcel 1
2 scrapbooks containing newspaper cuttings and correspondence relating to cuttings. Mostly articles by Frederick Howard, but also reviews of his book *Kent Hughes*

Scrapbook 1: 1970 to 1975
Scrapbook 2: 1975 to 1982

Typecript: *Faithful Journey*: A story for film by Frederick Howard and G. Hermon Gill Adapted from the novel *The Emigrant*. Pasted note on first page states: *This scenario won the Commonwealth government's award of merit, in the nation-wide competition of 1935*