

# ADEN NARRATIVES NEWSLETTER

1st EDITON

AUGUST 2021

'Welcome to Aden Narratives Documentary Digital Inclusion first newsletter! We have lots to share and lots to celebrate too! We hope you enjoy reading it!'



## What is Aden Narratives Documentary Digital inclusion?

Aden Narratives project is a youth led project, consists of three stages.

- Stage one: Interviewing the British Ex-veterans who lived & served in Aden during the 50's & 60's.
- Stage two: Interviewing the Yemeni elders who lived in Aden during the 50's & 60's, collecting their life stories
- Stage three: To engage veterans across the country who are isolated and have little or no access to community/groups activities and services, engage veterans and British Yemeni volunteers in the planning and delivery of digital and physical events to create awareness and appreciation of ex-service personnel and families.

Organising documentary screenings in 4-Cities, and show Aden Narratives and panel-talks in Museums, Libraries and Supplementary school.



## History of Aden

Aden, situated on the south coast of what is now Yemen, had been a British colony since 1839. Commanding the southern entrance to the Red Sea, it was an important British air and naval base on the route to India. It was also crucial for safeguarding access to Middle Eastern oil supplies. In 1839 Britain captured the town of Aden in the south of the Arabian Peninsula. Like the later seizure of Cyprus (1878) and of Egypt (1882), the occupation of Aden was a strategic rather than commercial undertaking, guarding the lines of communication with India. With British Somaliland on the 'horn of Africa', Aden provided control of the entrance to the Red Sea. Following the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Britain established protectorates in the hinterland of South Arabia to act as a buffer against the Ottomans who occupied Yemen. In 1937 Aden became a Crown Colony.

Following her humiliation in the Suez Crisis of 1956, Britain granted independence in February 1959 to the Federation of South Arabia, which was formed from the Aden colony and the surrounding protectorates, in order to stabilise the region, which had been dogged by years of unrest fuelled by Arab nationalism and anti-colonialism. Having replaced Cyprus as the base of Middle East Land Forces, Aden was of even greater strategic importance to Britain, maintaining with Far East Land Forces in Singapore its global presence. In 1962 the British government announced that a permanent British garrison would be maintained in Aden. Yet in 1967, the British were forced to withdraw from the colony.

If you are a British ex-veterans OR a Yemen elder and would like to be involved by either volunteering or to be interviewed, please get in touch with us:

Najib Al-Hakimi

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The Liverpool Arabic Centre will be broadcasting two podcasts every two weeks starting from August 2021, where the ex-British Veterans & the Yemeni Elders will be talking about their experience living and serving in Aden during the 50's & 60's.

If you lived in Aden during the 50's & 60's, have a story or pictures to share, please get in touch with us.



## Aden Narratives Newsletter

LAC will also be producing three newsletters every two months from the beginning of August 2021, featuring interviews with Military communities and looking for contributions from all British ex-veterans and Yemeni elders, if you have a story to tell or pictures, please contact us.

## Aden Narratives Documentary film

In the past two years LAC engaged some of its youth working on Aden Narratives documentary film, consisted of 2 parts (British & Yemeni contributions). The youth received extensive training in interview management, photography & editing and produced 44minutes documentary film about the stories of the British ex-veterans talking about their experience living and serving in Aden during the 50's & 60's. The film also includes the Yemeni elders contribution living at that time.

The film is expected to be launched in the next 2 months in Liverpool, then to be toured around different cities in U.K.

**Please follow us on our social media for more news and information about the launch and screening venues.**



**You can access our newsletters, watch the Podcasts & Videos: through the following**

 <https://liverpoolarabiccentre.org.uk/category/news-letter/>  <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ArabicCentre>  
 <https://twitter.com/livArabicCentre>  <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgicJtHby1bPsmurHDufmQQ/videos>

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**المركز العربي - ليفربول**  
Liverpool Arabic Centre  
