Reference code: GB165-0431
Title: John Poole Collection
Name of creator: Poole, John (1912-1977)
Dates of creation of material: 1938-1956
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 3 boxes

Biographical history: Poole, John (1912-1977)
Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex. John Poole was also a keen fly fisherman and fishing fly tier with an international reputation. He wrote and published articles about fly fishing in British periodicals like “Trout & Salmon” and “The Angler” and in European fishing journals as well as writing a weekly fishing column in the “Essex Chronicle” in the 1970s. He was also the author of short stories broadcast by the BBC and of sporting episodes in boys’ comics, “The Hotspur” and “The Wizard”.

Scope and content: Papers, photographs and artefacts relating to John Poole’s service as a British Constable and Wireless Telegraph Officer in the Palestine Police from 1938 to 1943. Papers relating to his police work include daily crime reports, summaries of Arabic and Hebrew press items, a propaganda leaflet and curfew order poster, as well as a Palestine Police Old Comrades’ Association newsletter from 1955. The collection also contains a number of pages from the Palestine Post from the early and later stages of World War Two and a number of broadcasting service agreements from the Palestine Broadcasting Service. The photographs cover both his police service and general life in Palestine, as well as his subsequent work in Qatar, as well as some slides of Iran in 1956. There is also a small collection of artefacts dating from his service in Palestine including badges, buttons, coins, police whistle and a General Service medal.

System of arrangement:

1 Curfew Order
2 Daily Crime Reports
3 Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts
4 Palestine Post Newspaper Clipping
5 Driving License and Palestine Railways Train Ticket
6 Propaganda Stamps and Leaflet
7 Palestine Police Magazines, Travel Guides and Postcard
8 Certificate of Discharge
9 Palestine Police Old Comrades Association Newsletter
10 Artefacts
11 Photographs
12 Palestine Broadcasting Service Agreement
13 Pages from the Palestine Post
Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

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

Custodial history: In the possession of John Poole and then his son Iain Poole

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Iain Poole on the 18th July 2008, item 6/2 received as a gift from John Poole on 3 Oct 2008, items 5/1, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3 received as a gift from Iain Poole on 21st May 2009, and items 11/18/1, 12, 13 received as a gift from Iain Poole on 18th August 2011

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive:
Please see MEC Archive’s ‘Guide to collections relating to the British Mandate Palestine Police’ for further information

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE JOHN POOLE COLLECTION

1. Curfew Order

Curfew Order poster for Old City of Jerusalem by Major-General Richard Nugent O’Connor (Military Commander of the Jerusalem District)

2. Daily Crime Reports

Daily Crime Reports for Nazareth, Tiberias, Beisan, Safad and Acre. Incidents mentioned include murder, abduction, sniping, shooting, strikes, throwing stones at a car, weapons seizure, cutting of telephone wires, armed robbery, ambush, road blocks, assault, landmine explosion, arson, contraband and a suicide attempt.

2/1 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth and Safad 5 Jul 1939 1 sheet

2/2 Daily Crime Report with entries for Tiberias, Safad and Acre 19 Jul 1939 1 sheet

2/3 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Tiberias, Safad and Acre 20 Jul 1939 1 sheet

2/4 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Tiberias, Beisan, Safad and Acre 25 Jul 1939 1 sheet

2/5 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Tiberias and Safad 30 Jul 1939 1 sheet

2/6 Letter from Police Headquarters, Nazareth, reporting an incident in which a clockwork time bomb was found under the Pavilion of the IPC Cricket Ground, Haifa, the ‘first attempt of its kind within recent times to be directed against purely British personnel or armed forces’ 8 Aug 1939 1 sheet

2/7 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth and Tiberias 15 Aug 1939 1 sheet
2/8 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Tiberias, Safad and Acre 17 Aug 1939 1 sheet
2/9 Daily Crime Report with entries for Tiberias, Safad and Acre 19 Aug 1939 1 sheet
2/10 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Acre and Safad 20 Aug 1939 1 sheet

3 Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts
Translations and summaries of main articles in the Arabic and Hebrew press, produced for the District Commissioner’s Offices in Nazareth. Details of the main stories covered are given below in the item level descriptions, with (A) indicating Arabic press and (H) indicating Hebrew press.

3/1 Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts: stories covered include a ‘shooting incident at Gaza’ (A), ‘Elections to the 21st Zionist Congress’ (H), ‘Termination of Hunger Strike’ (H) and ‘The Jewish Agency’ (H) 1 Aug 1939 4 sheets
3/3 Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts: stories covered include ‘the Jewish campaign of terror directed against the Arabs’ (A), ‘illegal immigration (A), ‘travel passes’ (A), ‘The Refugee Problem (H), ‘Air Raid Precautions’ (H), ‘The Outrage to the PBS’ [Palestine Broadcasting Service] (H), ‘an allegorical story’ representing the nation (A), ‘the poverty and misery prevailing in Jaffa’ (A), ‘The fight against the Jewish Agency’ (H) 6-7 Aug 1939 4 sheets
4 Palestinian Post Newspaper Clipping
Published letter from the Nahalal Area Committee to the editor of the Palestine Post entitled ‘Security in the Nahalal area’ criticizing the British authorities for not promptly searching Waldheim or Bethlehem after attacks on Jewish settlements 10 May 1939 1 sheet

5 Driving License and Palestine Railways Train Ticket
5/1 International Driving Permit for John Poole 5 Jun 1939 1 item
5/2 Ticket for journey from Affula to Beisan 31 Oct 1939 1 item

6 Propaganda Stamps and Leaflet
6/1 2 Sheets of 25 propaganda stamps with the caption ‘Palestine for the Arabs’ Not dated 2 sheets
6/2 Propaganda leaflet entitled ‘To the British Police’ justifying Jewish protests ‘against an iniquitous law which they regard as a violation of the solemn promise given to them by the British Government’ and condemning the response of the British police Not dated 1 sheet

7 Palestine Police Magazines, Travel Guides and Postcard
7/1 Bound volume of Palestine Police Magazines Jan-Dec 1936 1 vol.
7/3 ‘This is Palestine. A Concise Guide to the Important Sites in Palestine, Transjordan & Syria’ (Beyt-Ul-Makdes Press, Jerusalem) 1942 1 vol.
7/4 Blank postcard with printed header ‘Union Postale Universelle Palestine’ with postage paid Not dated 1 item
8 **Certificate of Discharge**

Certificate of Discharge from the Palestine Police for John Poole 11 Feb 1943 1 item

9 **Palestine Police Old Comrades’ Association Newsletter**


10 **Artefacts**

Artefacts mainly dating from John Poole’s service in the Palestine Police 1930s – 1940s 12 items

10/1 5 military uniform badges – 2 crossed daggers, 2 crossed swords, 1 ‘Royal Signals’ cloth badge. Not dated 5 items

(It is not clear what army or army unit these badges came from, as they are not from the Palestine Police)

10/2 Palestine Police uniform buttons Not dated 2 items

10/3 ‘Acme Thunderer’ police whistle Not dated 1 item

10/4 3 Palestine coins (1 Mil) 1941 3 items

10/5 General Service Medal in box labelled J. Poole, Palestine Police Not dated 1 item

11 **Photographs**

Photographs taken during John Poole’s service in the Palestine Police (1938-1943) and subsequently in Yemen (1938-1943) and Qatar (1952-54). Subjects of the photographs include people and places connected to the military and police, Not dated 414 items
scenes of conflict (including pictures of dead victims), local life and people, Palestine Policemen on duty and in their leisure time, and sightseeing photographs of landscapes and other places of interest.

11/1  **Envelope 1**  
Mainly military and police (British), some Arab men, landscapes, scenes of local life and sightseeing photographs. The photographs are not labelled

11/2  **Envelope 2**  
Mainly sightseeing photographs of landscapes but photo no. 1 appears to show prisoners who have been executed, and photo no. 12 taken from inside a tank. The photographs are not labelled

11/3  **Envelope 3**  
Mainly military photographs with some scenes of local life. The envelope also includes 3 negatives (not printed). The photographs are not labelled

11/4  **Envelope 4**  
Mainly military photographs with some portraits. The photographs are not labelled

11/5  **Envelope 5**  
Mainly photographs of conflict, with numerous pictures of bodies who appear to be victims of shooting. The photographs are not labelled

11/6  **Envelope 6**  
Assortment of photographs including landscapes, personal interest, local life, plus some military
scenes and scenes of Arab crowds with flags (possibly a demonstration). The photographs are not labelled

11/7  **Envelope 7**
Mainly photographs of local life with some military and police scenes. The photographs are not labelled, except for:

- 11/7/43 ‘Nazareth, showing arch of Mary’s Well’
- 11/7/44 ‘Police wireless room’
- 11/7/45 Photo greetings card. Printed on the back: ‘Towards the coming New Year I beg to express to you my heartiest wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and a speedy Victory for Great Britain. Abraham Eisen, Liquor Shop and Bar, Jerusalem, Mea Shearim Qur
- 11/7/46 ‘Police wireless room’
- 11/7/47 ‘Police wireless room’
- 11/7/52 ‘Police wireless room’
- 11/7/54 Postcard stamped ‘Royal Oak Hotel, Cairo’

11/8  **Envelope 8**
Photographs of local life. The Photographs are not labelled

11/9  **Envelope 9**
Photographs 1-46 are mainly military and landscapes, photos 47-67 are mainly sightseeing photos of landscapes and local life. Photographs are not labelled
11/10 **Envelope 10**
Mainly photographs of leisure-time activities such as tennis with colleagues or friends, and some ‘on duty’ photographs. Also includes two empty envelopes from Photo Brenner, Haifa. The photographs are not labelled, except for:
11/10/1 ‘Joshua’s Tomb’, in separate envelope

11/11 **Box labelled GSM & Clasp Palestine**
Photograph in box with medal (10/5 listed above). The photograph is not labelled

11/12 **Copy print enlargements**
Enlargements, probably made later, of some of the photographs in previous envelopes. The photographs are not labelled

11/13 **Envelope 11**
Labelled “Qatar 1954” comprised primarily of military scenes, meetings with tribal leaders, parades, honour guards, a feast and portraits

11/14 **Envelope 12**
Labelled “Qatar 1954”, contains negatives of photographs from envelope 11

11/15 **Envelope 13**
Labelled “Hadramaut, Yemen, Gulf of Aden, 1952” comprising beach scenes, huts, landscapes, roads, buildings, portraits, airplanes, 1-29 unlabelled
11/15/30 Meufeh (?) tribesmen W. of Mukalla, ‘52
11/15/31 3 Ox team of water drawers, TERIM. Lendi Hoofherrerif[?] ‘52
11/15/32  A “Kapok” bush, Teris, Wadi Hed, ’52. Gives a cotton like substance use for stuffing mattresses etc

11/15/33  Sultan’s Guards off duty, Saiun, ‘52

11/15/34  Ex-slaves on coast near Mukalla. E.A.P. 1952

11/15/35  Wakidi types – L. is father & son. Bir Ali 1952

11/15/36  Testing a Dustejeeta[?], Wadi Hadhromar, 1952

11/15/37  Our date palms & Saiun, Wadi Nodhromami, 1952

11/15/38  The pottery wallah, Saiun, Wadi Kad, ‘52

11/15/39  Arabian Gulf fish near Tawa, Hod, 1952

11/15/40  Dead adult locusts, Wadi Hadhramaut

11/15/41  A village idiot – Ghurfa, 1952. Gave no peace until he had been snapped

11/15/42  Maufah Frontier Post  bordering Wahidi country. W. of Mukalla. 1952

11/15/43  Sellers of grain, Saiun ’52. Wheat, corn, rice, durra, sim sim, gilgil, maize, etc.

11/15/44  Testing a “Dustejecte” machine mounted on a Landrover, Wadi Hadhramave. 1952

11/15/45  Sultan’s State building, Shibam, Wadi Had, ‘52

11/15/46  Tribesmen from Maifah, coastal district, Hadhramaut, 1952

11/15/47  Hadhramaut Bedr in Saiur to sell their dates and goat skins

11/15/48  Mahfud frying my fish near Maifah, 1952

11/15/49  Desert Camel arrives at Sunday market, Saiun, ‘52
11/15/50  Ken Malet, Agriculture Offr, Saiun, Sept ‘52
11/15/51  Mohammed Naseer cooks my fish curry – W of Mukalla, 1952
11/15/52  Ex-slaves now live by fishing – West of Mukalla
11/15/53  A solitary locust just changed from gregarious after splitting of swarm. Raidat Aldul Azziz, Wadi Nam, 1952
11/15/54  A three-oxen team drawing water – Terim, Wadi Hadhramaut, ‘52
11/15/55  Two wise old desert men, Gaiun, ‘52
11/15/56  Dustjecta test, Wadi Hadhramaut, 1952
11/15/57  Unlabelled
11/15/58  Bedu women selling straw woven platters etc. Saiun, ’52.
11/15/59  Moslem tombs near Qatr, Wadi Had, 1952
11/15/60  Unlabelled
11/15/61  I am lying in bed on the one furthest from you
11/15/62  Unlabelled
11/15/63  Mesiyeh Pass Safari – Fred Duke – my interpreter and cook, Sept ‘51
11/15/64  Sailfish at Shihir, 1952
11/15/65  Baby sharks for sale – They are delicious to eat. Shihr. 1952
11/15/66  Sailfish 7ft 6 ins long at Shihir, E of Mukalla
11/15/67  Nice place to build a house. This picture is the subject of one of the Ceraiti[?] State Stamps – near Mukalla, ‘52
11/15/68  Harry, Joni & Rusty
11/15/69  Unlabelled
11/15/70  Unlabelled
11/15/71  Shihr – a fishing village E of Muhalla – note donkey bottom left, 1952
11/15/72  A splendid head of dates, Wadi Idon, Had, ‘52
11/15/73  Unlabelled
11/15/74  Coconut palm, Wadi Mahdi, Had, ‘52

11/16  Envelope 14  1939-1942  29 items
Labelled “Palestine 1939-42”, containing photographs from Palestine
11/16/1  Mount Caramel
11/16/2  Unlabelled
11/16/3  Unlabelled
11/16/4  Unlabelled
11/16/5  An Arab village in the hills
11/16/6  Unlabelled
11/16/7  Jaffa oranges on sale at a street corner
11/16/8  Going for water
11/16/9  Garden of Gethsemane & Mount of Olives. Also showing road to Bethany
11/16/10  Jewish Colony, Rosh Pinna
11/16/11  Kafir Kiamma, where Jesus turned water into wine
11/16/12  Nazareth
11/16/13  Nazareth
11/16/14  Minaret Nazareth
11/16/15  Part of the Suq, Haifa
11/16/16  Mountains of Moab
11/16/17  Old City, Jerusalem
11/16/18  Jaffa Gate, where buses left for Bethlehem. David’s Tower, Jerusalem
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/16/19</td>
<td>Our mail plane on the sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/20</td>
<td>Nazareth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/21</td>
<td>On the frontier!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/22</td>
<td>Athlete, Crusader’s stronghold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/23</td>
<td>Tiberias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/24</td>
<td>Unlabelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/25</td>
<td>Jerusalem – Sheep and Shepherds in the Valley of the Jordan (+ Mount of Temptation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/26</td>
<td>Jericho – Jordan River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/27</td>
<td>Church of All Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/28</td>
<td>Garden of Gethsemane &amp; Church of All Nations. Said to be built round the rock where Jesus prayed &amp; was betrayed by Judas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16/29</td>
<td>Garden of Gethsemane, looking up to Mount of Olives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**11/17 Palestine Photograph Album** 1938-1942

Olive Wood photograph album containing unlabelled photographs from Palestine 1938-1942, mostly unlabelled, aside from some denoting persons appearing in photographs

**11/18 Loose Photographs** 1939-1940

Photographs from Poole’s time in the Palestine Police

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/18/1</td>
<td>Cardboard framed photograph labelled “Signals Branch, Palestine Police Annual Dinner 1940”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18/2</td>
<td>Photograph labelled “John Poole, Wireless Telegraph Officer, Palestine Police, Haifa 1939”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11/18/3  Photograph Labelled “Nazareth 1939”  1939

11/19  Slides  1956  64 items
Slides from Poole’s time in Persia in 1956 and possibly Oman or Saudi Arabia

11/19/1  Iran 1956  1956  35 slides
Showing photographs of mosques, gardens, street scenes, landscapes and the desert

11/19/2  Persia 1956 Misc  1956  20 slides
Showing photographs of sports, landscapes, aerial photographs of a city, workers, construction work, archaeological sites

11/19/3  Oman or Saudi Arabia  Undated  9 slides
Originally in yellow box labelled “?Qatar” Likely not Qatar because of the presence of mountains, so most likely either Oman or Saudi Arabia

12  Palestine Broadcasting Service Agreements

Palestine Broadcasting Service Agreements 1942-43, 9 Sept 1942 – 6 Feb 1943
comprising engagement agreements for a broad variety of broadcasts in Jerusalem

23 sheets

13  Pages from the Palestine Post

13/1  Section of the Palestine Post of January 1st 1940, with a review of the year in headlines  1 Jan 1940  2 sheets
Front page of the Palestine Post of February 12th 1943, with an article on the unification of the allied commands in Africa and the Russian assault on Kharkov.