Reference code: GB165-0431

Title: John Poole Collection

Name of creator: Poole, John

Dates of creation of material: 1938-1943, 1955

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Biographical history: John Poole served as a British constable and wireless telegraph officer (Police service no. 1468) in the Palestine Police from 13 Oct 1938 to 19 Mar 1943. Further information unknown.

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 photographs cover both his police service and general life in Palestine. 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. Palestine Railways Train Ticket
6. Propaganda Leaflet
7. Postcard
8. Certificate of Discharge
9. Palestine Police Old Comrades Association Newsletter
10. Artefacts
11. Photographs
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

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) 12 Nov 1938 1 item

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

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### 2/9
Daily Crime Report with entries for Tiberias, Safad and Acre

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### 2/10
Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth, Acre and Safad

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### 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.

<table>
<thead>
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#### 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)

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#### 3/2

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#### 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)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>6-7 Aug 1939</td>
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</table>
4  **Palestine 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.

5  **Palestine Railways Train Ticket**

Ticket for journey from Affula to Beisan 31 Oct 1939 1 item

6  **Propaganda Leaflet**

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.

7  **Postcard**

Blank postcard with printed header ‘Union Postale Universelle Palestine’ with postage paid

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

10/1 5 military uniform badges – 2 crossed daggers, 2 crossed swords, 1 ‘Royal Signals’ cloth badge. (It is not clear what army or army unit these badges came from, as they are not from the Palestine Police)

Not dated 5 items

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

12 Photographs

Photographs taken during John Poole’s service in the Palestine Police (1938-1943). Subjects of the photographs include people and places connected to the military and police, 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

Not dated 43 items
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’ Not dated 1 item
11/7/44 ‘Police wireless room’ Not dated 1 item
11/7/45 Photo greetings card. Printed on the back: Not dated 1 item
   ‘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’ Not dated 1 item
11/7/47 ‘Police wireless room’ Not dated 1 item
11/7/52 ‘Police wireless room’ Not dated 1 item
11/7/54 Postcard stamped ‘Royal Oak Hotel, Cairo’ Not dated 1 item

11/8 Envelope 8 Not dated 11 items
Photographs of local life. The Photographs are not labelled

11/9 Envelope 9 Not dated 67 items
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 Not dated 36 items
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**  Not dated  1 item
      Photograph in box with medal (l0/5 listed above).
      The photograph is not labelled

11/12  **Copy print enlargements**  Not dated  15 items
      Enlargements, probably made later, of some of the
      photographs in previous envelopes. The
      Photographs are not labelled