Reference code: GB165-0534
Title: Robert Ball Collection
Name of creator: Ball, Robert (1919-1987) Palestine Policeman
Dates of creation of material: 1944-1980
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical history: Ball, Robert (1919-1987)
Born 21 April 1919 in Warminster, Wiltshire. Second son of John Ball, a grocer’s clerk, and Maud Mary Ball, formerly Burr. Baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Shaftesbury, Dorset on 16 May 1919 – then living at West View, Bimport Shaftesbury. Shortly after the death of Maud Ball [ca 1924] John Ball remarried. Elder brother [John Stephen, born ca 1907] had already left home. Robert Ball was educated in Shaftesbury until the age of 14 [1933] when he was signed up for Boys Service with the King’s Royal Rifles and was a member of Military Band – he had a natural gift to play by ear and could copy any tune. He completed his education on Boys Service and was awarded Second Class certificate in 1933 and First Class certificate in 1934. He was as initially sent to India, then based in Burma until 1938 when he was sent to Egypt as part of King’s Royal Rifle. Remained in Egypt during WWII until about 1943 when he was part of military escort taking German prisoners to the USA. Details of the trip are patchy but he left Africa from Durban, the ship calling in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Trinidad before depositing prisoners in New York. He returned to UK in 1944 as part of convey crossing Atlantic and joined Palestine Police as constable, later promoted to sergeant [Foreign Office Exit Permit no 281994 valid for departure prior to 12 July 1944]. Offered second tour of duty but opted to join Bermuda Police Force in 1948, sailing on SS Bayano. [Fyffes Banana boat built 1915, scrapped 1956]. He settled in Bermuda and rose through colonial police ranks retiring as Chief Inspector in 1971. He returned to the UK in 1974, initially to Isle of Man, finally settling in Compton Dundon, Somerset. Awarded 7 medals: 5 military [General Service, 1339/45 Star, Africa Star 8th Army, Defence Medal, 139/35 War medal] and 2 colonial police [Queen’s Colonial Police gallantry Medal [1965] and Meritorious Service]. Married Jean McNeill 1950. 1 daughter. Died 16 March 1987.

Scope and content: Papers and photographs mainly relating to Robert Ball’s service in the Palestine Police and later Bermuda Police, including his Palestine Police employment
contract, passport, Christmas dinner menu, portraiture photographs, a photo album of purchased photos of Palestine with one photograph of Lebanon, view-master reels of Palestine, his Palestine Police service record and certificate of discharge. The papers also include his Bermuda Police service employment contract, police reunion photographs and Overseas Pensioners’ Association papers.

**System of arrangement:**
1. Palestine Police Service
2. Bermuda Police Service
3. Palestine Police Reunion
4. Overseas Pensioners’ Association

**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 Robert Ball and his family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Hilary Thompson, May-June 2011

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**
For other Palestine Police papers and photographs please see the Guide to collections relating to the Palestine Police

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist’s note:** Fonds, series and item level description created by Ala Tayebi-Jazayeri on 13 June 2018. Biographical information from the papers in the collection and from information provided by Hilary Thompson.
SERIES, FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE ROBERT BALL COLLECTION

1. Palestine Police Service 1944-1949 27 items
Papers and photographs relating to Robert Ball’s Palestine Police Service.

1/1. Palestine Police Employment Contract 1 Apr 1944 2 items

1/2. Passport 12 April 1944 1 booklet
Robert Ball’s British passport.

1/3. Christmas Dinner 25 Dec 1945 3 items
Christmas dinner menu, place card and photograph.

1/3/1. Dinner Menu 25 Dec 1945 1 booklet
Printed Christmas dinner menu for the Western Police station, Boutagy House.

1/3/2. Place Card [25 Dec 1945] 1 item
Christmas dinner place card for Robert Ball.

A photograph of the Christmas dinner of the Western Police Station, Boutagy House.

1/4. The Palestine Police Association 1 Dec 1947 2 items
Palestine Police Association membership book and a receipt for 10 Palestinian Pounds for membership.

1/4/1. Membership Book 1 Dec 1947 1 booklet
Printed membership book for ‘The Palestine Police Association’.
1/4/2 Receipt
Receipt for 10 Palestinian pounds for ‘The Palestine Police Association’.

1/5 Photographs of Robert Ball and Jack Clifton
Admin Hist: Jack Clifton also served in the Palestine Police.
1/5/1 Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/2 Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/3 Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/4 Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/5 Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/6 Passport size studio portrait of Robert Ball
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/7 Photograph of Robert Ball in police uniform by a doorway
Not dated c1940s
1 photo
1/5/8 Studio portrait of Jack Clifton signed ‘your sincere friend Jack’ with a date stamp on the back 5 Jan 1939
5 Jan 1939
1 photo
1/5/9 Studio portrait of Jack Clifton signed ‘to Bob with sincere wishes ?lot[s] good luck Jack Feb 1940’
Not dated
1 photo

1/6 Photograph Album
Photograph album mainly consisting of professional photographs of Palestine that Robert Ball purchased and one photograph of Beirut in Lebanon. The photographs includes images of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Galilee.

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The images include the Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Damascus Gate, The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, Calvary, Hospice of St. John, altar of Stabat Mater, Jerusalem’s King David Hotel, Allenby Square, the Palestine Museum, Rachel’s Tomb, Church of Nativity, the Church of Annunciation, the village of Cana, some scenes of everyday life and people, Jaffa’s King George Avenue, Ramleh, Andromeda Rock, Mugrabi Theatre, Ben Yehuda Street, River Jordan Allenby Bridge, Jericho, the Lake of Tiberias, Lido Terrace, aerial view of Degania, Haifa’s Khayat Square, Armon Cinema, Mar Elias Monastery.
Also includes 2 photographs of Robert Ball’s place of residence in Palestine.
Captions are original
1a  My Humble Abode
1b  [My Humble Abode] duplicate of 1a
2  Jerusalem: The Mt of Olives
3  Jerusalem: The Citadel
4  Jerusalem: The Rock Moriah
5  Jerusalem: Temple Area
6  Jerusalem: Church of the Holy Sepulchre
7  Jerusalem: The Crusader Bells
8  Jerusalem: The Tomb
9  Jerusalem: Arch of Ecce Homo
10  Jerusalem: Way Dolorosa
11  Jerusalem: The Wailing Wall
12  Jerusalem: Garden of Gethsemane
13  Jerusalem: Damascus Gate
14  The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (1) The Roman Praetorium
15 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (2) Near the Ecce Homo
16 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (3) Near the Latin Armenian Hospice
17 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (4) The Meeting Place
18 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (5) Simon takes the Cross
19 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (6) House of St Veronica
20 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (7) Porto Judicaria
21 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (8) Hospice of St. John
22 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (9) Coptic Monastery
23 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (10) Calvary - Chapel of Disrobing
24 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (11) Calvary - Chapel of Nailing
25 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (12) Calvary - Chapel of Raising
26 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (13) Altar of the Stabat Mater
27 The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa: (14) The Tomb
28 Jerusalem: Central Jerusalem
29 Jerusalem: Y.M.C.A Building
30 Jerusalem: King David Hotel
31 Jerusalem: Zion Circle
32 Jerusalem: Allenby Square
33 Jerusalem: Princess Mary Avenue
34 Jerusalem: General Post Office
35 Jerusalem: Julian’s Way
36 Jerusalem: The Residency
37 Jerusalem: The Palestine Museum
38 Jerusalem: The Jewish Agency
39 Jerusalem: King George Avenue
40 Bethlehem: Shepherd’s Field
41 Bethlehem: Rachel’s Tomb
42 Bethlehem: The Water Carrier
43 Bethlehem: Bethlehem Bells
44 Bethlehem: The Church of Nativity
45 Bethlehem: The Grotto
46 Bethlehem: The Manger
47 Bethlehem: The Nave
48 Bethlehem: A Judean Home
49 Bethlehem: Street Scene
50 Bethlehem: At Prayer
51 Bethlehem: The Mother of Pearl Worker
52 Nazareth: Nazareth
53 Nazareth: The Vegetable Market
54 Nazareth: Oh! Fair Nazarene
55 Nazareth: The Virgins Fount
56 Nazareth: The Grotto of Annunciation
57 Nazareth: Animal Market
58 Nazareth: The Church of Annunciation
59 Nazareth: Chapel of the Carpenter Shop
60 Sharon Plain
61 Church of Transfiguration
62 Cana Village
63 Mt. Tabor
Ploughing
Harvesting
Threshing
Winnowing
Grinding the Wheat
An Eastern Beauty
Jewelled Lady
To the Well
The Shepherd
The Spinner
The Water Carrier
Homeward Bound
A Cluster
The Orange Grove
Loaded Trees
Gathering
Irrigation
Cleaning and Sorting
Packing
Irrigation Canals
By Camel
then Lighter
then River
to the Consumer
Jaffa: Market Square
Jaffa: King George Avenue
Jaffa: Tabitha’s Well
Jaffa: House of Simon the Tanner
Ramleh
Interior - St. George’s Church
Lydda - St. George’s Church
The Tower of the ‘Forty Matyrs’
[Martyrs]
Plain of Sharon
Jaffa from the Sea
Andromeda Rocks
The Sea Front
Tel Aviv: The Promenade
Tel Aviv: The Beach
Tel Aviv: Rothschild Boulevard
Tel Aviv: Allenby Street
Tel Aviv: Mugrabi Theatre
Tel Aviv: Colony Circle
Tel Aviv: Dizzengoff [Dizengoff] Circle
Tel Aviv: Carmel Street
Tel Aviv: Ben Yehuda St.
Tel Aviv: Yaarkon [Yarkon] River
Tel Aviv: The Cascades
Tel Aviv: Camel Caravans fording the river
River Jordan. Allenby Bridge
The Dead Sea
River Jordan. Place of Baptism
Bouyancy [Buoyancy]
Jericho
Mount of Temptation
St. George Convent
Elisha’s Fountain
Good Samaritan’s Inn
The Lake of Tiberias
The lake Front
Old Tiberias
Dagania [Degania] Settlement
Tiberias: Towards Mt. Hermon
Tiberias: Lido Terrace
Tiberias: Tiberias from the Lake
View-Master Reels

6 view master reels of Palestine that Robert Ball purchased. The view-master reels consisting of images of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa and Acre.

Not dated 6 view-master reels c1940s
View-master reel labelled ‘4002 Street Scenes in Old Jerusalem Palestine’ not dated c1940s containing the following images:
1 Inside the Damascus gate
2 Cobbler shop
3 Goatskin water bag carrier
4 Roasting beans
5 An Arab and performing monkey
6 A soft drink vendor
7 Coffee and Hubble Bubble Pipe

View-master reel labelled ‘4004 Moslem temple area’ not dated c1940s containing the following images:
1 Dome of Rock area
2 The judgment area
3 Dome of the Chain
4 Dome of Rock and Jebusite spring
5 Ancient steps and the dome
6 Inside the Aksa mosque
7 The rock of the Abraham

View-master reel labelled ‘4008 Tel Aviv Israel’ not dated c1940s containing the following images:
1 Tel Aviv from Jaffa
2 Allenby street
3 Ocean Boulevard
4 Zena Disengoff square [Zina Dizengoff]
5 Allenby square
6 London square
7 Sunset from Tel Aviv

View-master reel labelled ‘4010 Jaffa Israel’ not dated c1940s containing the following images:
1 Jaffa
2 King George street
3 Jaffa mosque
4 The market place
5 Boat building in the old town
6 Repairing the nets
7 Harbour Scene

1/7/5 View-master reel labelled ‘4012 Region of Haifa Israel’ containing the following images:
1 Haifa and the bay
2 Mount Carmel
3 Old town of Acre
4 Crusader castle ruins at Atlit
5 Roman harbour ruins at Caesarea
6 Ruins of Herod’s palace
7 The Caesarea minaret

1/7/6 View-master reel labelled ‘4013 Acre Palestine’ containing the following images:
1 Acre and the bay
2 The Acre gate
3 The mosque
4 A Roman aqueduct
5 16th century Market street
6 Repairing the nets
7 Minaret call to prayer

1/8 Press Cutting
Parade magazine cutting showing a view of Haifa.

1/9 Service Record
1930-1948
Printed booklet of the record of service for Robert Ball including his education, promotions,
reductions, certificates, qualifications and medical history.

1/10 Certificate of Discharge 1 Oct 1949 1 booklet
Printed Palestine Police certificate of discharge.

2 Bermuda Police Employment Contract 16 Oct 1948 4 sheets and an envelope
Bermuda police contract of employment for Robert Ball with accompanying envelope and a with compliments slip.

3 Palestine Police Reunion c1964 2 items
Photographs of the Palestine Police reunion in Bermuda.
Admin Hist: Robert Ball was not the only Palestine Policeman who travelled to Bermuda to join the Bermuda Police after the end of the Palestine Mandate. He travelled with David Gill and also his Palestine Police colleagues Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard joined the Bermuda Police and travelled to Bermuda on the same ship as Robert Ball.
3/1 Group photograph of Palestine Police veterans’ c1964 1 photo reunion, possibly in a pub. The people in the photograph may possibly include Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard.
3/2 Group photograph of Palestine Police veterans’ c1964 1 photo reunion taken in a car park. The people in the photograph may possibly include Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard.

4 Overseas Service Pensioners’ Association 1977-1980 3 items
Papers relating to Robert Ball’s life membership of the Overseas Service Pensioners’ Association.
4/1 Printed booklet ‘Overseas Service Pensioners’ Association Constitution and Rules Effective 9th June 1977’. 9 Jun 1977 1 booklet
4/2 Receipt for £40 for life membership for the ‘Overseas Service Pensioners’ Association paid by R. Ball. 5 Jun 1980 1 item
4/3  Life membership card of the ‘Overseas Service Pensioner’s Association. Not dated  1 item