

**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)

Born 12 Dec 1912 in Wishaw, Lanarkshire. Pupil at Wishaw Academy, Lanarkshire, 1917-1921. Pupil at Wishaw High School, Lanarkshire, obtaining Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate 1921-1926. Studied at Caledonian Wireless College, Glasgow and Clerk with North Scotland Bank Wilshire 1926-1931. Enlisted in Hamilton in Scots Guards for 3 years' army service in the colours and 9 years' army reserve service in 1931. Guardsman in Scots Guards, 1931-1934 and during this time obtained Army First Class Certificate and PMG in Radiotelegraphy, French and Arabic. Constable in Dunbartonshire police 1934-1938. Sailed from Liverpool on SS California for Palestine on 29 Sept 1938. Served in Palestine Police in Nazareth and Jerusalem as a British constable and wireless telegraph officer (Police service no. 1468) from 13 Oct 1938 – 19 Mar 1943. Married Nurse Grace Purves in Jaffa, 31 Dec 1940. Sailed from Port Suez, 20 Mar 1943, on SS Malloja round Cape of Good Hope in convoy and arrived in Liverpool on 6 Jun 1943. Worked briefly in England as an Industrial X-Ray Operator 1943-1944. Called up 1 Feb 1944 and went to OCTU training and offered commission in Royal Signals Corps – decided not to take it and returned to Scots Guards until demobilisation. Worked for NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) in Germany 1946-1947. Worked as a ground radio operator for BOAC with flying boats in Egypt and Malta and then at the airport in Hounslow, 1947-1949. Wireless Telegraphy Operator with Control Commission for Germany, Civil Aviation Branch, under the Foreign Office, 1949-1950. Water Bailiff on River Tweed in Peeblesshire, 1950-1951. Locust Officer, Desert Locust Control, working in Aden, Somaliland and Kenya, 1951-1953. Assistant Superintendent, Government of Qatar Police Department, Radio and Traffic Section, 1953-1954. Survey Engineer with the Marconi Company involved in setting up independent television masts all over Britain and in surveying for satellite services in BFE bases in Germany, Malta and Aden, 1956-1973. Also carried out surveys of sites for national satellite services in Cyprus, Iran, Libya, Kuwait, Kenya, Malaysia and Trinidad. Clerk to Great Baddow Parish Council, Chelmsford, Essex 1973-1977. Died 17 Apr 1977 at St John's

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009, and items 11/18/1, 12, 13 received as a gift from Iain Poole on 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**Archivist's note:** Fonds, file and item level description created by James Smith 22 Aug 2008, revised by Debbie Usher 29 May 2009 and Thomas Stanbury 31 May 2012. Last revised by Debbie Usher 14 Mar 2018. Biographical history supplied by Iain Poole.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE JOHN POOLE  
COLLECTION**

**1 Curfew Order**

Curfew Order poster for Old City of Jerusalem by Major- 12 Nov 1938 1 item  
General Richard Nugent O'Connor (Military Commander  
of the Jerusalem District)

**2 Daily Crime Reports**

Daily Crime Reports for Nazareth, Tiberias, Beisan, Safad Jul-Aug 1939 10 sheets  
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 5 Jul 1939 1 sheet  
Safad

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

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

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

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

2/6 Letter from Police Headquarters, Nazareth, 8 Aug 1939 1 sheet  
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'

2/7 Daily Crime Report with entries for Nazareth and 15 Aug 1939 1 sheet  
Tiberias

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.	1-7 Aug 1939	12 sheets
3/1	Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts: stories covered include a 'shooting incident at Gaza' (A), 'Elections to the 21 <sup>st</sup> Zionist Congress' (H), 'Termination of Hunger Strike' (H) and 'The Jewish Agency' (H)	1 Aug 1939	4 sheets
3/2	Arabic and Hebrew Press Extracts: stories covered include 'Jewish Detainees'(A), 'The White Paper' (A), 'The Jerusalem Municipality' (H), 'Refugees from Poland' (H), 'Traffic Restrictions within Jerusalem' (H)	2 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)	6-7Aug 1939	4 sheets

#### **4 Palestine Post Newspaper Clipping**

Published letter from the Nahalal Area Committee to the 10 May 1 sheet  
editor of the Palestine Post entitled 'Security in the Nahalal [1939]  
area' criticizing the British authorities for not promptly  
searching Waldheim or Bethlehem after attacks on Jewish  
settlements

#### **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 ?1936-1939	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 ?1940s	1 sheet

#### **7 Palestine Police Magazines, Travel Guides and Postcard**

7/1	Bound volume of Palestine Police Magazines	Jan-Dec 1936	1 vol.
7/2	'Pocket Guide to Palestine' by Gail Hoffman, Fourth Edition (Hauman Press, Jerusalem)	1941	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**

Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association News Letter Dec 1955 1 item  
containing 'Home News', 'News from Overseas', 'Minutes of the Annual General Meeting', photographs, 'Greetings', 'Tracers', 'Corrigenda', 'New Arrivals', 'Wedding Bells', 'Obituary' 'New Members' 'Changes of Address', 'A Continental Hitch-hike', 'Jerusalem Revisited – Some Impressions', 'Do Ghosts still linger there?' (a poem), 'Stop Press'

## **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 and Qatar (1952-54). Subjects of the photographs include people and places connected to the military and police, Not dated 414 items [1938-1943]

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	<u>Envelope 1</u> 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	<u>Envelope 2</u> 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	Not dated	13 items
11/3	<u>Envelope 3</u> Mainly military photographs with some scenes of local life. The envelope also includes 3 negatives (not printed). The photographs are not labelled	Not dated	27 items
11/4	<u>Envelope 4</u> Mainly military photographs with some portraits. The photographs are not labelled	Not dated	23 items
11/5	<u>Envelope 5</u> Mainly photographs of conflict, with numerous pictures of bodies who appear to be victims of shooting. The photographs are not labelled	Not dated	75 items
11/6	<u>Envelope 6</u> Assortment of photographs including landscapes, personal interest, local life, plus some military	Not dated	48 items



	scenes and scenes of Arab crowds with flags (possibly a demonstration). The photographs are not labelled		
11/7	<u>Envelope 7</u> Mainly photographs of local life with some military and police scenes. The photographs are not labelled, except for:	Not dated	54 items
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: '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	Not dated	1 item
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	<u>Envelope 8</u> Photographs of local life. The Photographs are not labelled	Not dated	11 items
11/9	<u>Envelope 9</u> Photographs 1-46 are mainly military and landscapes, photos 47-67 are mainly sightseeing photos of landscapes and local life. Photographs are not labelled	Not dated	67 items

11/10	<u>Envelope 10</u>	Not dated	36 items
	<p>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:</p> <p>11/10/1 'Joshua's Tomb', in separate envelope</p>		
11/11	<u>Box labelled GSM &amp; Clasp Palestine</u>	Not dated	1 item
	<p>Photograph in box with medal (10/5 listed above). The photograph is not labelled</p>		
11/12	<u>Copy print enlargements</u>	Not dated	15 items
	<p>Enlargements, probably made later, of some of the photographs in previous envelopes. The Photographs are not labelled</p>		
11/13	<u>Envelope 11</u>	1954	59 items
	<p>Labelled "Qatar 1954" comprised primarily of military scenes, meetings with tribal leaders, parades, honour guards, a feast and portraits</p>		
11/14	<u>Envelope 12</u>	1954	74 items
	<p>Labelled "Qatar 1954", contains negatives of photographs from envelope 11</p>		
11/15	<u>Envelope 13</u>	1952	
	<p>Labelled "Hadramaut, Yemen, Gulf of Aden, 1952" comprising beach scenes, huts, landscapes, roads, buildings, portraits, airplanes, 1-29 unlabelled</p> <p>11/15/30 Meufeh (?) tribesmen W. of Mukalla, '52</p> <p>11/15/31 3 Ox team of water drawers, TERIM. Lendi Hoofherririf[?] '52</p>		

- 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 Abdul 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 Dustejecta 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 Shihr, 1952
- 11/15/65 Baby sharks for sale – They are delicious  
to eat. Shihr. 1952
- 11/15/66 Sailfish 7ft 6 ins long at Shihr, 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

11/16/19	Our mail plane on the sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberias		
11/16/20	Nazareth		
11/16/21	On the frontier!		
11/16/22	Athlete, Crusader's stronghold		
11/16/23	Tiberias		
11/16/24	Unlabelled		
11/16/25	Jerusalem – Sheep and Shepherds in the Valley of the Jordan (+ Mount of Temptation)		
11/16/26	Jericho – Jordan River		
11/16/27	Church of All Nations		
11/16/28	Garden of Gethsemane & Church of All Nations. Said to be built round the rock where Jesus prayed & was betrayed by Judas		
11/16/29	Garden of Gethsemane, looking up to Mount of Olives		
11/17	<u>Palestine Photograph Album</u> Olive Wood photograph album containing unlabelled photographs from Palestine 1938-1942, mostly unlabelled, aside from some denoting persons appearing in photographs	1938-1942	1 album, 91 photos, 1 drawing
11/18	<u>Loose Photographs</u> Photographs from Poole's time in the Palestine Police	1939-1940	3 items
11/18/1	Cardboard framed photograph labelled "Signals Branch, Palestine Police Annual Dinner 1940"	1940	
11/18/2	Photograph labelled "John Poole, Wireless Telegraph Officer, Palestine Police, Haifa 1939"	1939	

11/18/3	Photograph Labelled “Nazareth 1939”	1939	
11/19	<u>Slides</u> Slides from Poole’s time in Persia in 1956 and possibly Oman or Saudi Arabia	1956	64 items
11/19/1	<u>Iran 1956</u> Showing photographs of mosques, gardens, street scenes, landscapes and the desert	1956	35 slides
11/19/2	<u>Persia 1956 Misc</u> Showing photographs of sports, landscapes, aerial photographs of a city, workers, construction work, archaeological sites	1956	20 slides
11/19/3	<u>Oman or Saudi Arabia</u> Originally in yellow box labelled “?Qatar” Likely not Qatar because of the presence of mountains, so most likely either Oman or Saudi Arabia	Undated	9 slides

## **12 Palestine Broadcasting Service Agreements**

Palestine Broadcasting Service Agreements 1942-43, comprising engagement agreements for a broad variety of broadcasts in Jerusalem	9 Sept 1942 – 6 Feb 1943	23 sheets
--	-----------------------------	-----------

## **13 Pages from the Palestine Post**

13/1	Section of the Palestine Post of January 1 <sup>st</sup> 1940, with a review of the year in headlines	1 Jan 1940	2 sheets
------	---	------------	----------

13/2 Front page of the Palestine Post of February 12<sup>th</sup> 1943, with 12 Feb 1943 2 sheets  
an article on the unification of the allied commands in  
Africa and the Russian assault on Kharkov