

Reference code: GB165-0634

Title: William Stewart Collection

Name of creator: Stewart, William David (b. 1928) Palestine Policeman

Dates of creation of material: 1947- 2007

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 2 boxes

Biographical history: Stewart, William David (b.1926) Palestine Policeman

William 'Bill' Stewart was born in Bridge of Allan in 1928 and was educated at Hurst Grange Prep School in Stirling, and Fettes College in Edinburgh. Stewart served as a constable in the Palestine Police force from the 22nd of December 1946 until the 11th of May 1948. He was transferred from Safad to Farradiyah Police Post in March 1947. His work in the force was considered 'exemplary.' Bill married in 1950 and has three daughters. He lived in Bo'ness, Stirling, Dumfries and Henley on Thames. Finishing his working life in Henley on Thames as Europe Production Manager for Stelrad Steel Radiators, he retired back to Bo'ness in 1986 to be near to his daughters and granddaughters. Stewart held membership in the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association intermittently from its conception in 1947. Following a letter in 1988 from the General Secretary of the organization inquiring about re-joining, Stewart went on to hold membership until at least 2007. As part of his membership, Stewart attended events in 1998 and 2005, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the British Mandate in Palestine and the 25th anniversary of the Scottish branch of the Old Comrades association respectively.

Scope and content: Papers and audio-visual material relating to William Stewart's service in the Palestine Police including a policeman's notebook, a 1947 Christmas dinner menu and his 1949 certificate of discharge. The majority of documents relate to Stewart's membership and involvement with the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association, and material relating to reminiscing about his time in Palestine. These include a constitution pamphlet, certificates of membership and details of dinners in 1998 and 2005. Material relating to reminiscing about his service in Palestine include a list of some colleagues compiled in 1991 and two VHS cassettes of a Palestine Police recruitment film and the BBC documentary 'A Dream so Fair: The Palestine Police.'

System of arrangement:

1. Palestine Police Service
2. Palestine Police Old Comrades Association
3. Reminiscences

Access conditions: Open

Language of material: English

Physical Condition: Equipment is needed to watch the films. Please ask the archivist for further information.

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

Custodial history: In the possession of William Stewart and his family.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Barbara Purdie, daughter of Stewart on 18 Dec 2016.

Appraisal: The William Stewart Collection originally contained Palestine Police and Old Comrades Association Newsletters from 1987- 2010 (no 149-234). These have not been kept as the MEC archive already has multiple copies of the Newsletters.

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

The MEC archive has many collections relating to the Palestine Police. Please consult the Guide to Collections relating to the Palestine Police for further information.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist; Adlib

Archivist's note: Fonds, series and item level description created by Rebecca Leeman on 3 Aug 2017. Biographical history based on information provided by Barbara Purdie and from the William Stewart Collection.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE WILLIAM STEWART
COLLECTION**

<u>1</u>	<u>Palestine Police Service</u>	<u>1947-1949</u>	<u>3 items</u>
	Documents relating to William Stewart's time as a member of the Palestine Police Force. Consisting of a police notebook, a 1947 Christmas dinner menu and Stewart's 1949 certificate of discharge.		
1/1	<u>Police Notebook</u> William Stewart's Palestine Police Force notebook. The front page includes rules of usage of the notebook in English, Hebrew and Arabic. The first entry is on the 6 th Feb 1947 at 5.05pm, with Stewart noting that there was nothing to report. Entries include that of 11 th Feb 1947, which details Stewart's involvement in the escort of a man charged with attempted murder following the discovery of blood stains on the ground. On the 18 th May 1947, Stewart arrived on the scene of the murder of Ahmed Abdulla by shooting. Stewart remained on the scene until reinforcement arrived to remove the victim. Appears Stewart may have used this notebook after his discharge. Entries after the 15 th April 1947 feature British addresses and calculations which may relate to Stewart's later work as a manager of a radiator company.	1947	1 notebook
1/2	<u>Christmas Dinner Menu</u> Autographed copy of the British Police Divisional Head Quarters Christmas Celebration menu.	1947	1 pamphlet

1/3 Certificate of Discharge 1949 1 pamphlet

William Stewart's copy of certificate of discharge from the Palestine Police Force. Details Stewart's 'exemplary' conduct during service and his rank as Constable. The document was signed by the Inspector General on 1st of Oct 1949, and details the exact dates of Stewart's service which were the 22nd Dec 1946 to 11th of May 1948.

2 **Palestine Police Old Comrades Association** **1947- 2007** **12 items**

Documents relating to William Stewart's membership and involvement in activities arranged by the Association. It was founded to acknowledge and continue the comradeship developed by the Palestine Police Force following the end of the British mandate in 1948.

2/1 Constitution 1947 1 pamphlet

Member's copy of the constitution of the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association. The goals of the organisation were to continue the comradeship fostered in Palestine and also to support 'distressed members' by attempting to 'relieve need, hardship and distress'. Details the Patrons, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the organisation along with the function of the secretary and financial aspects including the funding of the organisation which came from donations from various sources.

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| 2/2 | <u>Membership Certificates</u> | 1947- 1989 | 2 items |
| | <p>Details the amount of subscription fees paid each year. Includes signatures from members of the governing body of the organisation. Details the rules of the organisation including its general policy. This includes the statement that it is non-political and will not take sides in any political or industrial dispute. Also details the different types of membership and the penalty for not paying subscription fees.</p> | | |
| 2/2/1 | <u>Membership Certificate</u> | 1947- 1952 | 1 pamphlet |
| | <p>Signed by the General Secretary and Treasurer of the organisation on 10th of Dec 1947 which corresponds with the first subscription fee paid. The final subscription fee paid is dated to the 14th March 1952.</p> | | |
| 2/2/2 | <u>Membership Certificate</u> | 1988-1989 | 1 pamphlet |
| | <p>The document is signed by the General secretary but not dated. The first subscription fee paid is dated to 12th Jan 1988 and the final instalment is paid in 1989. The month of payment is illegible.</p> | | |
| 2/3 | <u>Letter from the General Secretary</u> | 1988 | 1 sheet |
| | <p>Letter dated 2nd Jan 1988 to William Stewart inquiring if he would like to re-join the organisation.</p> | | |
| 2/4 | <u>Church Order of Service</u> | 1998 | 1 pamphlet |
| | <p>Order of service for the 50th anniversary of the end of the British Mandate in Palestine at St. Mathews</p> | | |

Church Perth, Scotland. Scottish branch. Sets out the names of those leading the service, hymns and bible readings.

2/5	<u>Scottish Branch Membership Cards</u>	1999- 2007	5 items
	Membership cards for the Scottish branch of the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association. Each card gives the details of the other current members of the Scottish branch, including whether they were founding members or family of a policeman who served in Palestine. Names, addresses, contact number, marital status and spouses name if applicable are included.		
2/5/1	<u>Membership card</u>	1999	1 pamphlet
2/5/2	<u>Membership card</u>	2001	1 pamphlet
2/5/3	<u>Membership card</u>	2004	1 pamphlet
2/5/4	<u>Membership card</u>	2006	1 pamphlet
2/5/5	<u>Membership card</u>	2007	1 pamphlet
2/6	<u>Scottish branch 25th Anniversary lunch</u>	2005	2 items
	Papers relating to a 2005 dinner held in Quality Station Hotel Perth, Scotland. Consists of a table plan and menu.		
2/6/1	<u>Table Plan</u>	2005	1 sheet
	Photocopy of the table plans for the meal		
2/6/2	<u>Menu</u>	2005	1 pamphlet
	Menu and details of the toasts and hymn sung before and after the lunch. Includes details of who will be leading the toasts. Toasts include those for the Queen, the Scottish branch of the organisation, absent friends and the Grace given by the Rev. K.G. Anderson. The hymn is The Holy		

City by Frederic. E. Weatherly.

<u>3</u>	<u>Reminiscences</u>	<u>1947- 1991</u>	<u>6 items</u>
	Collection of documents which indicate William Stewart's reminiscences on his time as a member of the Palestine Police Force, all of which are either copies of documents relating to his time in Palestine or collected afterwards. Includes a list of details of Palestine colleagues, a photocopy of a newspaper article published in 1947, a police recruitment video, a later BBC documentary on the Palestine Police Force and a wooden Palestine Police commemorative shield.		
3/1	<u>Byrant's List of Police Colleagues</u> Photocopied list of some of the colleagues of J. D. Byrant from his time as a policeman under the Palestine Mandate from 1947 to 1949. List compiled from a diary and photograph album kept by J. D. Bryant dating between October 1946 and May 1948. Stewart features on the list of those who worked for the Farradiyeh Police Post. 6 other men are listed here and so are potential colleagues of Stewart. Bryant adds a note at the end of the document, highlighting its limitations as the majority of details came from memory and not a record from the time.	1991	5 sheets
3/2	<u>Map Police District Boundaries</u> Photocopy of a map produced in 1947 which details the police district boundaries within Palestine.	1947	1 sheet
3/3	<u>Daily Mail Palestine Police Article</u> Photocopy of an article published on 28 th Aug 1947 in the Daily Mail titled 'Report from the Most	1947	1 sheet

Lawless Country in the World.' Details the number of police in Palestine and the crimes and dangers they faced.

- 3/4 Photograph of SS Clan Lamont Not dated 1 photo
Print of a digitalized photograph showing the SS ?1948
Clan Lamont. Caption on back: British rule in Palestine ended noon Sunday 15th May 1948. SS Clan Lamont sailed from Haifa; Palestine on Friday 13th May 1948 bound for Liverpool carrying troops, Palestine Policemen and civilians.
- 3/5 Films 2 items
- 3/5/1 Film 'Palestine Police.' 1 item
Produced in 1945 as a recruitment film intended for British audiences, it depicts an adventurous picture of life as a Palestine Policeman.
Related material: This film is also held by the Imperial War Museum.
- 3/5/2 Film 'BBC: A Dream so Fair the Palestine Police.' 1 item
The film relates to the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association.
Related material: This film is also held by the National Army Museum.
- 3/6 Commemorative shield Not dated 1 item
Wooden shield with the crest of the Palestine Police. Approximately 20cm long.