

Reference code: GB165-0672

Title: Noel Thomas Collection

Name of creator: Thomas, Noel Edward Ivor (1901-1984) Teacher, Club Secretary and Scout Master

Dates of creation of material: 1932-1966

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Biographical history: Thomas, Noel Edward Ivor (1901-1984) Teacher, Club Secretary and Scout Master.

Born 30 Dec 1901, in Blackburn, Noel Thomas was a teacher at the English School in Heliopolis, Cairo between 1922 and 1949. He worked as Resident Secretary of the Turf Club in Cairo, 1949-1952. In Jan 1952 he was badly injured during the 'Black Saturday' riots. The riots, also known as the 'Cairo Fire' caused extensive damage across Cairo, including the Turf Club, which was burnt down. This led to the termination of his job as Secretary and his return to the United Kingdom. He helped set up and was Scout Master for the 1st Cairo English School Scout Troop which became the Heliopolis National Service Scout Group in wartime (1939-1941).

Scope and content: Papers mainly relating to the 'Black Saturday' riots in Cairo in Jan 1952 and their aftermath, including a personal account of the riots and medical reports, which detail the extent of Noel Thomas's injuries. There is also a history of the 1st Cairo English School Scout Troop during World War II, as well as a history of the English School of Heliopolis Cairo, 1916-1956, accompanied by two annual school magazines. There is a small collection of photographs consisting mainly of images of Noel Thomas.

System of arrangement:

1. Heliopolis English School
2. Scouting activities
3. Turf Club
4. Black Saturday Riots
5. Financial Records
6. Cairo Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society
7. Passports

8. Photographs

9. Noel Thomas caricature

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 Noel Thomas's daughter, Philippa Thomas

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift from Philippa Thomas in May 2018

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

- GB165-0673 Minna Barren Collection: Diary of a visit to Cairo 25 Dec 1951- 25 Jan 1952 which includes a dinner with Noel Thomas. Minna Barren was Noel Thomas' cousin.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds, series and item level description created by Oliver Cooper, 14 Aug 2018. Biographical history based on correspondence with Mr Thomas's daughter, Philippa Thomas.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE NOEL THOMAS
COLLECTION**

<u>1</u>	<u>Heliopolis English School</u>	<u>1937-1966</u>	<u>1 file</u>
	File includes correspondence relating to Mr Thomas's brief tenure as acting Headmaster of the school. Also included are school magazines, a published history of the English School, Cairo and a newspaper clipping which contains an article about a former pupil of Mr Thomas.		
	System of arrangement:		
	1/1	Correspondence	
	1/2	Annual School Magazines	
	1/3	History of the Heliopolis English School	
	1/4	Newspaper Clipping	
<u>1/1</u>	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>1937-1940</u>	<u>4 sheets</u>
1/1/1	TS letter to Noel Thomas from ?Miles Dawlish which congratulates Mr Thomas for his work at the English School of Cairo.		14 May 1937 2 sheets
1/1/2	Handwritten letter to Noel Thomas from Robert Frey which asks Noel Thomas to act as Headmaster of the English School of Cairo, as decided by a School Council Meeting.		14 May 1940 1 sheet
1/1/3	Handwritten letter to Noel Thomas from Robert Frey which congratulates Mr Thomas on how he handled his responsibilities as acting Headmaster of the English School of Cairo.		6 Oct 1940 1 sheet
<u>1/2</u>	<u>Annual School Magazines</u>	<u>1946-1950</u>	<u>2 booklets</u>
1/2/1	Printed school magazine produced by The English School of Heliopolis, Cairo, June 1946. Includes examination results, photographs, and the results of a sports day.		Jun 1946 1 booklet

- | | | | |
|------------|--|--------------------|--|
| 1/2/2 | Printed school magazine produced by The English School of Heliopolis, Cairo, June 1950. Includes details of House games, Prizewinners and the School Anthology. | Jun 1950 | 1 booklet |
| <u>1/3</u> | <u>History of the Heliopolis English School</u>
Printed booklet 'A History of the English School Cairo, 1916-1956' by G. F. Beard. Published by Sumfield & Day Ltd. | <u>c1960s</u> | <u>1 booklet</u> |
| <u>1/4</u> | <u>Newspaper Clipping</u>
Printed newspaper clipping, The Observer, pages 9-12. Includes Observer inquiry into George Blake, a British and Soviet double agent who was taught by Noel Thomas. | <u>30 Oct 1966</u> | <u>1 Sheet</u> |
| <u>2</u> | <u>Scouting activities</u>
Includes a handwritten booklet detailing the history of the 1 st Cairo English School scouts in wartime, 1939-1941, with photographs and a printed timeline of events. A letter from Chief Scout, Robert Baden Powell, and a condolence letter addressed to Noel Thomas is also included, as are various photographs of the scout troop.
System of arrangement:
2/1 Baden Powell Letter
2/2 History of English School Scouts
2/3 Condolence Letter
2/4 Scout Photographs | <u>1930-1952</u> | <u>1 booklet,</u>
<u>3 sheets</u>
<u>and 3</u>
<u>items</u> |
| 2/1 | <u>Baden Powell Letter</u>
TS letter to 'Group Scoutmaster' [Noel Thomas] from Robert Baden Powell which praises the behaviour of the scout troop during a crisis at Maadi in the previous month. Admin Note: The 'crisis' referred to may be a level crossing accident which occurred 31 March 1930. The 1 st Cairo | <u>20 Jun 1930</u> | <u>1 sheet</u> |

English School Group was awarded the Medal of Merit for their “good work and scout-like spirit.” Taken from Andrew J Totten, *Straight & ready: a history of the 10th Belfast Scout Group 1908-1988*, Nelson and Knox, 1989. pg 123.

2/2	<u>History of 1st Cairo English School Scouts</u>	<u>8 Jan 1941</u>	<u>1 booklet</u>
	Handwritten hardback booklet titled ‘1 st Cairo English School, National Service Troop’ with an internal title ‘Personal log of the Heliopolis (Egypt) National Service Scout Group. Volume 1, A Story of War Scouting.’ which details the history of the 1 st Cairo English School Troop during wartime, 1939-1941. The scouts performed duties, which included first aid and firefighting services. Also included are various photographs and documents which are glued inside the booklet. These include group photographs of the scout troop and a printed timeline of the group’s activities. The booklet was in memory of the Chief Scout Lord Baden Powell who passed away on the 8 th Jan 1941.		
2/3	<u>Condolence Letter</u>	<u>20 Jun 1952</u>	<u>1 sheet</u>
	TS letter to Noel Thomas from T.C. Jennings which, following injuries Thomas sustained during the ‘Black Saturday’ riots, expresses the sympathies of the British Boys Scouts in Egypt.		
2/4	<u>Scout Photographs</u>	<u>c1939-1940s</u>	<u>3 items</u>
2/4/1	Photograph of a group of scouts lined up alongside some cars, captioned “Here we are, ready to embark into the cars with ?stretchers all spick and span!” Noel Thomas stands to the right with an ARF armband.	c1939-1940s	1 item
2/4/2	No original caption. Photograph of three scouts in uniform.	c1939-1940s	1 item
2/4/3	No original caption. Photograph of a man in scout uniform being awarded a medal in front of a crowd of scouts.	c1939-1940s	1 item

3	<u>Turf Club</u>	<u>1949-c1953</u>	<u>8 sheets</u> <u>and</u> <u>2 items</u>
	Correspondence relating to Noel Thomas's tenure at the Turf Club, following his injuries during the 'Black Saturday' riots. Includes letters regarding paid sick leave and an agreement which served as Mr Thomas's contract with the club. Also included are two photographs of a Turf Club show.		
<u>3/1</u>	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>1949-1952</u>	<u>8 sheets</u>
3/1/1	Handwritten agreement by W A. ?Suieve, which sets out the relationship between the Turf Club and Noel Thomas. It was written upon Mr Thomas's appointment as Resident Secretary.	18 May 1949	3 sheets
3/1/2	TS letter to Noel Thomas from the President of the Turf Club, Ralph Stevenson, which expresses condolences to Mr Thomas, following his injuries sustained in the 'Black Saturday' riots.	30 Jan 1952	1 sheet
3/1/3	TS letter to Chairman of the Turf Club H. F. Ayres from Noel Thomas which asks for extra paid sick leave following the injuries he sustained in the 'Black Saturday' riots.	24 May 1952	1 sheet
3/1/4	TS letter to Noel Thomas from H. F. Ayres which includes the acceptance of further paid sick leave and offers payment of a flight from Cairo to London for Mr. Thomas.	30 May 1952	1 sheet
3/1/5	TS letter to Noel Thomas from ?Alfie ?Lou which unofficially informs Mr Thomas that the Turf Club will not be retaining him as Resident Secretary due to the Club's financial problems.	4 Sep 1952	2 sheets
<u>3/2</u>	<u>Turf Club Photographs</u>	<u>c1950s</u>	<u>2 items</u>
3/2/1	No original caption. Photograph of two men in striped blazers who are sat down looking at a small child in a white dress, at a Turf Club show.	c1950s	1 item

3/2/2	No original caption. Photograph of a man in costume for a show at the Turf Club.	c1950s	1 item
<u>4</u>	<u>Black Saturday Riots</u>	<u>1946 – c1953</u>	<u>27 sheets</u>
	Papers relating to Noel Thomas's experience of the 'Black Saturday' riots which left him badly injured. A personal account of the riots is included, along with medical reports and correspondence regarding Mr Thomas's bid for compensation.		<u>and</u> <u>2 items</u>
	System of arrangement:		
	4/1 Accounts of the Riots		
	4/2 Medical Treatment		
	4/3 Anglo-American Hospital Photographs		
	4/4 Compensation Correspondence		
	4/5 Norwich Union Fire Insurance Ltd		
<u>4/1</u>	<u>Accounts of the Riots</u>	<u>1952-c1953</u>	<u>12 sheets</u>
	A Police statement, report and letter giving an account of the Black Saturday riots.		
4/1/1	TS Police statement by Noel Thomas which describes his actions during the 'Black Saturday' riots whereby a serious fire developed in the Turf Club, where he worked as Resident Secretary at the time.	c1952	3 sheets
4/1/2	TS Report detailing the 'Black Saturday' riots, including the actions of Noel Thomas and the economic impact of the riots on businesses and foreign investment. Unknown author.	c1952	3 sheets
4/1/3	Handwritten letter to Noel Thomas from ?D'arcy which suggests a name for the man who assaulted Mr Thomas.	30 May 1952	6 sheets

<u>4/2</u>	<u>Medical Treatment</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>2 items</u>
4/2/1	TS Report by Dr. Walter Hamilton which describes the injuries sustained by Noel Thomas during the 'Black Saturday' riots.	28 Apr 1952	1 sheet
4/2/2	TS 'Medical Report on Mr. Noel Thomas' by Sir Reginald Watson-Jones which describes the condition of Noel Thomas as he recovers from his injuries.	19 Nov 1952	2 sheets
<u>4/3</u>	<u>Anglo-American Hospital Photographs</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>2 items</u>
4/3/1	No original caption. Photograph of Noel Thomas sat in a chair at the Anglo-American Hospital, where he was recovering from his injuries, sustained during the 'Black Saturday' riots.	27 Jan 1952 – 25 Jun 1952	1 item
4/3/2	No original caption. Photograph of Noel Thomas on crutches with a nurse at the Anglo-American Hospital.	c1952	1 item
<u>4/4</u>	<u>Compensation Correspondence</u>	<u>1952-c1953</u>	<u>9 sheets</u>
4/4/1	TS letter to the Director General of Exchange Operations at the British Embassy from Noel Thomas which asks for money to help cover his medical bills.	10 Jun 1952	1 sheet
4/4/2	TS letter to Noel Thomas from ?Meiayles which asks Thomas for a statement about, and evidence of any medical costs incurred from his injuries sustained during the 'Black Saturday' riots, for the purpose of furthering his claim for compensation.	11 Aug 1952	1 sheet
4/4/3	TS Report 'Re N. E. I. Thomas, Esq. Opinion' by F. P. R. Hinchliffe which gives advice as to the documents Noel Thomas needs in order to receive compensation for his injuries.	10 Nov 1952	4 sheets
4/4/4	TS letter to Fanner Perrott and Marshall Sims from Ackerley, Heaton and Pigot Solicitors which details compensation made to Noel Thomas by the Turf Club for the payments of hospital fees.	17 Dec 1952	1 Sheet

4/4/5	TS draft letter to the H.M. Consul-General of the British Embassy in Cairo from solicitors of Noel Thomas which asks for compensation for the injuries sustained by Mr. Thomas.	c1953	2 Sheets
<u>4/5</u>	<u>Norwich Union Fire Insurance Ltd</u>	<u>1946-c1952</u>	<u>3 items</u>
4/5/1	TS letter to Noel Thomas from Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd which asks for payment in relation to the creation of a policy.	9 Aug 1946	1 sheet
4/5/2	TS letter to Noel Thomas from Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd which thanks Mr Thomas for renewing a policy.	27 Aug 1948	1 sheet
4/5/3	Printed form by the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society which includes details of possessions stolen from Noel Thomas.	c1952	1 sheet
<u>5</u>	<u>Financial Records</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>3 items</u>
5/1	Receipt for the sum of £165 paid by Noel Thomas for a room at the District Grand Lodge of Egypt and the Sudan.	15 Mar 1952	1 sheet
5/2	Receipt for an annual subscription to the Gezira Sporting Club for Noel Thomas.	18 Apr 1952	1 sheet
5/3	Receipt from the Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) for the deposit of £259, paid by Noel Thomas.	20 Jun 1952	1 sheet
<u>6</u>	<u>Cairo Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society</u>	<u>Not dated</u>	<u>1 sheet</u>
	Photocopy of a printed programme advertising the comical Opera, 'The Pirates of Penzance or The Slave of Duty', produced by The Cairo Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society, by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. Noel Thomas is listed as part of the cast in the role of pirates and policemen.		

<u>7</u>	<u>Passports</u>	<u>15 Aug 1932 –</u>	<u>2 booklets</u>
	Two passports of Noel Thomas which are bound together.	<u>31 Aug 1953</u>	
	The first is dated 31 Aug 1943 and includes the stamps from many trips to and from the United Kingdom and Egypt. The second is dated 15 Aug 1932 and includes stamps from Italy and France as well as Cairo and London.		
<u>8</u>	<u>Photographs</u>	<u>c1930s-</u>	<u>5 items</u>
		<u>c1940s</u>	
8/1	Photograph of a bride and groom walking hand in hand down some steps, caption reads “20 years on Jun 21st!!”	Not dated	1 item
8/2	Group photograph of men and women waiting with their suitcases, caption reads ‘This is in memory of our journey out here to the ?’ Printed as a postcard.	c1930s-1940s	1 item
8/3	No original caption. Portrait photograph of Noel Thomas, standing and wearing a suit.	c1930s	1 item
8/4	Passport photograph of Noel Thomas.	c1950s	1 item
8/5	Photograph of one man and three women in swimwear who smile as they are sprayed by a hose, onboard a boat. Captioned “By the way the women are all perfectly ?respectable – P.T. instructors in ?Liverpool ?training School. Please accept this wee gift as a token of appreciation.”	c1930s-1940s	1 item
8/6	No original caption. Photograph of a group of uniformed men marching across a campsite, with a band leading the way.	c1930s-1940s	1 item
<u>9</u>	<u>Noel Thomas Caricature</u>	<u>c1940s</u>	<u>1 item</u>
	Printed caricature of Noel Thomas standing up with his hands in his pockets.		