

Reference code: GB165-0365

Title: Palestine Police Service Records Collection

Name of creator: Palestine Police Force 1920-1948

Dates of creation of material: 1920-1948

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 76 boxes

Administrative history: Palestine Police Service Record Cards

The Palestine Police service record cards are personnel records for individual Palestine policemen. The service record cards have a standard format and are arranged by service record number, rather than by surname. The Palestine Police Service record cards are divided by citizenship into British service records and Palestinian (Jewish and Arab) service records. There is also a set of service records for Palestinians who were employed in the prison service.

From the surviving Palestine Police service record cards, it appears that this record keeping system was started in the 1930s and continued until the end of the Palestine Mandate in 1948.

The Palestine Police reused service record numbers, which was the same number as a policeman's badge number. When a policeman left the force and handed in his badge, the next recruit would have been given that service number. Consequently, two or three men may have served with the same service number. From the surviving records, it appears that the Palestine Police did not keep the service record cards of those who had left the force, for those who had been promoted to higher ranks and for those who had died in service. Information for those who had been promoted to higher ranks (assistant superintendent and above) can be found in the Palestine Civil Service Lists. The surviving records for British policemen are therefore predominately for those who served until the end of the mandate in 1948, or who were the last to serve with a particular service record number.

The Palestinian service record cards that have survived are only for those who served until the end of the Palestine mandate and were discharged because of the termination of the mandate.

At the end of the Palestine mandate, the Palestine Police Service record cards were transferred to the United Kingdom. They were managed by the Colonial Office and transferred to the Department of Technical Cooperation on its creation in 1964. The records were mainly used for pension purposes and were eventually managed by the Department for International Development, Overseas Pensions Department. By 2003 use of the records for pension purposes had diminished but the records were recognised as having historical value. As The National Archives was not in a position to take the records at that time, the Palestine Police service record cards were given to the Middle East Centre Archive, St Antony's College in March 2004.

Scope and content: Palestine Police service record cards for British and Palestinian policeman 1930s-1948, as well some service records of Palestinians who were employed in the prison service 1920-1948, as for example, messengers, typists, clerks, engineers, teachers and translators. The majority of the records (63 boxes) are for British Palestine policemen and a smaller set of the records (12 boxes) are for Palestinian Palestine policemen and there is 1 box of records for Palestinians who were employed in the prison service. The Palestine Police service record cards have a standard format and include information such as force number (service number), full name, father's name, nationality, date and place of birth, previous occupation or trade, marital status, information on next of kin, the date of enlistment and appointment, a photograph and signature of the holder, education, appointments and promotions, divisions at which the holder served with dates of transfers, leave register, medical history, family register (such as date of marriage), commendations and rewards, punishments and particulars of discharge. Not all of the service record cards have photographs and the quantity of information filled out in the cards varies.

System of arrangement:

- 1 British Service Records
- 2 Prison Service Records
- 3 Palestinian Service Records

Access conditions: Access is subject to the provisions of data protection legislation. Please ask the archivist for further details.

Language of material: English

Conditions governing reproduction: No restrictions on copying or quotation other than statutory regulations and preservation concerns. The service records are Crown Copyright.

Custodial history: In the possession of the Palestine Police, the Colonial Office, the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Department for International Development Overseas Pensions Department.

Immediate source of acquisition: Received as a gift on the 4 Mar 2004

Related Units of Description:

In MEC Archive

For other Palestine Police papers, photographs and oral history interviews, please see the Guide to collections relating to the Palestine Police.

In other repositories

Palestine Police Service Record Files

In addition to the Palestine Police service record cards, there is also a set of Palestine Police Service record files, which are arranged by surname and include additional information such as leave and last pay certificates, contracts, service registers, reports and papers relating to pensions. These files had been given to the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. Upon the closure of the Museum, the records were transferred back to the Department for International Development, which then became the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. In 2023 the records were pending transfer to The National Archives.

Finding aids: In Guide; Handlist

Archivist's note: Fonds and series level description created by Debbie Usher 31 May 2021 and last revised 27 Apr 2023. The original order of the service record cards is by service record number. The British service records were in bundles in which the original order mostly remained but bundles overlapped and stray cards were out of sequence. The cards were sorted into order and every card checked in May 2021.

**SERIES AND BOX LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE PALESTINE POLICE
SERVICE RECORDS COLLECTION**

<u>1</u>	<u>British Palestine Police Service Records</u>	<u>63 boxes</u>	<u>1930s-1948</u>
	Palestine Police service record cards for individual British policemen. A service record does not survive for every service record number or for everyone who served. The service record cards are arranged by service record number, rather than by surname.		
1/1	Service record numbers	001 – 117	
1/2	Service record numbers	119 – 200	
1/3	Service record numbers	201 – 300	
1/4	Service record numbers	301 – 381	
1/5	Service record numbers	382 – 479	
1/6	Service record numbers	480 – 563	
1/7	Service record numbers	564 – 630	
1/8	Service record numbers	631 – 718	
1/9	Service record numbers	719 – 780	
1/10	Service record numbers	781 – 858	
1/11	Service record numbers	859 – 931	Also includes service record booklet 924.
1/12	Service record numbers	932 – 1022	Also includes service record booklets 975, 978 (2 copies), 979, 995, 996, 998.
1/13	Service record numbers	1023 – 1100	
1/14	Service record numbers	1106 – 1185	
1/15	Service record numbers	1186 - 1260	
1/16	Service record numbers	1261 – 1350	
1/17	Service record numbers	1351 – 1425	
1/18	Service record numbers	1426 – 1505	
1/19	Service record numbers	1506 – 1575	
1/20	Service record numbers	1576 – 1640	
1/21	Service record numbers	1642 – 1716	

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1/22	Service record numbers	1717 – 1775
1/23	Service record numbers	1776 – 1839
1/24	Service record numbers	1841 – 1907
1/25	Service record numbers	1908 – 1984
1/26	Service record numbers	1985 – 2042
1/27	Service record numbers	2044 – 2110
1/28	Service record numbers	2111 – 2165
1/29	Service record numbers	2166 – 2242
1/30	Service record numbers	2243 – 2325
1/31	Service record numbers	2326 – 2400
1/32	Service record numbers	2402 – 2465
1/33	Service record numbers	2466 – 2532
1/34	Service record numbers	2533 – 2600
1/35	Service record numbers	2601 – 2655
1/36	Service record numbers	2657 – 2732
1/37	Service record numbers	2733 – 2800
1/38	Service record numbers	2801 – 2875
1/39	Service record numbers	2876 – 2950
1/40	Service record numbers	2951 – 3020
1/41	Service record numbers	3021 – 3100
1/42	Service record numbers	3101 – 3160
1/43	Service record numbers	3162 – 3220
1/44	Service record numbers	3221 – 3275
1/45	Service record numbers	3276 – 3340
1/46	Service record numbers	3341 – 3410
1/47	Service record numbers	3411 – 3478
1/48	Service record numbers	3479 – 3535
1/49	Service record numbers	3536 – 3600
1/50	Service record numbers	3601 – 3682
1/51	Service record numbers	3683 – 3750
1/52	Service record numbers	3751 – 3815
1/53	Service record numbers	3816 – 3876
1/54	Service record numbers	3877 – 3936

in this set of records. The term Palestinian refers to citizenship and includes both Jewish and Arab policeman, as well as other ethnic and religious groups with Palestinian citizenship.

3/1	Service record numbers	7-500
3/2	Service record numbers	504-997
3/3	Service record numbers	1001-1498
3/4	Service record numbers	1506-1998
3/5	Service record numbers	2004-2492
3/6	Service record numbers	2504-2698
3/7	Service record numbers	2700-2799
3/8	Service record numbers	2800-2899
3/9	Service record numbers	2900-2999
3/10	Service record numbers	3000-3099
3/11	Service record numbers	3100-3199
3/12	Service record numbers	3200-3254