

**Reference code:** GB165-0387

**Title:** Alexander Brebber Collection

**Name of creator:** Brebber, Alexander (1896-1991)

**Dates of creation of material:** 1936-1972

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 1 box

**Biographical history:** Major Alexander Brebber MM (1896-1991)

Alexander Brebber was born in Strathdon in 1896 and grew up in the Don Valley and in Aberdeen. When the First World War broke out he joined the Gordon Highlanders and served in France until 1917, when he was wounded during the taking of Menim. After the war, he served in Ireland for a few months before going out to India to join the Indian Army. He served here for some years at Poona and Quetta and saw action on the North West frontier. He returned to civilian life and business in Aberdeen. When the Second World War broke out he re-enlisted and served in the Shetland Islands. After the war he was sent out to Palestine and acted as one of the presidents of the Military Courts in the last days of the British mandate. He was in the King David Hotel just a few minutes before it was bombed and he retained a lively interest in Middle Eastern affairs until his death. When he returned from Palestine, he married and emigrated to Australia where he became a farmer. Later he returned to England. He died in March 1991, just two weeks short of his ninety-fifth birthday.

**Scope and content:** Papers relating to Brebber's work as President of a Military Court at the end of the Palestine Mandate including Defence Emergency Regulations, Military Court Procedures and papers relating to the 'Jerusalem Railway Station Trial' in 1947, in which four men were accused of planting bombs at the station on 30 Oct 1946. Also includes a 'Short Handbook of Palestine' published by 'G.S.I., H.Q., Palestine' and the book 'The Palestine Mandate Invalid and Impracticable' by W.F. Boustany, 1936 and 6 newspaper clippings mainly relating to Israel's borders and the Arab-Israeli conflict, 1956-1972.

**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 Major Alexander Brebber who gave the material to Dr Robert Hole

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Dr Robert Hole, a friend of Major Alexander Brebber, on 23 Feb 2006

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

For other collections relating to the deterioration of security at the end of the Palestine Mandate see also:

GB165-0072 Sir Alan Cunningham Collection (High Commissioner, 1945-1948)

GB165-0224 Palestine Police Old Comrades Association Collection

GB165-0257 Rupert Scrivener Collection (Chief Engineer of Palestine Railways and Ports, 1931-1948)

Please note that the above list is not comprehensive and more material relating to security will be found in the papers of individual Palestine Policemen

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds, File and Item level description created by D. Usher 7 April 2006. Biographical history supplied by Dr Robert Hold. The text of the biographical history, apart from the last sentence was originally written by Dr Robert Hold and approved by Alexander Brebber for publication as an obituary by the Gordon Highlanders' Old Comrades Association.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE ALEXANDER BREBBER  
COLLECTION**

**1 Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1945-1947**

- 1/1 The Defence (Emergency) Regulations for Sept 1945, Jan 1945-1946 1 booklet  
1946 and a fragment for Nov 1946 all published as  
Supplements in the Palestine Gazette
- 1/2 The Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1945 (As amended 1947 1 booklet  
until 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1947) published by Government of Palestine

**2 Military Court Procedures, 1946-1947**

- 2/1 Papers relating to Military Court Procedures including a 1946-1947 1 file  
scale of punishments for 'daily routine cases' (13 sheets)

**3 Jerusalem Railway Station Trial, 1947**

- 3/1 Report on a Military Court trial held on 25 Mar 1947, of four 1947 1 file  
men accused of planting bombs at Jerusalem Railway Station (49 sheets)  
on 30 Oct 1946 with a summary of evidence and a blank  
warrant of execution form. Also including press cuttings  
about the trial and other military court trials, small wanted  
posters and a TS Defence Submission for two of the accused

**4 Short Handbook of Palestine, 1947**

- 4/1 'Short Handbook of Palestine' published by 'G.S.I., H.Q., Jul 1947 1 booklet  
Palestine' and designed to give a general introduction  
presumably to new Government staff.  
Includes chapters on History, System of Government,  
Topography, Water resources, Railways, Climate, Health,  
Resources production and trade and Armed Forces and two  
newspaper clippings one concerning Begin's exclusion from  
Canada in 1956 and an article on Begin from *The Guardian* 5  
Aug 1982

**5 Book 'The Palestine Mandate Invalid and Impracticable', 1936**

- 5/1 Book 'The Palestine Mandate Invalid and Impracticable. A 1936 1 volume  
Contribution of Arguments and Documents towards the  
solution of the Palestine Problem' by W.F. Boustany  
Boustany was Representative of the Arab Cultivators in the  
Mudawra Lands Agreement with the Palestine Government  
and Member of the Third Palestine Arab Delegation to  
London.

**6 Newspaper articles, 1956-1972**

- 6/1 Newspaper articles mainly relating to Israel's borders and 1956-1972 6 items  
the Arab-Israeli conflict