

**Reference code:** GB165-0534

**Title:** Robert Ball Collection

**Name of creator:** Ball, Robert (1919-1987) Palestine Policeman

**Dates of creation of material:** 1944-1987

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 3 boxes

**Biographical history:** Ball, Robert (1919-1987)

Born 21 April 1919 in Warminster, Wiltshire. Second son of John Ball, a grocer's clerk, and Maud Mary Ball, formerly Burr. Baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Shaftesbury, Dorset on 16 May 1919 – then living at West View, Bimport Shaftesbury. Shortly after the death of Maud Ball [ca 1924] John Ball remarried. Elder brother [John Stephen, born ca 1907] had already left home. Robert Ball was educated in Shaftesbury until the age of 14 [1933] when he was signed up for Boys Service with the King's Royal Rifles and was a member of Military Band – he had a natural gift to play by ear and could copy any tune. He completed his education on Boys Service and was awarded Second Class certificate in 1933 and First Class certificate in 1934. He was as initially sent to India, then based in Burma until 1938 when he was sent to Egypt as part of King's Royal Rifle. Remained in Egypt during WWII until about 1943 when he was part of military escort taking German prisoners to the USA. Details of the trip are patchy but he left Africa from Durban, the ship calling in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Trinidad before depositing prisoners in New York. He returned to UK in 1944 as part of convey crossing Atlantic and joined Palestine Police as constable, later promoted to sergeant [Foreign Office Exit Permit no 281994 valid for departure prior to 12 July 1944]. Offered second tour of duty but opted to join Bermuda Police Force in 1948, sailing on SS Bayano. [Fyffes Banana boat built 1915, scrapped 1956]. He settled in Bermuda and rose through colonial police ranks retiring as Chief Inspector in 1971. He returned to the UK in 1974, initially to Isle of Man, finally settling in Compton Dundon, Somerset. Awarded 7 medals: 5 military [General Service, 1339/45 Star, Africa Star 8<sup>th</sup> Army, Defence Medal, 139/35 War medal] and 2 colonial police [Queen's Colonial Police gallantry Medal [1965] and Meritorious Service]. Married Jean McNeill 1950. 1 daughter. Died 16 March 1987.

**Scope and content:** Papers, photographs and artefacts relating to Robert Ball's service in the Palestine Police and the Bermuda Police, including his Palestine Police employment contract, passport, Christmas dinner menu, portraiture photographs, a photo album of

purchased photos of Palestine with one photograph of Lebanon, view-master reels of Palestine, his Palestine Police service record and certificate of discharge. The material relating to his service in the Bermuda Police includes his employment contract, passports, correspondence, a police notebook, drunk driver questions, as well as artefacts including a pith helmet, epaulettes, service ribbons, police tie and whistle. There are also Palestine Police reunion photographs, Overseas Pensioners' Association papers and an obituary for Robert Ball.

**System of arrangement:**

- 1 Palestine Police Service
- 2 Bermuda Police Service
- 3 Palestine Police Reunion
- 4 Overseas Pensioners' Association
- 5 Obituary

**Access conditions:** Open. Access to the police notebook 1969 (2/4) is subject to the provisions of the data protection act.

**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 Robert Ball and his family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Hilary Thompson, May-June 2011. Additional material (1/11, 2/2-2/6, 5) received as a gift from Hilary Thompson on 5 Oct 2018

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

For other Palestine Police papers and photographs please see the Guide to collections relating to the Palestine Police

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds, series and item level description created by Ala Tayebi-Jazayeri on 13 June 2018 and revised by Debbie Usher 10 Oct 2018. Biographical information from the papers in the collection and from information provided by Hilary Thompson.

**SERIES, FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE ROBERT BALL  
COLLECTION**

<u>1</u>	<u>Palestine Police Service</u>	<u>1944-1949</u>	<u>28 items</u>
	Papers and photographs relating to Robert Ball's Palestine Police Service.		
	System of arrangement:		
	1/1	Palestine Police Employment Contract	
	1/2	Passport	
	1/3	Christmas Dinner	
	1/4	The Palestine Police Association	
	1/5	Photographs of Robert Ball and Jack Clifton	
	1/6	Photograph Album	
	1/7	View-Master Reels	
	1/8	Press-Cutting	
	1/9	Service Record	
	1/10	Certificate of Discharge	
	1/11	Know your mines pamphlet	
	1/1	<u>Palestine Police Employment Contract</u>	1 Apr 1944      2 items
		Palestine Police contract of employment between the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, acting on behalf of the Government of Palestine and Robert Ball and its original envelope.	
	1/2	<u>Passport</u>	12 April 1944      1 booklet
		Robert Ball's British passport.	
	1/3	<u>Christmas Dinner</u>	25 Dec 1945      3 items
		Christmas dinner menu, place card and photograph.	
	1/3/1	<u>Dinner Menu</u>	25 Dec 1945      1 booklet
		Printed Christmas dinner menu for the Western Police station, Boutagy House.	
	1/3/2	<u>Place Card</u>	[25 Dec 1945]      1 item

	Christmas dinner place card for Robert Ball.		
1/3/3	<u>Christmas Dinner Photograph</u> A photograph of the Christmas dinner of the Western Police Station, Boutagy House.	[25 Dec 1945]	1 item
1/4	<u>The Palestine Police Association</u> Palestine Police Association membership book and a receipt for 10 Palestinian Pounds for membership.	1 Dec 1947	2 items
1/4/1	<u>Membership Book</u> Printed membership book for 'The Palestine Police Association'.	1 Dec 1947	1 booklet
1/4/2	<u>Receipt</u> Receipt for 10 Palestinian pounds for 'The Palestine Police Association'.	6 Dec 1947	1 item
1/5	<u>Photographs of Robert Ball and Jack Clifton</u> Admin Hist: Jack Clifton also served in the Palestine Police.	1939 and Not dated c1940s	9 photos
1/5/1	Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/2	Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/3	Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/4	Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/5	Studio portrait of Robert Ball in Haifa	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/6	Passport size studio portrait of Robert Ball	Not dated c1940s	1 photo
1/5/7	Photograph of Robert Ball in police uniform by a doorway	Not dated c1940s	1 photo

1/5/8	Studio portrait of Jack Clifton signed 'your sincere friend Jack' with a date stamp on the back 5 Jan 1939	5 Jan 1939	1 photo
1/5/9	Studio portrait of Jack Clifton signed 'to Bob with sincere wishes ?lot[s] good luck Jack Feb 1940'	Not dated	1 photo
1/6	<u>Photograph Album</u> Photograph album mainly consisting of professional photographs of Palestine that Robert Ball purchased and one photograph of Beirut in Lebanon. The photographs includes images of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Galilee. The images include the Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Damascus Gate, The Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, Calvary, Hospice of St. John, altar of Stabat Mater, Jerusalem's King David Hotel, Allenby Square, the Palestine Museum, Rachel's Tomb, Church of Nativity, the Church of Annunciation, the village of Cana, some scenes of everyday life and people, Jaffa's King George Avenue, Ramleh, Andromeda Rock, Mugarbi Theatre, Ben Yehuda Street, River Jordan Allenby Bridge, Jericho, the Lake of Tiberias, Lido Terrace, aerial view of Degania, Haifa's Khayat Square, Armon Cinema, Mar Elias Monastery. Also includes 2 photographs of Robert Ball's place of residence in Palestine. Captions are original	Not dated c1940s	150 photos
1a	My Humble Abode		
1b	[My Humble Abode] duplicate of 1a		
2	Jerusalem: The Mt of Olives		
3	Jerusalem: The Citadel		
4	Jerusalem: The Rock Moriah		

- 5 Jerusalem: Temple Area
- 6 Jerusalem: Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 7 Jerusalem: The Crusader Bells
- 8 Jerusalem: The Tomb
- 9 Jerusalem: Arch of Ecce Homo
- 10 Jerusalem: Way Dolorosa
- 11 Jerusalem: The Wailing Wall
- 12 Jerusalem: Garden of Gethsemane
- 13 Jerusalem: Damascus Gate
- 14 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (1) The Roman Praetorium
- 15 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (2) Near the Ecce Homo
- 16 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (3) Near the Latin Armenian  
Hospice
- 17 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (4) The Meeting Place
- 18 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (5) Simon takes the Cross
- 19 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (6) House of St Veronica
- 20 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (7) Porto Judicaria
- 21 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (8) Hospice of St. John
- 22 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (9) Coptic Monastery
- 23 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (10) Calvary - Chapel of  
Disrobing

- 24 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (11) Calvary - Chapel of  
Nailing
- 25 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (12) Calvary - Chapel of  
Raising
- 26 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (13) Altar of the Stabat Mater
- 27 The Stations of the Cross on the Via  
Dolorosa: (14) The Tomb
- 28 Jerusalem: Central Jerusalem
- 29 Jerusalem: Y.M.C.A Building
- 30 Jerusalem: King David Hotel
- 31 Jerusalem: Zion Circle
- 32 Jerusalem: Allenby Square
- 33 Jerusalem: Princess Mary Avenue
- 34 Jerusalem: General Post Office
- 35 Jerusalem: Julian's Way
- 36 Jerusalem: The Residency
- 37 Jerusalem: The Palestine Museum
- 38 Jerusalem: The Jewish Agency
- 39 Jerusalem: King George Avenue
- 40 Bethlehem: Shepherd's Field
- 41 Bethlehem: Rachel's Tomb
- 42 Bethlehem: The Water Carrier
- 44 Bethlehem: Bethlehem Bells
- 44 Bethlehem: The Church of Nativity
- 45 Bethlehem: The Grotto
- 46 Bethlehem: The Manger
- 47 Bethlehem: The Nave
- 48 Bethlehem: A Judean Home
- 49 Bethlehem: Street Scene
- 50 Bethlehem: At Prayer

51	Bethlehem: The Mother of Pearl Worker
52	Nazareth: Nazareth
53	Nazareth: The Vegetable Market
54	Nazareth: Oh! Fair Nazarene
55	Nazareth: The Virgins Fount
56	Nazareth: The Grotto of Annunciation
57	Nazareth: Animal Market
58	Nazareth: The Church of Annunciation
59	Nazareth: Chapel of the Carpenter Shop
60	Sharon Plain
61	Church of Transfiguration
62	Cana Village
63	Mt. Tabor
64	Ploughing
65	Harvesting
66	Threshing
67	Winnowing
68	Grinding the Wheat
69	An Eastern Beauty
70	Jewelled Lady
71	To the Well
72	The Shepherd
73	The Spinner
74	The Water Carrier
75	Homeward Bound
76	A Cluster
77	The Orange Grove
78	Loaded Trees
79	Gathering
80	Irrigation
81	Cleaning and Sorting
82	Packing
83	Irrigation Canals



- 84 By Camel  
85 then Lighter  
86 then River  
87 to the Consumer  
88 Jaffa: Market Square  
89 Jaffa: King George Avenue  
90 Jaffa: Tabitha's Well  
91 Jaffa: House of Simon the Tanner  
92 Ramleh  
93 Interior - St. George's Church  
94 Lydda - St. George's Church  
95 The Tower of the 'Forty Martyrs'  
[Martyrs]  
96 Plain of Sharon  
97 Jaffa from the Sea  
98 Andromeda Rocks  
99 The Sea Front  
100 Tel Aviv: The Promenade  
101 Tel Aviv: The Beach  
102 Tel Aviv: Rothschild Boulevard  
103 Tel Aviv: Allenby Street  
104 Tel Aviv: Mugrabi Theatre  
105 Tel Aviv: Colony Circle  
106 Tel Aviv: Dizengoff [Dizengoff] Circle  
107 Tel Aviv: Carmel Street  
108 Tel Aviv: Ben Yehuda St.  
109 Tel Aviv: Yaarkon [Yarkon] River  
110 Tel Aviv: The Cascades  
111 Tel Aviv: Camel Caravans fording the  
river  
112 River Jordan. Allenby Bridge  
113 The Dead Sea  
114 River Jordan. Place of Baptism

115	Bouyancy [Buoyancy]
116	Jericho
117	Mount of Temptation
118	St. George Convent
119	Elisha's Fountain
120	Good Samaritan's Inn
121	The Lake of Tiberias
122	The lake Front
123	Old Tiberias
124	Dagania [Degania] Settlement
125	Tiberias: Towards Mt. Hermon
126	Tiberias: Lido Terrace
127	Tiberias: Tiberias from the Lake
128	Tiberias: The Lido
129	Tiberias - The Old
130	Aerial view of Dagania [Degania]
131	Tiberias – The New
132	The Hot Springs
133	Haifa: Haifa from Mt. Carmel
134	Haifa: Herzl St. Haifa
135	Haifa: The Kingsway
136	Haifa: Khayat Square
137	Haifa: Armon Cinema
138	Haifa: Technical Colledge [College]
139	Haifa: Bath [Bat] Galim Swimming Pool
140	Haifa: The Casino
141	Haifa: From the North Beach
142	Haifa: The Fisherman
143	Haifa: Panarama [Panorama]
144	Haifa: The end of a perfect day
145	The Monastery at Mar Elias: In Memorium

- 146 The Monastery at Mar Elias: The Open  
Air Service
- 147 The Monastery at Mar Elias: Inside the  
Monastery
- 148 The Monastery at Mar Elias: The  
Monastery
- 149 The Pigeon Rocks - Beyrouth [Beirut] -  
Lebanon

1/7	<u>View-Master Reels</u> 6 view master reels of Palestine that Robert Ball purchased. The view-master reels consisting of images of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa and Acre.	Not dated c1940s	6 view- master reels
1/7/1	View-master reel labelled '4002 Street Scenes in Old Jerusalem Palestine' containing the following images: 1 Inside the Damascus gate 2 Cobbler shop 3 Goatskin water bag carrier 4 Roasting beans 5 An Arab and performing monkey 6 A soft drink vendor 7 Coffee and Hubble Bubble Pipe	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel
1/7/2	View-master reel labelled '4004 Moslem temple area' containing the following images: 1 Dome of Rock area 2 The judgment area 3 Dome of the Chain 4 Dome of Rock and Jebusite spring 5 Ancient steps and the dome 6 Inside the Aksa mosque 7 The rock of the Abraham	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel

1/7/3	View-master reel labelled '4008 Tel Aviv Israel' containing the following images: 1 Tel Aviv from Jaffa 2 Allenby street 3 Ocean Boulevard 4 Zena Disengoff square [Zina Dizengoff] 5 Allenby square 6 London square 7 Sunset from Tel Aviv	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel
1/7/4	View-master reel labelled '4010 Jaffa Israel' containing the following images: 1 Jaffa 2 King George street 3 Jaffa mosque 4 The market place 5 Boat building in the old town 6 Repairing the nets 7 Harbour Scene	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel
1/7/5	View-master reel labelled '4012 Region of Haifa Israel' containing the following images: 1 Haifa and the bay 2 Mount Carmel 3 Old town of Acre 4 Crusader castle ruins at Atlit 5 Roman harbour ruins at Caesarea 6 Ruins of Herod's palace 7 The Caesarea minaret	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel
1/7/6	View-master reel labelled '4013 Acre Palestine' containing the following images: 1 Acre and the bay	Not dated c1940s	1 view- master reel

- 2 The Acre gate
- 3 The mosque
- 4 A Roman aqueduct
- 5 16<sup>th</sup> century Market street
- 6 Repairing the nets
- 7 Minaret call to prayer

1/8	<u>Press Cutting</u> Parade magazine cutting showing a view of Haifa.	Not dated	1 item
1/9	<u>Service Record</u> Printed booklet of the record of service for Robert Ball including his education, promotions, reductions, certificates, qualifications and medical history.	1930-1948	1 booklet
1/10	<u>Certificate of Discharge</u> Printed Palestine Police certificate of discharge.	1 Oct 1949	1 booklet
1/11	<u>Know your mines pamphlet</u> British training pamphlet 'Know your mines' giving golden rules for dealing with mines and descriptions of British, American, German and Italian mines and switches and rules for marking and recording minefields.	May 1944	1 booklet

2      Bermuda Police Service      1948-1970

Papers and artefacts relating to Robert Ball's Bermuda Police Service.

System of arrangement:

- 2/1      Bermuda Police Employment Contract
- 2/2      Government of Bermuda Passports
- 2/3      Correspondence
- 2/4      Police notebook

2/5	Drink driver questions		
2/6	Bermuda Police Uniform Artefacts		
2/1	<u>Bermuda Police Employment Contract</u> Bermuda police contract of employment for Robert Ball with accompanying envelope and a with compliments slip.	16 Oct 1948	4 sheets and an envelope
2/2	<u>Government of Bermuda Passports</u>	<u>1954-1970</u>	<u>2 items</u>
2/2/1	British passport issued by the Government of Bermuda on 25 Jun 1954	1954-1956	1 item
2/2/2	British passport issued by the Government of Bermuda on 3 Jul 1965	1965-1970	1 item
2/3	<u>Correspondence</u> Correspondence relating to Robert Ball's service in the Bermuda Police and his award of the Colonial Police Medal for gallantry and his honour in the New Year's Honours list.	<u>1957-1966</u>	<u>4 sheets,</u> <u>1 envelope</u>
2/3/1	Letter from C. Vail Zuill (Assistant Manager of the Bank of Bermuda) to Sgt R. Ball thanking him 'for the prompt and efficient work' during 'the time our Manager and staff at our Branch in Somerset were locked in the vault' during a robbery.	14 Jun 1957	1 sheet
2/3/2	Letter from the Commissioner of Police to Inspector Robert Ball informing him that he had been awarded the Colonial Police Medal for gallantry.	29 Dec 1965	1 sheet

2/3/3	Letter with envelope from Lord Martonmere (Governor of Bermuda) to Inspector Ball sending him congratulations on being awarded the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry.	1 Jan 1966	1 sheet, 1 envelope
2/3/4	Letter from the Attorney General Bermuda to Inspector Robert Ball congratulating him on 'your well deserved honour announced in the New Year's Honours List.	4 Jan 1966	1 sheet
2/4	<u>Police Notebook</u> Police notebook including witness statements and notes on incidents that Robert Ball attended. Access: Please note that access to the police notebook is subject to the provisions of the data protection act.	<u>1969</u>	<u>1 booklet</u>
2/5	<u>Drunk Driver Questions</u> Form entitled 'Report on Drunk Driver' giving questions to ask when dealing with a drunk driver.	<u>Not dated</u>	<u>1 sheet</u>
2/6	<u>Bermuda Police Uniform Artefacts</u> Artefacts from Robert Ball's service in the Bermuda Police including a pith helmet, epaulettes, service ribbons, police tie and whistle.	<u>c1950s-1960s</u>	<u>20 items</u>
2/6/1	<u>Pith Helmet</u> White pith helmet with detachable spike		2 items
2/6/2	<u>Epaulettes</u> Bermuda Police Uniform epaulettes		4 items
2/6/3	<u>Service Ribbons</u> 2 metal service ribbons and small box with 12 ribbons. The box is labelled 'G.S.M [General Service Medal] and clasp		12 items

Palestine 1945-48' but does not hold the service medal.

Note: It is not clear if the service ribbons are from the Palestine Police or the Bermuda Police. Although the other artefacts are from the Bermuda Police.

- |       |   |        |
|-------|---|--------|
| 2/6/4 | <u>Bermuda Police Tie</u>                                       | 1 item |
| 2/6/5 | <u>Police whistle</u><br>Metropolitan police whistle on a cord. | 1 item |

3      Palestine Police Reunion      c1964      2 items

Photographs of the Palestine Police reunion in Bermuda.

Admin Hist: Robert Ball was not the only Palestine Policeman who travelled to Bermuda to join the Bermuda Police after the end of the Palestine Mandate. He travelled with David Gill and also his Palestine Police colleagues Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard joined the Bermuda Police and travelled to Bermuda on the same ship as Robert Ball.

- |     |   |       |         |
|-----|---|-------|---------|
| 3/1 | Group photograph of Palestine Police veterans' reunion, possibly in a pub. The people in the photograph may possibly include Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard.  | c1964 | 1 photo |
| 3/2 | Group photograph of Palestine Police veterans' reunion taken in a car park. The people in the photograph may possibly include Jack Lawton and Doug Hebbard. | c1964 | 1 photo |

4      Overseas Service Pensioners' Association      1977-1980      3 items

Papers relating to Robert Ball's life membership of the Overseas Service Pensioners' Association.

- |     |  |            |           |
|-----|--|------------|-----------|
| 4/1 | Printed booklet 'Overseas Service Pensioners' Association Constitution and Rules Effective 9 <sup>th</sup> June 1977'. | 9 Jun 1977 | 1 booklet |
| 4/2 | Receipt for £40 for life membership for the 'Overseas Service Pensioners' Association paid by R. Ball.                 | 5 Jun 1980 | 1 item    |



- 4/3 Life membership card of the 'Overseas Service Pensioner's Association. Not dated 1 item
- 5 Obituary 1987 1 item  
Palestine Police Old Comrades Association newsletter no 148  
September 1987 which includes an obituary for Robert Ball on  
page 69.