

**Reference code:** GB165-0630

**Title:** Joshua Parlby Collection

**Name of creator:** Parlby, Joshua (1889-1975) Colonial Financial Administrator

**Dates of creation of material:** 1917-1979

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Parlby, Joshua (1889-1975) Colonial Financial Administrator.

Born 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1889. Educated at Manchester University and Trinity College, Cambridge, in Mathematics. In 1913 started work in the Indian Accounts Department, Military for the Government of India. By 1916 had become Deputy Controller of War Accounts at Simla. In March 1917 he was transferred to Iraq to serve as Sir Percy Cox's Financial Assistant, receiving a 'Mention in Despatches' in 1918 for his work. In 1919 he became the Deputy Financial Secretary to the Civil Commissioner in Iraq, being appointed to the rank of 'Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire' in the New Year's Honours List of 1919, before becoming 'Auditor-General and Inspector-General of Accounts' in 1924. In 1925 his position was expanded to become 'Comptroller and Auditor-General' of Iraq, a position in which he served for 10 years until 1935. During this time, he lived at No. 119 Aliyah, a house he shared with other bachelor administrators, including at one point A.L.F. Smith (see Related Material). In 1935 at the end of his contract he left Iraq amid a back drop of colleagues being "economised", receiving the Third Class (Civil Division) of the Order of Al Rafidain in recognition for his services in Iraq since 1917. Later in 1935 he returned to India to work in the Financial Administration of the Government of India, rising to the rank of 'Military-Accountant General'. In the 1942 Birthday Honours List he received the award of the 'Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire' for his work. Married Elizabeth Stuart in a Baptist wedding ceremony on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1926. Died 7<sup>th</sup> July 1975.

**Scope and content:** Digital copy of papers and photographs relating to Joshua Parlby's life and career, especially his time in Iraq 1917-1935 with an emphasis on his last year in Iraq; including personal documents relating to Joshua Parlby and his spouse, letters of thanks to Joshua Parlby for his work, correspondence with a colleague and papers relating to the accolades Joshua Parlby received throughout his career, such as the Order of the British Empire, Order of Al-Rafidain and Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, as well as a Mention in Despatches. The collection also includes an original framed silver souvenir

photograph given to Joshua Parlby on his departure from Iraq and 6 original volumes of hunting and fishing registers 1920-1945.

**System of arrangement:**

1. Personal
2. Letter of Thanks
3. Iraq 1917-1935
4. Leaving Iraq
5. India from 1935
6. Selling of Medals
7. Envelope
8. Hunting and Fishing 1920-1945

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English with one Arabic document

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Joshua Parlby and then, after his death, his family

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Framed photograph received as a gift from Sue Parlby, July 2016, the granddaughter of Joshua Parlby. The rest of the collection was loaned to the Middle East Centre Archive in July 2016 to allow copies to be made, before the originals were returned to Sue Parlby. Hunting and fishing registers received as a gift from Sue Parlby on 23 Oct 2017.

**Location of originals:** Originals of the collection (with the exception of the framed photograph and hunting and fishing registers) are in the possession of the family of Joshua Parlby

**Related Units of Description:**

**In MEC Archive**

GB165-0266 A.L.F. Smith Collection	Colonial Education Administrator, 1920-1931, personal friend of Joshua Parlby. Box 4/4 includes a series of letters from Joshua Parlby to A.L.F. Smith.
GB165-0341 Sir Percy Cox Collection	Joshua Parlby was Sir Percy Cox's Financial Assistant 1917-1919.
GB165-0168 Kemp Collection	Contains material on the revenues of the Pasha of Mosul in 1845
GB165-0203 Middle East Development Division Collection	Boxes 22 and 23 containing information on the development of the Iraqi economy from 1942-1965.
GB165-0229 Philby Collection	1/3/1/1, 1/3/1/2 and 1/3/1/3 contain papers relating to Philby's financial role under Sir Percy Cox from 1915 to December 1916 sorting out the administration's accounts and accounting procedures.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and file and item level description created by Alex Mash 29 Nov 2016 and revised by Debbie Usher 23 Oct 2017. Biographical history written by Alex Mash, with aid of the 'Letters from Joshua Parlby' in the A.L.F. Smith Collection.

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE JOSHUA PARLBY**  
**COLLECTION**

<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>Personal</u></b>	<b><u>1926-1979</u></b>	<b><u>6 items</u></b>
	Personal items relating to the life of Joshua Parlby, consisting of two photos; marriage, birth and death certificates for both Joshua Parlby and his wife, Elizabeth Parlby.		
1/1	<u>Wedding Photo</u> Wedding photo of bride and groom, Joshua Parlby and Elizabeth Stuart, in a card holder.	8 Sept 1926	1 photo
1/2	<u>Marriage Certificate</u> Marriage certificate for Joshua Parlby and Elizabeth Stuart, issued by the District of Manchester South. Baptist ceremony. With Elizabeth being labelled as a 'Spinster' and Joshua's rank/profession given as 'Auditor General Baghdad'. Bears a dated stamp from Lloyds Bank on the reverse.	8 Sept 1926	1 sheet
1/3	<u>'Entry of Birth' Certificate</u> 'Entry of Birth' Certificate for Elizabeth Scott (Her mother's maiden name given as her surname not the surname of Father, which was used however on marriage certificate), recording her birth on 31 July 1891 in Chorlton-upon-Medlock, County of Manchester.	21 Jul 1938	1 sheet
1/4	<u>Photo of Joshua Parlby</u> Photo, presumably of Joshua Parlby.	Jul 1974	1 photo

- 1/5      Death Certificate: Joshua Parlby      7 Jul 1975      1 sheet  
Death Certificate for Joshua Parlby, issued by the registration district of Torbay, with son, Ian Stuart Parlby.
- 1/6      Death Certificate: Elizabeth Parlby      6 Mar 1979      2 sheets  
Death Certificate for Elizabeth Parlby (née Stuart), widow of Joshua Parlby, issued by the registration district of Torbay; with son, Ian Stuart Parlby. Accompanied by a copy of an additional certificate of the registering of the death.

- 2**      **Letter of Thanks**      **5 Sep 1917**      **1 sheet**  
Typescript letter from the 'Military Accountant General' to Joshua Parlby, 'Financial Assistant to the Chief Political Officer, Baghdad' to convey the appreciation of the Government of India for the work of Joshua Parlby in 1916.

- 3**      **Iraq 1917-1935**      **1919-1935**      **6 items**  
Papers relating to Joshua Parlby's work in Iraq, consisting of his Mention in Dispatches, letters of thanks for his work and the awarding to him of the title of 'Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire', as well as letters congratulating him on this.

**System of Arrangement:**

- 3/1      Mention in Dispatches  
3/2      Letters of Thanks

3/3 Order of the British Empire  
[O.B.E.]

<b><u>3/1</u></b>	<b><u>Mention in Despatches</u></b>	<b><u>1 Mar 1919</u></b>	<b><u>2 sheets</u></b>
	Formal War Office Certificate, enclosed in a folded sheet, recording that Joshua Parlby was mentioned in Despatches for his services to the Indian Army in the 1 <sup>st</sup> World War on 11 Nov 1918, signed by Minister of War Winston Churchill.		
<b><u>3/2</u></b>	<b><u>Letters of thanks</u></b>	<b><u>1919-1920</u></b>	<b><u>3 items</u></b>
	3 letters from governmental sources thanking Joshua Parlby for his work.		
3/2/1	<u>Letter from the Government of India</u>	30 Jul 1919	1 sheet
	Typescript letter from the 'Military Accountant General', Simla, to 'the Civil Commissioner [Colonel A.T.P. Wilson], Baghdad' to convey the appreciation of the Government of India for the work of Joshua Parlby in 1918 in Iraq.		
3/2/2	<u>Personal Letter of Thanks</u>	20 Aug 1919	1 sheet
	'Office of the Civil Commissioner [Colonel A.T.P. Wilson], Baghdad' Memorandum from 'Lieutenant-Colonel I.A, Acting Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia' to Joshua Parlby accompanying a letter of appreciation from the Government of India [probably 3/2/1] as well as adding his own, for his work		
3/2/3	<u>Letter from a colleague</u>	19 Sept 1920	1 sheet
	Typescript letter from a colleague of Joshua Parlby (signature illegible) presumably of		

the Finance Department, thanking him for his work.

<b><u>3/3</u></b>	<b><u>Order of the British Empire [O.B.E.]</u></b>	<b><u>1919-1920</u></b>	<b><u>5 items</u></b>
	Papers relating to the appointment of Joshua Parlby to the rank of an 'Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire' in the New Year's Honours List, 1919.		
3/3/1	<u>Warrant of Appointment</u>	1920	1 sheet
	Warrant of the Appointment of Joshua Parlby to the rank of 'an Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire'.		
3/3/2	<u>Accompanying Letter</u>	1920	1 sheet
	Letter from the 'Registrar of the Order of the British Empire' to Joshua Parlby passing on his compliments, accompanying the postage of the warrant of Appointment [3/3/1], including a note on the registering of the death of the holder of such a title.		
3/3/3	<u>Congratulations Letter</u>	31 Dec 1919	1 sheet
	Typescript letter from the 'Office of the Civil Commissioner [Colonel A.T.P. Wilson], Baghdad' to Joshua Parlby, 'Deputy Financial Secretary, Baghdad' congratulating him for his recently awarded 'O.B.E.' [Order of the British Empire] in the New Year's Honours List 1919.		
3/3/4	<u>Congratulations Letter</u>	12 Jan 1920	1 sheet
	Typescript letter from the 'Military Finance Office, Delhi' to Joshua Parlby, 'Deputy Financial Secretary, Baghdad'		

congratulating him for his recently awarded  
'O.B.E.' [Order of the British Empire] in  
the New Year's Honours List 1919.

3/3/5 Forwarding Letter 29 Jul 1920 1 sheet

Letter from the Political Department, India  
Office to Joshua Parlby, forwarding on  
3/3/1 and 3/3/2, with handwritten note,  
seemingly regarding postage details.

**4**                      **Leaving Iraq**                      **1935**                      **15 items**

Items relating to the departure of Joshua  
Parlby from Iraq, consisting of a newspaper  
article reporting his departure, a series of  
letters from his former colleagues,  
predominantly Joury Elwaya Assistant  
Comptroller and Accountant-General of  
Iraq; the Order of Al-Rafidiain and  
accompanying papers relating to it and its  
awarding; and a souvenir framed photo  
given to Joshua Parlby on his leaving of the  
staff of the Comptroller and Auditor-  
General.

**System of Arrangement:**

- 4/1 Joury Elwaya Correspondence
- 4/2 Letter from a Colleague
- 4/3 Newspaper Article
- 4/4 Order of Al-Rafidain
- 4/5 Souvenir Photograph

**4/1**                      **Joury Elwaya Correspondence**                      **Jul-Sept 1935**                      **6 items**

6 letters from Mr "Ezra" Joury. Elwaya,  
Assistant Comptroller and Accountant-



General of Iraq, to Joshua Parlby, exchanged after he had left Iraq, mostly discussing developments in Iraq following Joshua Parlby's departure, both their personal lives and the souvenir photograph.

- |       |  |              |   |
|-------|--|--------------|---|
| 4/1/1 | <u>Letter</u>  | 1 Jul 1935   | 2 sheets, 6<br>pages                                |
|       | <p>Manuscript letter from Mr "Ezra" Joury. Elwaya, Assistant Comptroller and Accountant-General of Iraq, to Joshua Parlby, discussing Joshua Parlby's safe arrival in England, his family and personal matters, the upcoming Iraqi elections, office business in Baghdad, especially the replacement of his successor, and his souvenir photo.</p> |              |   |
| 4/1/2 | <u>Letter</u>  | 15 Jul 1935  | 1 sheet<br>folded into 4<br>pages                   |
|       | <p>Manuscript letter from Mr "Ezra" Joury Elwaya, Assistant Comptroller and Accountant-General of Iraq, to Joshua Parlby, informing him of being awarded the "Rafidain Order (Class III)" [See 4/4], the location of governmental offices in Baghdad, the process of finding his replacement and mentions the elections in Iraq at that time.</p>  |              |   |
| 4/1/3 | <u>Letter</u>  | 17 Sept 1935 | 2 sheets<br>folded into 8<br>pages, 6<br>written on |
|       | <p>Manuscript letter from Mr "Ezra" Joury Elwaya, Assistant Comptroller and Accountant-General of Iraq, to Joshua Parlby, discussing the activities of the Iraqi Parliament; in particular, an Amendment to the Audit Law, concerning the status of various governmental positions specifically</p>  |              |   |

“the C [Comptroller]. + A.G. [possibly Accountant-General] + A.C. [unknown] + A.G. [possibly Auditor General]”, the implications thereof, and includes an anonymous comment on the Amendment. Also deals with an Amendment to the Pensions Law and implications thereof. Includes a summary of the staffing shortages at that time and the reasons for it. Mentions the Halo-Abyssinian situation, the activities of several mutual friends of theirs and the abnormally high temperatures.

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|-------|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4/1/4 | <u>Letter</u>  | 1 Oct 1935     | 1 sheet<br>folded into 4<br>pages |
|       | <p>Manuscript letter from Mr “Ezra” Joury Elwaya, Assistant Comptroller and Accountant-General of Iraq, to Joshua Parlby, referencing his leaving photo [No 41], discussing his journey to India in Nov 1935, the appointment of his replacement. Indicates that ‘the English version of the Law amending Arte. [Article] 6 + 16 of the Audit Law’ accompanied the letter.</p> |                |                                   |
| 4/1/5 | <u>Envelope</u>  | c.1935         | 1 envelope                        |
|       | <p>Empty envelope addressed to ‘J. Parlby’, with an Iraqi stamp.</p>   |                |                                   |
| 4/1/6 | <u>Envelope</u>  | c.17 Sept 1935 | 1 envelope                        |
|       | <p>Empty envelope addressed to ‘J. Parlby’, with an Iraqi stamp and what, presumably, is a postal service stamp.</p>   |                |                                   |

<u>4/2</u>	<u>Letter from a colleague</u>	<u>12 Aug 1935</u>	<u>1 sheet</u> <u>folded into 4</u> <u>pages</u>
	Manuscript letter written to Joshua Parlby from Iraq by an unknown colleague expressing sadness over his departure from Iraq, how hard it was to come to terms with it, how invaluable he was and wishing him the best for the future.		
<u>4/3</u>	<u>Newspaper Article</u>	<u>21 May 1935</u>	<u>1 envelope</u> <u>containing</u> <u>two sheets</u> <u>(one in two</u> <u>fragments)</u>
	Envelope, with 'Dots OBE' written on it, containing two copies (one in two fragments) of a newspaper article on Joshua Parlby's departure from Iraq, detailing his roles in Iraq, his promotions, his usefulness for the Iraqi Government and on his movements in the near future. Newspaper not stated.		
<u>4/4</u>	<u>Order of Al-Rafidain</u>	<u>1935; post-1975</u>	<u>5 items</u>
	Papers relating to the awarding of the 'Order of Al-Rafidain' to Joshua Parlby by both King Ghazi of Iraq and King George 5 <sup>th</sup> of Great Britain, in recognition of his services to Iraq, as well as information about the award itself.  Language: English with one Arabic item		
4/4/1	<u>Award</u>	c.1935	1 large sheet of parchment
	Award of the Al-Rafidain from King Ghazi of Iraq to Joshua Parlby.  Language: Arabic		

4/4/2	<u>'Licence to Wear'</u> 'Licence to wear the Insignia of the Order of Al Rafidain, Class III, (Civil Division)' for Joshua Parlby from King George 5 <sup>th</sup> .	c.1935	1 sheet
4/4/3	<u>Foreign Office Letter</u> Typescript letter from the Foreign Office to Joshua Parlby, informing him of the King's permission for him to wear the 'Insignia of the Third Class (Civil Division) of the Order of Al Rafidain'.	19 Oct 1935	1 sheet
4/4/4	<u>Envelope</u> Empty envelope addressed to Joshua Parlby from the Foreign Office	c.1935	1 envelope
4/4/5	<u>Explanation of the Al-Rafidain Order</u> Explanation of the 'Order of the Two Rivers', 'Wisam al-Rafidain', detailing in particular the varieties of badges for the award.	Post-1975	1 sheet
<b><u>4/5</u></b>	<b><u>Souvenir Photograph</u></b> Framed photograph of the 'Staff of the Comptroller and Auditor-General' of the Government of Iraq given to Joshua Parlby on the occasion of his departure from Iraq as a souvenir.	<b><u>c.1935; post-1975</u></b>	<b><u>2 items</u></b>
4/5/1	<u>Framed Photograph</u> Glazed and silver framed commemorative souvenir photograph for Joshua Parlby on the occasion of his departure from Iraq. Shows the 'Staff of the Comptroller and Auditor-General' of the Government of	May 1935	1 framed photograph

Iraq. Taken at the Zawra Jewish Club,  
Baghdad. Left to right:

Sitting: Albert Shamash, Joury Elwaya,  
Assistant Comptroller, Joshua Parlby,  
Sion Balass, Israel Hai.

Standing: Naim Soffer, Eliahou Houry,  
Naim Dabby, Yusuf Houry, Shawky Dallal,  
Yamen Semah, Daoud Muallem, Edward  
Rabie, Sabih Bekhor, Minass Minassian,  
Sasson Bashi.

Pictures at bottom are those auditors  
absent on tours of duty outside Baghdad.

Left to Right:

Naim Dabby, Gurji Soffer, Dawood Tweg,  
Haron Shukur, Salman Dabby, Ishaq  
Sadka.

Photo taken June 1935. Frame embossed  
with images of the 'C&A.G.'s Office',  
'No.119 Alwiyah', his house in Baghdad  
which he shared with three other bachelor  
British officials including A.L.F. Smith, a  
hunter and an unknown building.

- |       |  |           |         |
|-------|--|-----------|---------|
| 4/5/2 | <u>Explanatory Sheet about the Photograph</u>  | Post-1975 | 1 sheet |
|       | Information sheet regarding 4/5/1 ,<br>identifying the people; and commenting on<br>the majority Jewish makeup of the staff and<br>the activities of the Jewish community in<br>Iraq |           |         |

## **5**

### **India from 1935**

**1935-1940s**    **9 items**

Papers relating to Joshua Parlby's work in  
India following his return in 1935 after he

had left Iraq and the awarding of the title of 'Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire [C.I.E.]' to Joshua Parlby.

**System of Arrangement:**

1/1 Work in India

1/2 C.I.E.

<b><u>5/1</u></b>	<b><u>Work in India</u></b>	<b><u>1930s-1940s</u></b>	<b><u>2 items</u></b>
	A letter, with possibly the envelope it came in, thanking Joshua Parlby for his work in India.		
5/1/1	Typescript letter from 'The Military Accountant General' of the Government of India, Simla, to Joshua Parlby, 'Junior Controller of Military Accounts, Northern Command, Rawalpindi', thanking him for his services to the Government of India in 1936.	7 May 1937	1 sheet
5/1/2	Empty envelope addressed to Jonathan Parlby at a New Delhi address with the handwritten pencil note of 'CIE & Rafidan (Iraq)'.	c.1930s-1940s	1 envelope
<b><u>5/2</u></b>	<b><u>C.I.E.</u></b>	<b><u>1942-1943</u></b>	<b><u>7 items</u></b>
	The certificate of the awarding of Joshua Parlby with the title 'Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire', along with memoranda and letters, some of congratulations, relating to the award.		

- |       |  |             |          |
|-------|--|-------------|----------|
| 5/2/1 | Certificate of the awarding of the title of Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire [C.I.E.] to Joshua Parlby.   | 11 Jun 1942 | 1 sheet  |
| 5/2/2 | Typescript letter from Sir Archibald Rowlands, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, to Joshua Parlby congratulating him on his recently awarded 'C.I.E.' [Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire] in the 1942 Birthday Honours List.               | 11 Jun 1942 | 1 sheet  |
| 5/2/3 | Typescript letter from [Unknown], 'Financial Adviser, Military and Supply Finance' of the Government of India, New Delhi to Joshua Parlby congratulating him on his recently awarded 'C.I.E.' [Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire] in the 1942 Birthday Honours List. | 12 Jun 1942 | 1 sheet  |
| 5/2/4 | 'Memorandum of Information as to the Wearing of the Insignia of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire and of Medals, by Civilian Members of those Orders and Holders of Medals'.   | c.1942      | 1 sheet  |
| 5/2/5 | Supplement to 5/2/4 'Memorandum of Information as to the Wearing of the Insignia of the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire and of Medals, by Civilian Members of those Orders and Holders of Medals'.   | c.1942      | 1 sheet  |
| 5/2/6 | Memorandum from the 'Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood' explaining the order in which 'Orders, Decorations and Medals should be worn'.  | c.1942      | 4 sheets |

5/2/7 Typescript letter from the 'Secretary of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire' to Joshua Parlby, which accompanied the confirmation of his C.I.E. and a memorandum on the wearing of decorations and medals. Also carries a note on preventing damage to his badge and a handwritten note.

25 Feb 1943 1 sheet

**6**                      **Selling of Medals**                      **Post-1975**                      **1 envelope**

Envelope containing inside of it a blank piece of paper, although when held against light the words 'Kent' and one other [indistinguishable], perhaps a logo for a shop. Stuck to the envelope are three newspaper adverts for shops looking to buy medals and orders.

**7**                      **Envelope**                      **19 Dec 1945**                      **1 envelope**

Empty envelope addressed to 'Mrs. G. Parlby'.

**8**                      **Hunting and Fishing**                      **1920-1945**                      **7 volumes**

Registers and notes recording the number and type of birds, hares and rabbits shot with notes on the quality and conditions of the shoot, as well as two fishing diaries recording the fishing conditions and catch. Also includes 7 photographs showing game that had been shot and one landscape photograph of the river Adhaim.



- |     |  |                              |                       |
|-----|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8/1 | <u>Game Register</u><br>Game register recording the number and type of birds, hares and rabbits shot with notes on the quality and conditions of the shoot. Includes an envelope of 7 photographs showing game that had been shot and also one landscape photograph labelled 'River Adhaim Dec 1930' | 1 Sept 1920-<br>11 Sept 1926 | 1 volume,<br>7 photos |
| 8/2 | <u>Field and Shooting Notes</u><br>Volume labelled 'Miscellaneous Field and Shooting Notes Baghdad Oct 1922' consisting of notes on birds and other animals that Parlby had seen.  | 20 Oct 1922-<br>25 May 1935  | 1 volume              |
| 8/3 | <u>Game Register</u><br>Game register recording the number and type of birds, hares and rabbits shot with notes on the quality and conditions of the shoot.  | 28 Aug 1925-<br>4 Apr 1934   | 1 volume              |
| 8/4 | <u>Game Register</u><br>Game register recording the number and type of birds, hares and rabbits shot with notes on the quality and conditions of the shoot.  | 16 Aug 1934-<br>3 Dec 1953   | 1 volume              |
| 8/5 | <u>Fishing Diary</u><br>Volume labelled 'Fishing Diary' recording the conditions and catch.<br><br>The volume has also been used from the reverse with the title 'Nature Notes and Shikim Notes. India' mainly recording birds Parlby had seen, 1935-1943  | 14 Aug 1935-<br>18 Jul 1943  | 1 volume              |
| 8/6 | <u>Fishing Diary</u><br>Volume labelled 'Fishing Diary' recording the conditions and catch.  | 10 Oct 1943-<br>15 Nov 1945  | 1 volume              |