



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Knowledge Management Dept
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Hanslope
Milton Keynes MK19 7BH

By e-mail :

16 October 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST – REF: 0908-14

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 August to Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) requesting on behalf of your constituent information on the Palestine Police records from the 1930s and 1940s. This request has been accepted as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I can confirm that the FCO is holding the following records on the Palestine Police Force. This information is taken from the FCO archive inventory available at the internet link here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-offices-archive-inventory>

Name of record series	Description	Date range	Special collection or departmental file
Palestine Police Force Defence Medal, General Service Medal: Rolls	Correspondence regarding medals. Lists of recipients. Ex staff and reasons for dismissal	1936-48	Special collection
Palestine Police staff details – Index Cards	Staff details and medals awarded. A-Z by surname	1938-50	Special collection

Further information on the FCO's release programme and Special collection are available at the FCO web pages here: <https://www.gov.uk/fco-special-collections>

Additionally as your constituent has already mentioned, The Middle East Centre Archive at St Antony's College, University of Oxford is holding records on the Palestine Police. I have located an article in the CBRL (Council for British Research in the Levant) Bulletin, Vol 2, dated 2007, by Eugene Rogan the Director of Oxford's Middle East Centre, which may be of interest to your constituent and which includes the following, I quote

“National Archives in Kew, who were looking for a suitable archive in which to deposit the service records of the Palestine Police. The service records had been held by the Department for International Development, which had inherited the records from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, against any pension claims that might be made by retired members of the colonial service. With the passing years, DfID had fewer and fewer queries from former Palestine Policemen, and the thousands of service record files took up an enormous amount of storage space. The National Archives recognized the historic value of the records and sought a good home for the collection. The collection of several thousand service record files was too large for the Middle East Centre Archive to absorb (these were to be deposited in the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol), but we were able to house the more compact collection of some 5,000 service record cards, providing vital statistics of mostly the British, but also some Arab and Jewish, servicemen in the Palestine Police when the force was disbanded in 1948.”

The full article can be seen here: <http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/MECA-palestine-police/PalestinePoliceCBRL.pdf>

As your constituent has already identified, the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum has closed, going into voluntary liquidation in 2013. The National Archives describes the current whereabouts of British Empire and Commonwealth Museum collection on their web page here: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/a/A13531126>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me, quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge Management Department



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