

A British 'Foreign Legion'? The British Police in Mandate Palestine

Matthew Hughes

Abstract

The men of the British section of the Palestine police have romantically imagined their time as officers in Mandate Palestine, a land infused with historical and biblical significance. Many compared their service to that of the famed military force, the French Foreign Legion. This study sets the nostalgia of memory against the reality of service in Palestine, one that involved considerable brutality against local people. This essay details the empirical evidence of violence, including torture and a 'dirty war,' mining archival sources, contextualising primary source material within wider notions of British ideas of collective punishment within the empire. The Palestine police failed in its job of policing, necessitating the deployment of the Army to Palestine, and with this collapse in police control the force became more violent. Ironically, the reality of life in the Palestine police was similar to that in the French Foreign Legion: a shock force there to maintain imperial control. The article argues that policing methods from the Mandate period continued after the Palestine force was disbanded in 1948, both within Israel and in other parts of the British Empire where demobilised Palestine police officers went to serve. It pushes the current paradigm on policing, extending the literature that details reforms and institutional change in the Palestine police to include the impact on local people.

Key words: Foreign Legion, Palestine, police, torture, death squads, colonial State, collective punishment, racism, memory, Israel, dirty war

Introduction

There has never been a British Foreign Legion.¹ However, in their memoirs and oral histories, the men who joined the British Mandate Palestine police from the 1920s to the 1940s remembered themselves as precisely that: a 'British Foreign Legion,' ('with the faults as well,' added one police Sergeant, candidly).² They romantically mythologized the force and the historic land in which they served. British Servicemen had had long experience of imperial service overseas but Palestine was not just another strange foreign posting. It was the 'Holy Land' of 'milk and honey,' inhabited by Arabs and Jews, and made wonderful by the stories of the Bible and the tales of the *Thousand and One Nights*.³ As one police officer described it, 'the dark secrets and murders and every other crime peculiar to the east will I am afraid never be known.'⁴ The men discursively cultivated an image of a curious, exotic posting for raffish types after adventure. 'The British Empire did not have a Foreign Legion, but it did have the Palestine police which shared something of the arduous way of life of that famed French Corps,' was how Ted Horne, the force's historian and a former Palestine policeman, put it many years later.⁵ James Tait was a grammar school boy who wanted to join the French Foreign Legion but lacked the funds to make the journey to Marseilles and so joined the Palestine police after seeing an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph*.⁶ One Palestine policeman had been in the French Foreign Legion and opined that it was 'cushy' by comparison to service in Palestine; a 'Legion of the Lost' was how another policeman described his time in Palestine in the 1920s.⁷

The public stories of the men who went to Palestine are those of soldiers in other armies, filled with adventure, masculinity and the cosh of tough drill sergeants, all willingly endured – what has been termed the ‘masculine ideal’ in the context of the US Marine Corps.⁸ ‘It was like being in a concentration camp, enjoyable, but you never stopped from dawn to dusk’ was Reuben Kitson’s recollection of the Palestine police recruits’ depot on Mount Scopus, one run on military lines and staffed by Guards drill staff.⁹ Filled with old soldiers’ tales of the Great War, men at a loose end in the bleak times of the Depression and who wanted ‘fresh air and adventure’ – ‘I was in a dead end job,’ remembered Geoffrey Morton – sought escape in a new, even tougher life.¹⁰

Any nascent mythology of a British Foreign Legion in Palestine has long since evaporated. We do not remember these men as they saw themselves, as British legionnaires. But like the French Foreign Legion, the Palestine police attracted former soldiers, initially from the British paramilitary ‘Black and Tans’ force used against Irish rebels in the early 1920s, a force that established the basis for police forces across Britain’s colonies.¹¹ Later on, regular demobilized soldiers went out to Palestine, right up to when the Palestine police was disbanded in 1948.¹² Until 1930, the Crown Agents in London only recruited ex-Servicemen for the Palestine Police.¹³ The Palestine police was paramilitary in style, equipped and trained on military lines, and it served alongside the Army. It also attracted men who were in some real

or imagined sense on the margins of society, like the recruits for the French Foreign Legion. Thus, in the 1930s, the Inspector-General of the police attempted to broaden and improve his force by recruiting men of 'reasonable education' who would help weed out the 'unsuitable' ones, 'guilty' of 'misbehaviour.'¹⁴ This was a 'crack force' – the expression used in recruitment posters in the 1940s – by which was meant a tough, elite unit for men who would not shy away from the violence inherent in colonial control.¹⁵ Like the French Foreign Legion, the British police was militarized, tough, racist and there to enforce colonial pacification. (This is not to say that the French Foreign Legion was everything that its erstwhile British counterparts imagined it to be. For instance, Claire Denis' 1999 film 'Beau Travail' explores the hyper-masculinity and homo-eroticism of the French force.)

This paper counterpoises the internally generated romantic image of the Palestine police with the hard, violent reality of colonial policing. There are two histories of policing in Palestine, one visible, one hidden: that of ordinary British men having the adventure of their lives as police officers; the other, harder to find, expresses the quotidian, structural power of colonial rule. Colonial policing was not based on popular consent and British imperial rule had always required some level of real or threatened force; in Palestine, the official policy of support for Jewish immigration and settlement (up until 1939) sharpened and deepened the violent encounter between the forces of the State and local Arabs. After 1945, the security forces fought Jews in the country. The romance of contemporary recruitment for colonial policing

and the nostalgia of men's memories jar with the contemporary data on the violence of the colonial project, as this essay will now show.

Euphemisms: 'black and tan methods,' the 'third degree,' 'Turkish ways'

The men who first went to Palestine in the early 1920s were acclimatized to violence. They were war veterans twice over, most having served in the First World War and then in Ireland in the 'Black and Tans' and Auxiliary forces during the rebellion there, and they easily transferred the violence of Ireland to Palestine. When Ireland became a Dominion in 1921 'a steady stream' of former police officers from the Royal Irish Constabulary, men who had served alongside the 'Black and Tans,' went to India and the colonies, including Palestine.¹⁶ Service in Ireland had been hard, Servicemen hating the population that they supposedly served, attracting only hatred in return, 'and thus began a vicious cycle of violence to which there seemed no logical end.'¹⁷ The men were 'ruthless,' 'arrogant' and, like the soldiers of the French Foreign Legion, they drank heavily.¹⁸ This continued in Palestine, men 'drinking deeply,' so deeply that on one occasion off-duty police officers were lucky to escape a grenade attack on the bar in which they were drinking – a more sober soldier with them having the foresight to hurl the device back out in to the road – after which police officers 'thrashed' every Arab they saw. 'The last thing I remember is unhitching a cart horse and racing someone on a donkey down the main street,' recalled a policeman at the scene.¹⁹

'Black and tan methods' was the neologism used to describe the brutality of the police force in Palestine; the 'third degree' or 'gentle persuasion' were other euphemisms for a system that hid violence behind the fig leaf of language.²⁰ British clergy in Palestine wrote of how they were 'seriously troubled at the "Black and Tan" methods of the police,' adding that they could do little to stop what was happening.²¹ Soldiers and police 'turned the blind eye,' 'bumping off' suspects who were 'shot trying to escape' – all of which 'saved a lot of trouble.'²² Gasps and mumbles can be heard during the last comment in a later oral history recording by police officer Geoffrey Morton – a combination one suspects of bad memories and old age.

The machismo of the police was comical, such as when policeman Sydney Burr received a handkerchief from home, after which he was forced to write back (rather absurdly),

I am afraid I will not be able to use it here, the old Black and Tans who were the beginning of this force do not look upon such effeminate apparel in a kindly light. They think the force is going to the dogs as it is. It is because of the soft ways that are creeping into the police that the Arabs are so defiant.²³

The police were more violent than British soldiers, Army commanders having to issue 'stringent orders against harshness and unnecessary violence' to prevent police brutality spreading to the troops.²⁴ When Palestinian fighter Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah recounted to this author his memories of being tortured by the police – a story inflected by a different narrative, that of Palestinian nationalism – he singled out the police and not the Army as using pre-meditated brutality.²⁵ The Army was less bad, simply wrecking villages and shooting people. Soldiers had better discipline, lived away from local people and only served temporarily in the country during times of trouble when the police could not cope. The Royal Ulster Rifles, a hard-charging regiment that knew all about punitive operations ('they weren't shy of doing some violence,' including at the Arab village of al-Bassa), wrote to the High Commissioner complaining about the brutality of the police.²⁶

The Palestine police worked under Ottoman law – largely Napoleonic in content – which the Mandate authorities gradually replaced with UK Statute law, notably in legal reforms enacted in 1935-36.²⁷ In the field, British police continued with nasty, practical Ottoman traditions of policing, what they called 'Turkish methods,' brutality that was often outsourced to Arab police officers who spoke Arabic, knew the land and did the bulk of the day-to-day work, what policeman Jack Binsley called 'real' police work or the 'interrogation methods' that 'smacked of the previous cruel Turkish system'.²⁸ The British did nothing to stop these practices. Instead, they established as the legal standard official ordinances on collective punishment in the

early 1920s, backed up by draconian Emergency regulations in the 1930s. (The French had similar practices in North Africa, holding the nearest village to any incident against the forces responsible, and shooting ten Algerians if a French soldier was killed – what they called ‘collective responsibility.’²⁹) British colonial authorities ruled by the official *fiat* of orders-in-council, an easy way to pass draconian legislation outside the UK where such things would be contested. In Palestine, these laws were the destructive official basis for policing, blending new codified group punishments based on cultural stereotypes of how to rule unruly Arabs with practical legacies of violence from the Ottoman era, easily adopted by men accustomed to such things. Such structures blended easily with the institutional memory of ‘Turkish’ policing held by Arab officers, now under overall British command. David Smiley, an Army officer on patrol with police in 1940, witnessed Arab policemen seize three suspects, beat the soles of their feet, apply lighted cigarettes to their testicles, and smash in their faces. When he remonstrated with the British policeman in charge at the ‘Gestapo’ methods being used, he was told

....that force was the only language these Arabs understood. Under Turkish rule they had been brought up to respect such methods. ‘Where do you think we would get,’ he asked me ‘if we questioned them like a London bobby? I’ll tell you; the police methods would be laughed at, we should get no results, and our methods would be regarded as a sign of weakness.’ ‘In these

interrogations,' he went on, 'I make it a rule never to beat anyone up myself. I let Arab police beat up Arabs, and Jewish police beat up Jews.'³⁰

British police officers absorbed 'Turkish ways,' accepting them as the cultural norm in a colonial setting, and by using local police to torture local people the British exacerbated the embedded brutality of the Ottoman period, making it officially acceptable, but now set within a much better organized and more efficient British-run colonial state. In prison, the British would get Jewish guards to beat Arab suspects and vice versa, spreading the idea of acceptable levels of official violence.³¹ The British 'ordered' Arab policemen to carry out torture.³² Abu Gharbiyah remembered that a Jewish police officer 'Sofer' took part in torturing suspects, a point supported by the written record in which two Britons, Biggs and Robinson,³³ and a Jew, Sofer,³⁴ were 'principal offenders.'³⁵ Robinson – of 'Greek' descent – once interrogated Abu Gharbiyah who also recalls a 'notorious' CID officer of (Christian) Lebanese origin, Muneer Abu Fadel, who later became a member of Lebanon's parliament. The British outsourced the 'frightfulness' (to use a contemporary phrase) to foreigners – Jews, Greeks and Lebanese – making non-British people complicit in the management of the colonial state.³⁶

Racism

The racism that underpinned colonialism contributed both to normalising and casualizing violence by the police. Thus, policeman Douglas Duff, recalled the effects of a rifle-butt beating delivered by a colleague to an Arab in the 1920s:

....our attitude was that of Britons of the Diamond Jubilee era, to us all non-Europeans were 'wogs,' and Western non-Britons only slightly more worthy. When one of the Nablus detachment produced an old cigarette tin containing the brains of a man whose skull he had splintered with his rifle butt....I felt physically sick....the sight of that grog-blossomed face of the gendarme with his can half-full of human brains proudly brandishing his smashed rifle-butt as proof of his prowess, altered something inside of me; people who owned skins other than pink Western ones became human beings.³⁷

Duff put it simply when talking about a Muslim Palestinian crowd disturbance in 1922: 'Had our Arabic been better we might have sympathised with them; though I doubt it, for most of us were so infected by the sense of our own superiority over "lesser breeds" that we scarcely regarded these people as human.'³⁸ Police officers in vehicles would try to knock down Arabs, 'as running over an Arab is the same as a dog in England except we do not report it.'³⁹

Ineffectual and thuggish

It is not clear what came first: the officially tolerated thuggery that delegitimized the police, or the ineffectual police force that could only establish temporary forms of order through violence. The Palestine police depended on Arab and Jewish officers for day-to-day policing; it relied on the Jews or the armed forces for much of its intelligence gathering; in times of riot and rebellion it failed in its job, necessitating the deployment of the British Army.⁴⁰ Reliant on locally recruited Arab officers for so much of what it did, the police suffered greatly in times of rebellion when these officers, in fear of their lives at the hands of rebels, deserted en masse. British police officers could (and did) rely on Jewish officers for local knowledge but both Jewish and Arab officers leaked intelligence to their respective communities and were never fully reliable.⁴¹ The Inspector-General of the Palestine police struggled to modernize the force in the 1930s, trying to establish proper police methods, to get educated recruits and obtain better intelligence through a reformed CID branch, the subject of recent studies.⁴² In the end, the Palestine police was neither an efficient police force nor an elite fighting force and, as the force struggled in its mission, it became frustrated and more brutal.

In times of peace, the police functioned by getting the Arab and Jewish officers to do the policing, using whatever violence was necessary; in increasingly turbulent times, morale and discipline collapsed as, without support, British police officers could not keep order, and failure manifested itself in violence, drunkenness and looting.⁴³ This meant that the Colonial Office called in the Army, further delegitimizing the police.

Hastily trained British police replacements rushed out to Palestine to replace lost Arab officers in times of revolt had no knowledge of local cultures or language.⁴⁴ As stated earlier, the disorder was such that the Army feared that police behaviour would infect the soldiers: 'Some of the police started running amok a bit in the bazaar and breaking things up in a most wanton manner. No doubt they have an awful lot of provocation for behaving like that but the whole proceeding was rather revolting and a very bad example to the troops.'⁴⁵ The Army was unimpressed with it all and when it came to the help of the police in 1936 during a major Arab revolt, one Brigade commander remarked that the police did not know what they were, 'mock soldiers – neither soldiers nor policemen.'⁴⁶ No better than 'second class' was how another Army Brigade commander described the police in a letter to his wife.⁴⁷ Fighting, looting, robbery, destruction, torture, and death squads became the order of the day, a far cry from their romantic image of a foreign legion (but, ironically, very much like the reality of life in the French Foreign Legion).⁴⁸ This is not to say that all policemen were thugs – they were not – more that the ethos of their institution coupled to the practicalities of day-to-day policing resulted in extreme forms of coercion. Police violence towards women seems to have been limited, in some fashion.⁴⁹

Death squads: Manshiya and the Dajani hospital

That the police would regularly shoot surrendered suspects caught in the field – men 'bumped off' or 'shot trying to escape' – is not surprising in the context of colonial

rebellion.⁵⁰ Similar things had happened in Ireland.⁵¹ The violence in Palestine that was meted out to civilians, old men, women and children who had nothing to do with rebel fighters seems more shocking, until one considers the collective punishment regime on which rested the colonial state and that normalised such things. British Assistant District Commissioner A. T. O. Lees (a former soldier) wrote of the police reaction to a raid by a rebel band on Hebron in 1938, after which the police punished the inhabitants:

....the British police, no less valiant in 'suppressing disorder', had set fire to three shops, utterly gutting them, and had then looted three general goods stores, stealing some £300 worth of goods and altogether doing damage later assessed by a C.I.D. Committee of Enquiry (which would presumably not err on the side of extravagance) at £3,000.⁵²

The official phrase for such police operations was 'restoring order,' as Lees noted ironically.⁵³

To cover their tracks, police went in plain clothes – in 'mufti' – on operations, such as when a group raided the homes of poor Arab families in the Manshiya district on the border between Jaffa and Tel Aviv on 23-24 October 1938. (It is not apparent why the police targeted this poor neighbourhood.) This time, the police made the mistake of committing the outrage when a British official, Lees, was in the area. Officers beat up

local people, a two-year girl had her femur broken by a bullet as police opened fire on a woman trying to bar their entry (wounding the woman, too), houses were robbed, men cudgelled, windows broken, police broke chairs on people's heads, they beat Arabs with pistol butts, police kicked men in the testicles so badly that the victims were hospitalised, police smashed up a local bakery and they assaulted the bakery staff. Lees

...found the wrecked and blood-spattered rooms and the bullet holes, and I saw the less seriously injured victims. In one room I found an old man of evidently well over eighty years, lying on the floor on his blood-stained bedding, a blood-soaked bandage around his head, and his poor belongings lying in shreds and splinters around him.⁵⁴

The police also humiliated women in Manshiya, lining them up, questioning them in Arabic, 'asking them their names and saying "How much to-day?" God knows what they meant. They then made indecent gestures with their revolvers and sticks.'⁵⁵

The tacit, implicit official backing for these operations was such that when Lees protested to the British Chief Magistrate, giving the name of one policeman involved, nothing happened. More seriously for Lees (and his career), furious local Arabs drew his attention to the scene of an assassination of an Arab suspect in the Manshiya neighbourhood on the morning of 24 October 1938, the day after Lees was

dealing with the attack on the Arabs of Manshiya. On the spot, recording the assault on the residents of Manshiya, Lees then left a detailed account in English of an even more shocking outrage. Lees collated the statements from seventeen witnesses who saw four uniformed British police stop their Dodge saloon car in the street and force out of the vehicle a handcuffed Arab, Mohammad Haddad, with them in the car, telling him to run. They tried this twice, Haddad obviously aware that once he was some distance from the officers they would shoot him. When he refused the second time, the police shot him as he stood close to the officers, with a rifle from two metres, after which the man faltered, a volley of shots then left the Arab writhing on the ground, at which point one of the officers, W. E. T. Wood, shot him with his pistol at close range. Haddad refused to die and still writhing he tried to raise himself on his elbow, 'whereupon one of the other policemen stooped down and struck him a blow on the side of his head with his fist. After this the Arab lay still and the four Policemen started smoking cigarettes and laughing.'⁵⁶ A police truck later came to the scene and picked up the body, after which an official report stated that the dead man had been shot 'while attempting to escape.'⁵⁷ A policeman later the same day stopped at the local garage of Amin Andrawus (also spelt Andraus) – a local man who had witnessed the outrage – and spoke to the garage clerk about what had happened:

'Know all about that. The man was a gangster, and had to be killed', or words to that effect. The clerk remonstrated, saying that if he was a gangster he

should be properly tried and convicted, to which the constable replied, 'No, it's better to kill him like this', or words to that effect.⁵⁸

Andrawus, the garage owner, fled to Beirut, fearful of being killed by the police as a material witness. His family and friends had urged him not to appear as a witness, 'as it might cost him his life.'⁵⁹ In a plea to the Palestine High Commissioner, Andrawus wrote: 'I make this report in great fear of my own life and that of my wife and family. Murder by the police is not uncommon there are so many means available to them to carry it out. I ask Your Excellency's personal security for myself and my family be protected against police vengeance.'⁶⁰

Lees, meanwhile, made an official report, which helped to prompt a trial of the four policemen in December 1938, the only recorded case – to this author's knowledge – of official sanction against the police for such things during the Arab revolt in Palestine, 1936-39. The policemen involved – T. Mansell, P. Crossley, W. E. T. Wood and T. Crossley – received sentences in January 1939 ranging from being bound over (the two Crossleys) to one year in jail (Mansell) to three years for Wood (for manslaughter), Mansell's sentence being reduced on appeal.⁶¹ Woods delete the 's' – it's Wood not Woods had had 'the comparative decency to administer the "coup de grace" to the poor wretch whose bowels were protruding from wounds in the back' and he paid the judicial price as it was his pistol that delivered the final shot, leaving him accused of the most serious charge.⁶² The colonial Government had neutered the

Palestine judiciary following a ruling that had gone against the Government in 1936 by the British Chief Justice in Palestine, Sir Michael McDonnell, after which McDonnell was dismissed. By 1938, the judiciary knew its place and returned (without a jury, as was the case in Palestine) the astonishing verdict of 'attempted manslaughter' on Wood. The Colonial Secretary made the most of this verdict, pointing out to Parliament in London that such allegations were unfounded but if found the Government would not hesitate to prosecute offenders.⁶³

The High Commissioner sent Lees home to the UK, a tale told in detail by an angry Lees in his private papers, after which police officers broke into Lees' home in Jaffa – OGPU methods, as a friend of Lees pointed out.⁶⁴ (Nor did Lees' luck improve: he was interned during the Second World War for his alleged connections to the British Union of Fascists.) English friends had told Lees before he left Palestine not to sit by un-curtained windows or be out of doors after dark lest he 'stop' a 'stray bullet' from the offended police.⁶⁵ Being white and British did not grant one protection from police depredations, as being white and French did not save Henri Alleg from being tortured in Algeria in the 1950s by a Foreign Legion 'specialist.'⁶⁶ S. O. Richardson of Jaffa, a British lawyer and local representative of the Federation of British Industries, wrote to the High Commissioner regarding the Manshiya assassination, concluding how if the High Commissioner were to take any action, 'I ask that you will if possible suppress my name. Even an Englishman of some prominence is in no small danger in these days if he offends the police'.⁶⁷ That said, it might be that British

police considered killing a British resident in Palestine but it seems highly unlikely that they would have tortured him. This author has found no evidence of police killing any British resident in Palestine.

Determining the details surrounding the murky business of police assassinations is problematic, the contemporary record shedding some partial light. Recent empirical and theoretical work by scholars such as David Cesarani and David French is useful in this regard.⁶⁸ Partial names of those responsible emerge from the archives. Writing to Lees, Richardson noted how 'man who is really responsible for these murders was of course Collinge who has now joined the murdered....The victim is the son of the litigant Ibrahim Abu Kuheil whom you know, a youth of 21. As far as I can ascertain he was shot merely in mistake for an alleged terrorist'.⁶⁹ This refers to a botched assassination at a hospital by police of an alleged terrorist in which the assassins who had been 'ordered to bump off' the suspect shot the wrong man, 'the first wounded man they could find, in the hope of clicking for the King's Police Medal which usually follows these episodes in Palestine.'⁷⁰

The incident that Richardson was referring to seems to have been one at the Dajani hospital in Jaffa where, on 15 June 1939, a party of police some in uniform and some in mufti appeared, some of them climbing over the wall, while others knocked at the door. When let in by the doorman, a group of four policemen went to a ward in which was one was one Ibrahim obn [or ibn] Khail [sic – presumably the son of the

person as mentioned above], suffering from a bullet wound in the shoulder inflicted by police four days earlier. 'As the light was switched on, the man wakened from sleep and finding himself covered by revolvers sat up in bed with a scream. The police fired one shot through his head, blowing out his brains, and retired whence they came'. One policeman then remarked:

'...we have carried out our orders.' Later a police officer arrived, ostensibly to take statements. He explained that the victim had tried to escape through the window....It should be noted that, 'Shot while trying to escape,' or, 'Shot while breaking the cordon' is a daily announcement in this country. Most, or many, of these incidents are 'bumpings-off' – nothing more or less.⁷¹

According to Lees, the target for the police was a man who was one of the principal witnesses against a British police Sergeant and a Jewish Advocate who were to be tried for conspiracy and the taking and giving of bribes to facilitate illegal Jewish immigration.⁷² Police violence was not just about political assassinations; criminality by officers played its part and low-level theft from civilians by police was an endemic problem in Palestine.⁷³

The events at Manshiya and the Dajani hospital establish that there were police death squads, a 'dirty war' in Palestine, euphemistically called 'special squads.'

When back in London, Lees met a former constable of the Palestine police who told him that the man shot in Manshiya had first been tortured and then taken out to be killed:

....he had actually heard the British C.I.D. Sergeant concerned give the order to his 'Special Squad' to take the prisoner out and shoot him ('Take him for a ride' were the actual words), after repeated floggings had failed to elicit from him whatever information it was the Sergeant desired.⁷⁴

Lees was told by friends not to return to Palestine as his life was under threat, advice that he heeded.⁷⁵ This was not new, such things being called 'assassination direction' in Ireland, after which the 'hidden hand' protected those involved in breaking the law.⁷⁶ In Galilee in 1938, a British Army officer, Orde Wingate, established Army-run 'Special Night Squads,' responsible for gross abuses against local Palestinians.⁷⁷ Evidently, both the police and the Army liked to be 'special.' Hugh Foot (later Lord Caradon), a senior colonial official at the time in Palestine, saw first-hand the impact that soldiers such as Wingate had as he 'wiped out opposition gangs by killing them all. He was taking sides. It was a dirty war of assassination and counter-assassination. I don't think we should have got mixed up in that.'⁷⁸

Commands relating to the sorts of abuses discussed here were 'usually conveyed verbally and in a coded language.'⁷⁹ In Algeria, those killed by the forces of law and

order had been 'neutralized.'⁸⁰ When the French Army wanted to kill trouble makers the suspects were 'let loose in the countryside.'⁸¹ In South Africa under Apartheid, orders to state-sanctioned death squads were always given verbally.⁸² This complicates the task of the historian. While there is one candid memoir of the reality of policing in Palestine by a British Constable⁸³ that can be set alongside a similarly revealing set of private papers, again from a junior officer involved,⁸⁴ history sheds a dim light on events, the battle in Palestine, as with the one in Algeria later on, literally and figuratively, 's'est déroulée la nuit.'⁸⁵ The stories of the (often illiterate) peasants who bore the violent brunt of this hidden history are rarely told, except by way of deep mining of Western archival sources. There is some Arabic-language material from Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah, Khalil al-Sakakini and Akram Zu'aytir dealing with abuses,⁸⁶ alongside local protests passed by way of the Anglican clergy in Palestine stored in a UK archive,⁸⁷ but not much, reflective perhaps of the uninterested disdain of Palestinian elites towards their own poor. Ted Swedenburg's published English-language oral history project on the Mandate years is remarkable.⁸⁸ As one war veteran remarked, he and his comrades did 'not want to remember the bad stuff,' a sentiment applicable not just to perpetrators but also to victims, one imagines, and one reason it is so hard to uncover the truth of some histories.⁸⁹

Torture centres

Torture sat atop the systemic structures detailed above. Arabs knew what awaited them if arrested and they threatened suicide if ever detained by certain, named police officers.⁹⁰ The Palestine police ran the country's prisons and the police by 1938 had established dedicated torture centres, very much like the one at el-Biar near Algiers where Henri Alleg was tortured in 1957 by French paratroopers and legionnaires.⁹¹ As well as the main police headquarters at the Russian compound in west Jerusalem, police CID had a separate, secret house at the Talavera military camp at the Allenby barracks in south Jerusalem, now covered by residential housing; another torture site was in Acre Citadel prison.⁹² Arab suspects were 'lifted' from their homes and executed; others found themselves the subject of torture 'in methods we would hear about in the Middle Ages.'⁹³ In addition to regular beatings in which guards knocked out suspects' teeth and which could leave victims 'almost unrecognizable,'⁹⁴ police officers carried out a variety of tortures, detailed in full elsewhere.⁹⁵

Arab detainees in Palestine's prisons protested in petitions made through the Christian (British) Anglican mission at the extreme treatment meted out by guards. Prisoners jumped to their deaths from high windows to escape their captors, had their testicles tied with cord, were tortured with strips of wood with nails in, had wire tightened around their big toes, hair was torn from their faces and heads, special instruments were used to pull out fingernails, red hot skewers were used on detainees, prisoners were sodomized, boiling oil was used on prisoners as were

intoxicants (morphine, cocaine and heroin), there were electric shocks, water was funnelled into suspects' stomachs and there were mock executions.⁹⁶ As Frances Newton, a pro-Arab British resident in Haifa noted, 'the police asked permission to use torture to the prisoners to extract information and that permission was granted from the Colonial Office. Several of the leading police officers in Jerusalem refused to countenance it. One of them has since left the country.'⁹⁷ Newton's complaints led to an official order banning her from Palestine. Euphemisms were again deployed to mask what was really going on, the torture facilities being referred to as 'Arab Investigation Centres';⁹⁸ in Kenya in the 1950s, such places were called 'Mau Mau Investigation Centres.'⁹⁹

Afterword – the Palestine police and imperial history

There are different ways of telling the story of law and order in Palestine after the Great War. Traditional histories present a romantic tale of adventure or they argue that the problem with the Palestine police was inadequate training, the poor quality of recruits and the lack of good intelligence, all of which made the force less than effective.¹⁰⁰ Certainly, there was adventure to be had for young British men in Palestine; there were also serious systemic deficiencies in the system of formalized violence as embodied in the police, ones that came to the fore every time there was widespread rebellion, as there was in 1929, 1936 and 1945, when the colonial authorities had to call in the Army. The police was unable to rely on popular consent to do its job and it was reliant on the Army in times of major disturbances. This

weakness manifested itself in systematic informal, grass-roots based coercion, violence that got worse as the police grip on power weakened, as it did in 1938-39, at the height of the Arab revolt. The question is how to place this violence within the wider span of imperial history.

When the British departed Palestine in 1948, they left a legacy of legally enshrined collective punishment (fines, house destruction, seizure of goods etc.) and violence (assault, torture, detention) towards Arabs, and tacitly accepted abuse by agents of the State, embodied in the Mandate legal system and the police force. The British had the idea that Palestinian village life revolved around a collective 'social system based on mutual protection rather than justice,'¹⁰¹ a view in some measure endorsed by the rural collective *faz'a* (alarm),¹⁰² and they established unjust collective punishment as the norm for an amorphous Oriental mass of peasants unused to justice. This punitive regime also applied in theory to Jews but the British in practice never collectively or individually punished the Jews in the way that they did the Arabs, the Jewish community successfully negotiating or resisting colonial rule, as needs be. Moreover, the Palestine police had employed many thousands of 'Loyalist' Jews as temporary,¹⁰³ full- or part-time¹⁰⁴ police officers, there to enforce the law in peaceful periods and in times of revolt they were there to assist the British to suppress the Palestinians; meanwhile, the British Army trained and equipped Jewish soldiers in the late 1930s and 1940s, a policy with 'blowback' when the Jews successfully fought the British in Palestine after 1945.

The Jews who had served under the British set up the Israeli state apparatus in 1948. Their attitudes mirrored those of the British before them, under whom they had served, made worse by Jewish settlement and State-building, a project that required the removal or subjugation of recalcitrant local Arabs. As a Jewish doctor in Mandate Palestine told a British Army officer serving out in the country, the 'Turks' had not only been much tougher and much better at controlling the Arabs but also that 'the Arabs understood the lash and expected the lash. And the harder you treat them the better they will behave'.¹⁰⁵ The doctor added, 'And there's no doubt that the British have never I think really been harsh.'¹⁰⁶ The new regime of Jewish order in the country was to be even tougher – certainly more efficient in what it did – and run by people with an intimate knowledge and understandable dislike of the local non-Jewish population who blocked the path to the creation of a Jewish State. Familiarity bred contempt, as it did for the police; the Army's temporary rotations through Palestine by regiments softened any hostility: 'I think we British rather admire the Arabs,' was one Army officer's far from isolated comment.¹⁰⁷ As colonists, the Israelis after 1948 adopted British imperial policies in their dealings with the Arabs – the British were, after all, experts in such things – instituting collective punishments and abusing the local Arabs, often in the same torture centres established under the Mandate Government.¹⁰⁸

The French handed on a similar collective, colonial memory of what to do to the Belgians in the Congo and, more significantly, to the Americans, planning for the war in Vietnam in the early 1960s. French Army officers from Algeria – men who had served with the elite shock troops of the Legion and the paratroopers – such as Paul Aussaresses, Roger Faulques and Roger Trinquier instructed the Americans on insurgent warfare and they travelled to places such as Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to teach the US Army the rules of counter-insurgency.¹⁰⁹ Similarly, the Palestine police did more than just pass on ways of doing things to the Israeli State. When the force was disbanded in 1948, the men were given the option of staying in the Service and many went to Malaya, just as the Emergency there began against Communist guerrillas, after which there were insurgencies to fight in Kenya, Cyprus, Aden and Northern Ireland, right up to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. Men who had been in the ‘Black and Tans’ were still serving as policemen and officials in Britain’s colonies in the 1950s. The continuity from policing in Ireland in the 1920s, to Palestine in the 1930s and 1940s, and then to the post-war British Empire meant the transfer of an institutional memory from one setting, such as Palestine, to the next, a fascinating subject but one that is beyond the remit of this essay and is discussed in part elsewhere.¹¹⁰

The Palestine police was never as famous as its French counterpart. It never covered itself in glory in the way that the French Foreign Legion did on the field of battle. But it had a similar task. Both institutions were served by former soldiers – who brought

with them the traumas of previous wars – and they extended the shelf-life of empire, maintaining colonial order until the weakness of European power after 1945 conspired with powerful, well-organised emerging nationalist struggles to defeat them, the French Foreign Legion shrinking in size and retiring after the debacle in Algeria to a new base and a new life in Aubagne near Marseilles, the Palestine police to an old comrades' association run from a house in north London with its archive of papers stored at an Oxford college. The French Foreign Legion survived the collapse of empire and still embodies martial, manly values; the Palestine police is now kitsch.

Acknowledgments

The author acknowledges the support of the Trustees of the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, the US Marine Corps University Foundation and Itamar Radai.

¹ The 1870 Foreign Enlistment Act made it a crime for any subject of the United Kingdom to enlist with a foreign military force; in practice the Act has proved impossible to enforce and there have been no successful prosecutions using the 1870 law.

² Notably, the recordings held at the I[mperial] W[ar] M[useum] S[ound] A[rchive], London. Quotations from Alexander Ternent, 10720, 18, IWMSA. See also, Roger Courtney, Roger, *Palestine Policeman* (London: Herbert Jenkins, 1939).

³ Policemen quoted in E. Ben-Ze'ev, *Remembering Palestine in 1948: Beyond National Narratives* (Cambridge: CUP, 2011), p. 174.

⁴ Letter, Burr to Parents, 9 July 1937, 88/8/1, Burr Papers, I[mperial] W[ar] M[useum] D[ocuments].

⁵ Edward Horne, *A Job Well Done (Being a History of the Palestine Police Force, 1920-1948)* (Tiptree: Anchor Press, 1982), p. 235.

⁶ James Tait, 12914, IWMSA.

⁷ Colin Imray, *Policeman in Palestine* (Devon: Gaskell, 1995), p. 12; Douglas V. Duff, *Bailing with a Teaspoon* (London: John Long, 1953), p. 21.

⁸ Craig M. Cameron, *American Samurai: Myth, Imagination, and the Conduct of Battle in the First Marine Division, 1941-1951* (Cambridge: CUP, 1994), p. 49.

⁹ Reubin Kitson, 10688/6, IWMSA.

¹⁰ Ernest De Val, 12592/3, IWMSA; Geoffrey Morton, 12960/6, IWMSA

¹¹ David Anderson and David Killingray, 'An Orderly Retreat: Policing the End of Empire,' in David Anderson and David Killingray (eds), *Policing and Decolonisation: Politics, Nationalism and the Police, 1917-65* (Manchester: MUP, 1991), pp. 3, 8.

¹² For an overview, see, R. A. Cahill, "'Going Berserk": "Black and Tans" in Palestine,' *Jerusalem Quarterly* 38 (2009), pp. 59-68.

¹³ Jack Binsley, *Palestine Police Service* (Montreux: Minerva, 1996), p. 18.

¹⁴ Imray, *Policeman in Palestine*, pp. 11, 30.

¹⁵ G. Sinclair, "'Get into a Crack Force and earn £20 a month" ... The Influence of the Palestine Police upon Colonial Policing, 1921-1948,' *European Review of History* 13/1 (2006), pp. 49-67.

¹⁶ Anderson and Killingray, 'An Orderly Retreat,' p. 8.

¹⁷ F. S. L. Lyons, 'The War of Independence,' in W. E. Vaughan (ed.), *A New History of Ireland, Vol. 6, Ireland under the Union, 1870-1921* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1996), p. 245.

¹⁸ F. P. Crozier, *Ireland For Ever* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1932), pp. 198-200; Richard Bennett, *The Black and Tans* (Severn: Severn House, 1976), p. 92; Simon Murray, *Legionnaire: An Englishman in the French Foreign Legion* (London, 1982), pp. 108-9.

¹⁹ Letter, Burr to Alex, n.d., 88/8/1, Burr Papers, IWMD.

²⁰ Letters, O'Connor to Wife, 22 October and 2-3 November 1938, O'Connor Papers, 3/1/18, L[idell] H[art] C[entre] for M[ilitary] A[rchives]; Letter, Burr to Parents, n.d. [May-June 1936], 88/8/1, Burr Papers, IWMD.

²¹ Letter, Stewart to J. G. Matthew, 9 June 1936, J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 61, File 1, M[idle] E[ast] C[entre], St. Antony's College Oxford.

²² Memoir, 'Fifty Days with a Company in Palestine, p. 1, 82/24/1, Faviell Papers, IWMD; Charles Evans, Lever Arch File 55, Thames TV Material, I[mperial] W[ar] M[useum] F[ilm] A[rchive]; Geoffrey Morton, 12960/6, IWMSA.

²³ Letter, Burr to Parents, n.d. [April 1937], Burr papers, 88/8/1, IWMD.

²⁴ Letter, O'Connor to Wife, 2-3 November 1938, O'Connor Papers, 3/1/18, LHCMA.

²⁵ Prison conditions in League for the Rights of Man, 28 December 1938, 1 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, 116, MEC.

²⁶ Letter, Burr to Parents, n.d., 88/8/1, Burr Papers, IWMD; M. Hughes, "The Practice and Theory of British Counter-Insurgency: The Histories of the Atrocities at the

Palestinian Village of al-Bassa and Halhul, 1938-39," *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 20/3 (September 2009), pp. 528-50.

²⁷ For a useful critical study of colonial law, see, Nasser Hussain, *The Jurisprudence of Emergency: Colonialism and the Rule of Law* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2003).

²⁸ Binsley, *Palestine Police Service*, p. 39.

²⁹ J. House and N. MacMaster, *Paris, 1961: Algerians, State Terror and Memory* (Oxford: OUP, 2006), p. 54; D. Porch, *The French Foreign Legion: A Complete History of the Legendary Corps* (New York: HarperCollins, 1991), p. 576.

³⁰ David Smiley, *Irregular Regular* (Norwich: Michael Russell, 1994), pp. 15-16.

³¹ Prison conditions in League for the Rights of Man, 28 December 1938, 1 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, 116, MEC.

³² John Newsinger, *The Blood Never Dried* (London: Bookmarks, 2002), p. 137.

³³ Presumably CID Detective Inspector Robinson; the author has found no further reference to Biggs. In translated Arabic material there is a note that Biggs 'left Palestine.' See Allegations of Ill-treatment of Arabs by British Crown Forces in Palestine (translated from the Arabic by F. Newton, 19 June 1939), 2 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, 142, MEC.

³⁴ Presumably, S. N. Soffer, who was a Detective Inspector in 1936 and a CID Acting Assistant Superintendent in 1938.

³⁵ Allegations of Ill-treatment of Arabs by British Crown Forces in Palestine

(translated from the Arabic by F. Newton, 19 June 1939), 2 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, 142, MEC.

³⁶ Diary, 14 May 1939, Forster papers, GB 165-0109, 119-20, MEC; *Frightfulness in Retreat* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1917).

³⁷ Duff, *Bailing with a Teaspoon*, p. 46.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 36.

³⁹ Letter, Burr to Alex, n.d. [December 1937], Burr papers, 88/8/1, IWMDD.

⁴⁰ On the link with Jewish intelligence, see, 'Pieces of War' by Lt.-Col. A. C. Simonds, pp. 135-6, Simonds papers, 08/46/1, IWMDD; Y. Gelber, *Sorshey ha-Havatzelet: ha-Modi'in ba-Yishuv, 1918-1947* [Growing a Budding Fleur-de-Lis: The Intelligence Forces of the Jewish Yishuv in Palestine, 1918-47] (Tel Aviv: Misrad ha-Bitahon, 1992), pp. 149-64; H. Cohen, *Army of Shadows: Palestinian Collaboration with Zionism, 1917-1948* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007), p. 156; Haggai Eshed, *Reuven Shiloah: The Man Behind the Mossad* (London: Cass, 1997), pp. 31, 34; Efraim Dekel, *Shai: The Exploits of Hagana Intelligence* (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1959), p. 199. There is also a useful chapter by Clive Jones on British-Jewish intelligence liaison in the forthcoming volume edited by C. Jones and Tore T. Petersen entitled *Israel's Clandestine Diplomacies* being published by Hurst.

⁴¹ On leaking of intelligence see, Draft Military Report, n.d., O'Connor Papers, 3/4/55, LHCMA; Brooke-Popham, RAF (Cairo) to Air Chief Marshal Sir E. L. Ellington, Air

Ministry (London), 20 July 1938, Brooke-Popham papers, 4/3/44, LHCMA. The Haganah archive in Tel Aviv has many British official reports, obviously stolen by Jewish police officers working for the *Yishuv* at the time.

⁴² Such as, Gad Kroizer, 'From Dowbiggin to Tegart: Revolutionary Change in the Colonial Police in Palestine during the 1930s,' *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 32/2 (2004), pp. 115-133; and Martin Kolinsky, 'Reorganization of the Palestine Police after the Riots of 1929,' *Studies in Zionism* 10/2 (1989)155-73.

⁴³ Police Incident on Nablus Road, 1 March 1939 in Letter, Haining to O'Connor, 14 March 1939, O'Connor Papers, 3/4/43, LHCMA; Letter, O'Connor to Wife, 22 October 1938, O'Connor Papers, 3/1/16, LHCMA; Letter, O'Connor to Wife, n.d., O'Connor Papers, 3/1/20, LHCMA.

⁴⁴ 8th Division Instructions by Montgomery, Haifa, 25 November 1938, O'Connor Papers, 3/4/4, LHCMA.

⁴⁵ Diary, 15 October 1938, Mullens Papers, Vol. 1, p. 33, LHCMA.

⁴⁶ Brig. Evetts in Diary, 10 January 1938, Tegart Papers, Box 6, Item 4, GB165-0281, MEC.

⁴⁷ Brigadier Carr (Jaffa) to Wife, 25 October 1936, Carr Papers, Letter 247, LHCMA.

⁴⁸ See the account in Murray, *Legionnaire*, *passim*.

⁴⁹ For violence to women see, Matthew Hughes, 'The Banality of Brutality: British Armed Forces and the Repression of the Arab Revolt in Palestine, 1936-39', *English Historical Review* 124/507 (2009), pp. 343-45.

⁵⁰ Maj.-Gen. V. W. Street to Father, 29 May 1938, Street Papers, Letters Home File, LHCMA; Telegram to Secretary of State, n.d., S25/22762, C[entral] Z[ionist] A[rchive], Jerusalem; *Haaretz* [The Land], 26 August 1936.

⁵¹ Crozier, *Ireland For Ever*, p. 122.

⁵² Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, p. 2, LHCMA. Lees used the nom de plume, al-'Asi, the Arabic name of the River Orontes, also meaning 'a rebel.'

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁵⁵ The Manshia Exploits of the Three British Policemen in Mufti during the Night of 23-24 October, 1938, Exploit No. 1, Khalil Hamameh and Witness Statements, Forster Papers, GB165-0109, pp. 79ff, MEC.

⁵⁶ The Manshia Exploits of the Three British Policemen in Mufti during the Night of 23-24 October, 1938, Incident of the 'Bumped off' Gangster, GB165-0109, pp. 80ff, MEC. This material is also available in J & EM Papers, GB165-0161, Box 66, File 2, MEC.

⁵⁷ The Manshia Exploits of the Three British Policemen in Mufti during the Night of 23-24 October, 1938, Incident of the "bumped off" Gangster, GB165-0109, p. 82, MEC.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ Statement of Mr Amin Andraus (Jaffa), 27 October 1938, J & EM Papers, GB165-0161, Box 66, File 5, MEC.

⁶⁰ Andraus (Jaffa) to High Commissioner (Palestine), 26 October 1938, J & EM Papers, GB165-0161, Box 66, File 5, MEC.

⁶¹ 'Allegations of Irregular Conduct Denied in London,' *Palestine Post* (11 December 1938).

⁶² Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, pp. 6-7, LHCMA.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ Lees to M. MacDonald, 8 January 1939, Lees Papers, 5/8, LHCMA; Lees to High Commissioner (Palestine), 31 October 1938, Lees Papers, 5/8, LHCMA; S. O. Richardson (Federation of British Industries, Jaffa) to High Commissioner (Palestine), 26 October 1938, J & EM Papers, GB165-0161, Box 66, File 5, MEC; Lees to Under Secretary of State, CO, n.d., Lees Papers, 5/8, LHCMA; Habib G. Homs (Advocate, Jaffa) to Lees, 3 June 1939, Lees Papers, 5/10, LHCMA; Richardson (Solicitor, Jaffa) to Lees, 29 July 1939, Lees Papers, 5/9, LHCMA; Lees, Assistant District Commissioner, to District Commissioner, Southern District, 25 October 1938, Foster Papers, GB165-0109, p. 77, MEC; Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, pp. 6-7, LHCMA. For OGPU methods, see, Richardson to Lees, 9 June 1939, Lees Papers, 5/9, LHCMA.

⁶⁵ Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, p. 11, LHCMA.

⁶⁶ French torturers in Algeria claimed that when they had a 'European' to work on they would 'look after him better than the "wogs".' H. Alleg, *The Question* (New York, 1958), pp. 50, 109. The expression "wogs" is translated from the French slang "troncs." See H. Alleg, *La Question* (Paris, 1958), p. 26.

⁶⁷ S. O. Richardson (Federation of British Industries, Jaffa) to High Commissioner (Palestine), 26 October 1938, J & EM Papers, GB165-0161, Box 66, File 5, MEC.

⁶⁸ David French, *The British Way in Counter-Insurgency, 1945-67* (Oxford: OUP, 2011); David Cesarani, *Major Farran's Hat: Murder, Scandal and Britain's War against Jewish Terrorism, 1945-48* (London: Heinemann, 2009); Bruce B. Campbell and Arthur D. Brenner (eds), *Death Squads in Global Perspective: Murder with Deniability* (New York: St Martin's, 2000); M. Haritos-Fatouros, *The Psychological Origins of Institutionalised Torture* (London: Routledge, 2003).

⁶⁹ S. O. Richardson (Solicitor, Jaffa) to Lees, 29 July 1939, Lees Papers, 5/9, LHCMA.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Note, Jerusalem, 25 June 1939, Lees Papers, 5/9, LHCMA.

⁷² Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, p. 14, LHCMA.

⁷³ For problems with theft, see, Hughes, 'The Banality of Brutality, *passim*.

⁷⁴ Memoir by Lees entitled 'Unbeaten Track: Some Vicissitudes in Two Years of a Public Servant's Life by el-Asi,' Lees Papers, 5/13, pp. 6-7, LHCMA.

⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 22..

⁷⁶ Brig.-Gen. Frank Percy Crozier, *Impressions and Recollections* (London: Werner Laurie, 1930), p. 258; Crozier, *Ireland For Ever*, pp. 107, 184; Robert Kee, *The Green Flag: A History of Irish Nationalism* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1972), pp. 669, 672.

⁷⁷ H. Foot, *A Start in Freedom* (London: Hodder, 1964), pp. 51-2; T. Segev, *One Palestine, Complete* (New York: Holt, 2001), pp. 430-31; Rex King Clark, *Free for a Blast* (London: Grenville, 1988), p. 187; Anita Shapira, *Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948* (New York: OUP, 1992), p. 251; Yosef Eshkol, *A Common Soldier: The Story of Zwi Brenner* (Tel Aviv: MOD Books, 1993), p. 173; Leonard Mosley, *Gideon Goes to War* (London: Barker, 1955), pp. 58-60; John Bierman and Colin Smith, *Fire in the Night: Wingate of Burma, Ethiopia and Zion* (New York: Random House, 1999), p. 125; Richard Catling, 10392, pp. 16-17, IWMSA; mixed Hebrew-English files in S25/10685, 3156 and 8768, CZA.

⁷⁸ Interview with Lord Caradon (Hugh Foot), Lever Arch File 55, Wingate and SNS, p. 11, Thames TV Material, IWMFA.

⁷⁹ J. House and N. MacMaster, *Paris, 1961*, p. 12.

⁸⁰ Paul Aussaresses, *The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Algeria, 1955-57* (New York: Enigma, 2002), p. 126.

⁸¹ Aussaresses, *The Battle of the Casbah*, p. 125.

⁸² For Apartheid, see Campbell and Brenner (eds), *Death Squads in Global Perspective*, p. 241.

⁸³ Arrigonie, Harry, *British Colonialism: 30 Years Serving Democracy or Hypocrisy* (Bideford: Gaskell, 1998).

⁸⁴ Burr papers, 88/8/1, IWMDD.

⁸⁵ Général P. Aussaresses, *Services Spéciaux. Algérie, 1955-57* (Paris : Perrin, 2001), p. 143.

⁸⁶ Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah, *Fi Khidamm al-nidal al-'arabi al-filastini: mudhakkarat al-munadil Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah [In the Midst of the Struggle for the Arab Palestinian Cause: The Memoirs of Freedom-Fighter Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah* (Beirut: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1993); Akram Musallam (ed.), *Yawmiyyat Khalil al-Sakakini: Yawmiyyat, Rasa'il, ta'amulat [Diaries of Khalil al-Sakakini: Diaries, Letters and Meditations]* (Jerusalem: Institute for Palestine Studies, 2004-9); Akram Zu'aytir, *Watha'iq al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Filastiniyya, 1918-39: Min Azwraq Akram Zu'aytir [Documents of the Palestinian National Movement, 1918-39: From the Papers of Akram Zu'aytir]* (Beirut: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1979). See also Serene Husseini Shahid, *Jerusalem Memories* (Beirut: Naufal, 2000) and the accounts from Arabs recorded for 'Palestine: Promises and Rebellion' (Thames TV, three parts, 1977-78) and filed in the Imperial War Museum Film Archive (not on open access).

⁸⁷ Allegations of Ill-treatment of Arabs by British Crown Forces in Palestine (translated from the Arabic by Frances Newton, 19 June 1939) in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, pp. 141-43, MEC.

⁸⁸ Ted Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt: The 1936-1939 Rebellion and the Palestinian National Past* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1995).

⁸⁹ K. A. Marling and J. Wetenhall, *Iwo Jima: Monuments, Memories and the American Hero* (Cambridge, Mass., 1991), p. 235

⁹⁰ M. Mitri (Jaffa) to Lees, 20 June 1939, Lees Papers, 5/10, LHCMA.

⁹¹ Alleg, *The Question, passim*. See also, Aussaresses, *The Battle of the Casbah*, pp. 117ff.

⁹² Author interview, Bahjat Abu Gharbiyah, Amman, 21 June 2009 and subsequent elucidatory correspondence to Abu Gharbiyah via his son Sami Abu Gharbiyah, July-December 2009.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ Prison conditions in League for the Rights of Man, 28 December 1938, 1 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, 116, MEC.

⁹⁵ Matthew Hughes, 'A History of Violence: The Shooting of British Assistant Police Superintendent Alan Sigrist, 12 June 1936', *Journal of Contemporary History* 45/4 (October 2010), pp. 725-43.

⁹⁶ See Palestine Prisons for Howard League for Penal Reform, 6 April 1938 in J & E Mission papers, GB 165-0161, Box 65, File 5, pp. 76ff, MEC and Allegations of Ill-treatment of Arabs by British Crown Forces in Palestine (translated from the Arabic by Frances Newton, 19 June 1939) in *ibid.*, pp. 141-43.

⁹⁷ The Alleged Ill-treatment of Prisoners by F. Newton (sent to the Howard League for Penal Reform), 15 April 1938 in *ibid.*, p. 94.

⁹⁸ Edward Keith-Roach, *Pasha of Jerusalem: Memoirs of a District Commissioner under the British Mandate* (London: Radcliffe, 1994), p. 191; E. Tinker, 4492, pp. 34-5, IWMSA; Charles Smith “Two Revolts in Palestine: An Examination of the British Response to Arab and Jewish Rebellion, 1936-48” (PhD: Cambridge, 1989), pp. 114-19; Anwar Nusseibeh, 28 March 1977, Thames TV Material (not on open access), Lever Arch file: Nigel Maslin, Imperial War Museum Film Archive, London.

⁹⁹ Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain’s Gulag in Kenya* (New York: Holt, 2005), pp. 63, 87.

¹⁰⁰ Thomas, Martin, *Empires of Intelligence: Security Services and Colonial Disorders after 1914* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2008), pp. 240-41. See also Imray, *Policeman in Palestine*, pp. 8-12.

¹⁰¹ Y. Miller, ‘Administrative Policy in Rural Palestine: The Impact of British Norms on Arab Community Life, 1920-1948’ in Joel Migdal (ed.), *Palestinian Society and Politics* (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1980), p. 132.

¹⁰² Also translates as ‘call for help in war,’ ‘reinforcements,’ or (colloquial) ‘people called for help in a quarrel.’

¹⁰³ The British recruited thousands of extra Jewish supernumerary police – 14,411 according to one source – during the Arab revolt of the late 1930s: Asa Lefen, *Ha’Shai: Shorasheha Shel Kehilat ha’Modi’in ha’Israelit [The Roots of the Israeli Intelligence Community]* (Tel Aviv: MOD, 1997), p. 273.

¹⁰⁴ For a personal account of part-time policing, see, Ephraim Kluk, *A Special*

Constable in Palestine (Johannesburg: Kluk, 1939).

¹⁰⁵ Lt.-Col. Rex King-Clark, 4486/07, p. 35, IWMSA.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ Capt. C. P. Norman, 4629, pp. 8-9, IWMSA.

¹⁰⁸ Sunday Times Insight Team, *Israel and Torture* (London: Sunday Times, 1977), p.

11. See also Ilan Pappé, *The Forgotten Palestinians: A History of the Palestinians in Israel*

(New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 2011), pp. 38, 46ff and Hillel Cohen, *Good Arabs: The*

Israeli Security Agencies and the Israeli Arabs, 1948-67 (Berkeley, CA: University of

California Press, 2010), pp. 14-15, 17.

¹⁰⁹ Aussaresses, *Services Spéciaux. Algérie, 1955-57*, p. 196. See also, R. Trinquier,

Modern Warfare: A French View of Counterinsurgency (London: Pall Mall, 1964);

Trinquier et al., *Notre Guerre au Katanga* (Paris: La Pensée Moderne, 1963); Trinquier,

Le Temps Perdu (Paris: Albin Michel, 1978).

¹¹⁰ Most recently, in French, *The British Way in Counter-insurgency*.