

2-2019

## MS-236: Bernard Peace WWI Photograph Album

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## MS-236: Bernard Peace WWI Photograph Album

### Description

The album contains 200 photographs that depict everyday life and people in Baghdad and northeast India, including entire pages dedicated to “Arabs” and pictures of men and women in bazaars and drawing water. Other photographs are of notable events, including the “Dedication of British [Army] Cemetery” or the arrival of the “First Aeroplane from England to India.” There are also pictures of various landmarks, such as mosques, religious pilgrimage sites, historic cities and palaces, and natural wonders, from Iraq, India, and France. Included on the front cover is two photos pasted together to create a panorama of the “Signing of the Armistice with Turkey.” The back cover has the document “Proclamation by the G.O.C.-in-Chief,” an official announcement that declared an official end to hostilities to the people of Iraq. Despite Peace’s military service, the album contains less than ten photos related to the British Army or Mesopotamia Campaign. There are also various photographs missing from the album, although some of them have captions describing the missing contents.

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### Keywords

Benard Peace, Photography, Middle Eastern region, British Military

### Disciplines

European History | History | Islamic World and Near East History | Military History

**Guide to the  
MS-236: Bernard Peace WWI Photograph Album**



Kelly Murphy '21, Ester Kenyon Fortenbaugh '46 Intern

February 2019

## **MS – 236: Bernard Peace WWI Photograph Album**

1 box, .175 cubic feet

Inclusive Dates: 1917-1919

*Processed by:* Kelly Murphy, Ester Kenyon Fortenbaugh '46 Intern  
(February 2019)

### **Provenance**

This photo album was purchased from Between the Covers in 2016.

### **Biographical Note**

Bernard Peace was born in 1884 and lived in Lockwood, a suburb of Huddersfield, England when he enlisted in the British Army. In September 1916, Private Peace completed basic training and was placed in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, which mainly saw action on the Western Front. In February 1917 he was transferred to the Territorial Forces and stationed in Baghdad after its capture in March 1917. Between his arrival and his transfer home in April 1919 he stayed in Baghdad and traveled to other areas of Iraq and India when permitted. After arriving in Great Britain in November, he was transferred to the Class Z Reserve in Huddersfield.<sup>1</sup> Although not much is known about the rest of his life, it can be presumed he left the army after the Class Z Reserve was disbanded.

### **Historical Note**

The Middle Eastern theater of World War I was mainly fought between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire. Since the Ottoman Empire was considered the weakest of the Central Powers, the British and French believed that they would be the easiest to defeat, and launched a failed naval attack on Gallipoli in 1914. They then decided on a land campaign led by the British and their colonial troops from India. The British lost many battles between 1914 and 1916, including the famous siege of Kut in 1916. However, after General Stanley Maude took control of the campaign in late 1916, the British launched a successful campaign that culminated with the capture of Baghdad, Iraq in 1917. After the Ottoman Empire surrendered on November 2, 1918, the Allied Powers divided its former territories, with the British keeping control of Baghdad.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Class Z Reserve was created by the British Army after World War I to keep already trained military men ready in case Germany broke the terms of the Treaty of Versailles or restarted hostilities. They were never called into action and it was dissolved in 1920. Chris Baker, "British Army Reserves and Reservists," The Long, Long Trail, Accessed February 6, 2019, <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/enlisting-into-the-army/british-army-reserves-and-reservists/>.

<sup>2</sup> "First World War: Mesopotamia Campaign," National Army Museum, Accessed February 6, 2019, <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/mesopotamia-campaign>.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The album contains 200 photographs that depict everyday life and people in Baghdad and northeast India, including entire pages dedicated to “Arabs” and pictures of men and women in bazaars and drawing water. Other photographs are of notable events, including the “Dedication of British [Army] Cemetery” or the arrival of the “First Aeroplane from England to India.” There are also pictures of various landmarks, such as mosques, religious pilgrimage sites, historic cities and palaces, and natural wonders, from Iraq, India, and France. Included on the front cover is two photos pasted together to create a panorama of the “Signing of the Armistice with Turkey.” The back cover has the document “Proclamation by the G.O.C.-in-Chief,” an official announcement that declared an official end to hostilities to the people of Iraq. Despite Peace’s military service, the album contains less than ten photos related to the British Army or Mesopotamia Campaign. There are also various photographs missing from the album, although some of them have captions describing the missing contents.

### **Subjects**

World War I – Mesopotamian Campaign

Baghdad, Iraq

British India

British Army

Ottoman Empire

Occupation of Baghdad

Photography - Middle East

### **Series Description**

This collection is organized in one series of the Peace photograph album with 200 sepia-toned photographs.

### **Box List**

#### **Box 1**

#### **Bernard Peace WWI Photograph Album**

Highlights:

Baghdad. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918. Declaration Of Signing of Armistice With Turkey. Serai Square.

Dedication Of British Cemetery. Baghdad.

Desert Arabs. (2 images)

Arabs. (6 images)

View from Mussoorie. India. Source Of River Ganges In The Distance.

India. (6 images)

G.H.Q. At Sinn. Before Capture Of Baghdad. March 1917.  
British Residency, Baghdad. G.H.Q. M.E.F. 1917-19.  
Ruins Of Ancient Babylon. (2 pages, 11 images)  
Aerial Observation Photographs In Mesopotamia. (2 images)  
Turkish Prisoners Marching Through Baghdad.  
First Aeroplane From England To India, (Handley-Page) Arriving at Baghdad. Gen.  
Salmon, Pilot. (2 images)  
Mosques In Baghdad. (4 images)  
Street Scenes in Baghdad. (4 images)  
Italy & France. (3 images)  
"Proclamation by the G.O.C.-in-Chief in Mesopotamia to the People of 'Iraq, on the  
occasion of the successful conclusion of hostilities against the Turkish Armies"  
(document)

### **Related Collections**

- Bonfils, Felix, Mosquée El-Aksa - El-Aksa mosque, ca. 1867 - 1876, GettDigital:  
Nineteenth Century Images of Greece and the Near East, Special Collections /  
Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Accessed  
February 6, 2019,  
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1](https://gettysburg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15059coll1/id/85/rec/1).
- Bonfils, Felix, Façade du St. Sépulcre, Jerusalem - Facade of the Holy Sepulchre,  
Jerusalem, ca. 1876-1885, GettDigital: Nineteenth Century Images of Greece and  
the Near East, Special Collections / Musselman Library, Gettysburg College,  
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[https://gettysburg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15059coll1/id/83/rec/  
16](https://gettysburg.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15059coll1/id/83/rec/16).