

**BLACKLEY****Papers of Brig TR Blackley, CMG, CBE (1899-1982)**

Travers Robert Blackley was born in Cavan, Ireland on 10 March 1899. He was educated at Charterhouse School, 1912-1917 and Oxford University, 1919-1922. He served during World War I in the Royal Artillery, and joined the Sudan Political Service as Assistant District Commissioner in 1922, promoted to District Commissioner in 1932 and Deputy Governor in 1940. He saw active service with the Sudan Defence Force in 1940 and took part in the invasion of Eritrea in January 1941. In 1941 he was appointed Secretary to the Occupied Territory Administration in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was promoted Deputy Chief Political Officer, Ethiopia in 1942. As Political Officer, he accompanied the 8th Army, 51st Division during the invasion of Tripolitania and was appointed Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Central Province, Tripolitania. From 1943-1951 he was Chief Administrator in Tripolitania and in 1951 was appointed British Resident.

The papers relate to Blackley's experience as Political Officer and Senior Civil Affairs Officer in Tripolitania, 1942-1943. They comprise the texts of lectures on the practice of military government in occupied territories, given at the 50th Annual and 2nd War Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police held in Detroit, 9-11 August 1943, and at the School of Military Government, University of Virginia during 1943, where Blackley spent six months as an instructor.

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- 1            1943 Apr 10       Letter from Walter Lippman of the *New York Herald Tribune*, relating to a pamphlet on military legislation (not named) and Blackley's work in Washington.
  
- 2            Texts of lectures given by Blackley as a Lt Col attached to the 51st Division of the 8th British Army, at the School of Military Government, Virginia.
  
- 2/1        1943 Aug 15       Text of talk entitled 'Army Hour', given at the School of Military Government and describing its work in the civil administration of occupied territories, speakers including Blackley on the subject of Tripolitania. 6pp

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- 2/2      1943 May 26      'Experiences in Military Government', relating to general British policy and practice in occupied territory, and Eritrea in particular. 4pp
- 2/3      1943 May 28      'Military Government in Ethiopia', including operations against the Italians in 1940, reoccupation of Addis Ababa and administration of the newly created provinces. 6pp
- 2/4      1943 Jun 2      'Military Government in Tripolitania', outlining plans for occupation in Jan 1943. 2pp
- 2/5      1943 Jun 14      'Tripolitania', texts of two lectures describing the process of occupation. 11pp
- 2/6      1943 Jun 18      'Tripolitania', continuation of lecture on occupation of the territory. 3pp
- 2/7      1943 Jun 30      'Tripolitania, Administration in Communications Zone', covering the activities of Military Government after occupation. 4pp
- 2/8      1943 Aug 17      'Military Government in Tripolitania', describing problems encountered as Civil Affairs Officer (3 copies). 9pp
- 2/9      1943 Aug 20      'Military Government in Tripolitania', a precis of lectures given on 10 and 18 Aug, and including security and finance. 3pp
- 2/10     1943 Aug 20      Letter of appreciation from Brig Gen CW Wickersham, USA on the services of Blackley as a lecturer at the School of Military Government, University of Virginia. 1p

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- 3 Papers relating to the 50th Annual and 2nd War Conference International Association of Chiefs of Police, held in Detroit on 9 to 11 Aug 1943.
- 3/1 1943 Aug Official printed programme of the 50th Annual and Second War Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, 9-11 Aug 1943. 1 booklet
- 3/2 1943 Aug 3 Letter from Blackley to Col Rex Benson at the British Embassy, Washington DC outlining the text of his proposed lecture. 1p
- 3/3 1943 Aug 9 Text of the lecture given by Blackley, entitled 'British Military Government in Tripolitania with special reference to maintenance of law and order on our occupation'. 5pp
- 3/4 1943 Aug 24 Letter from Edward J Kelly, Executive Secretary of the International Association of Chiefs of Police enclosing a resolution of appreciation for the address given by Blackley at the Conference. 2pp
- 4 1943 Jun Blackley's lecture notes entitled 'Administration in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan', concerning his experience as district officer in the pre-war Sudan Political Service. With summary of his career to 1943, and table of organisation of the Sudan Government. 11pp

## **Brigadier Travers Robert Blackley**

Accn 3024: Publications chiefly re Libya.

### **1. Italian publications**

*L'espansione geografica della Libia*

[The geographical exploration of Libya]

Attilio Mori, Florence, 1927

*Notiziario Geografico del Sud-Tripolitano*

Booklet listing place names in the south Tripolitania region, with their derivations

1930

2 copies

*Da Tripoli a Murzuk: note di un medico*

From Tripoli to Murzuk: a doctor's notes

1930

*Sidi Messri termale*

[Sidi Messri spa]

1934

*La Ghibla*

[re a desert region of southern Tripolitania]

Col A Belardinelli, Tripoli, 1935

*Il restauro del castello di Tripoli*

[The restoration of Tripoli Castle]

Giacomo Guidi, 1935

*Il Duce in Libia*

[Agenzia Stefani, 1937]

Large-format paperback with black and white photographs of an official visit to Libya by Benito Mussolini. Annotated on the front cover, 'Quite amusing to read now, TRB, March '72'.

*La Libia Occidentale nei suoi principali aspetti economic-statistici*

[Economic aspects of western Libya]

1938

*Tripoli e dintorni*

[Tripoli and surroundings]

1939 tourist guide, with pull-out map

*L'Italia d'oltremare: la rivista quindicinale illustrate dell' impero*  
[Italy Overseas: illustrated bimonthly magazine of Empire]  
(Rome, 1942)

*Quaderni di archeologia della Libia*  
[Notes on archaeology in Libya]  
Rome, 1950

*Scavi Sahariani: ricerche nell' Uadi el-Agial e nell' Oasi di Gat*  
[Saharan excavations: research in Wadi el-Agial and in the Gat Oasis]  
(Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, 1951)

## 2. British publications

*The Battle of Britain, August-October 1940*  
(Ministry of Information, HMSO, 1941)

*British book news: a monthly selection of recent books published in Britain*  
National Book Council, London, November 1942

*Abyssinian campaigns: the official story of the conquest of Italian East Africa*  
Ministry of Information, HMSO, c 1942

*The Mediterranean Fleet, Greece to Tripoli: the Admiralty account of naval operations, April 1941 to January 1942*  
Ministry of Information, HMSO, 1944

*The first to be freed: British military administration in Eritrea and Somalia*  
(Ministry of Information, HMSO, 1944)

*Survey of land resources in Tripolitania*  
British Military Administration, Department of Agriculture, 1945  
With two separate colour maps of Tripolitania in envelope at back of volume

*Tripolitania Gazette: part 1. Special Issue, 31 December 1945*  
British Military Administration  
Printed texts of proclamations and regulations issued by TRB as Chief Administrator

*Carthage then and now*  
1945 tourist guide, with pull-out map

*The Roman roads and milestones of Tripolitania*  
R G Goodchild, Department of Antiquities, British Military Administration, Tripolitania, 1948  
With covering note to Travers from the author