

Tales of Empire

THE BRITISH IN
THE MIDDLE EAST
1880–1952

Derek Hopwood

I. B. TAURIS & CO LTD
Publishers
LONDON

CONTENTS

List of plates	x
Acknowledgements	xi
Preface	xiii
One Out of Egypt	1
The imperial highway	1
Homes away from home: Cairo	7
Commuters	12
The den of vice	16
Historical interlude	17
How some men stayed and others left	18
Two A prisoner of the lord	27
Boyle in Egypt 1885–1907	27
Summers at rest	30
The season	32
The galloping gourmet	33
Out and about	36
Of cats and dogs and other animals	40
Boyle's boil and other plagues	43
Leave taking	47
Three A gallery of Egyptian characters	51
Travelling with the khedive 1908	51
Anglo-Egyptian friendship	56
Master and servant	59
A heart of gold: Hanem Aaref	63
Painted harlots	66
Britons adrift abroad	67

Four	Britons at work in Egypt	75
	John Young: educating the elite	75
	Way down in Egypt's land	77
	Sir Thomas Rapp, consul	84
	Rapp in Suez	87
	John de Vere Loder, intelligence officer	89
	Francis Edwards, taxman	95
Five	A lack of gratitude	99
	The great train massacre 1919	99
	Cairo riots 1919	106
	Black Saturday 1952	109
Six	The British in the Holy Land 1917–48	113
	John Young, agricultural expert	113
	A pasha of Jerusalem arrives	117
	Humphrey Bowman: the valley of the shadow	120
	The hill of evil counsel	123
	The life of a district commissioner	125
	A sense of humour	129
	Riotous behaviour	133
Seven	A gallery of characters in Palestine	137
	The high commissioners	137
	Oh you English!	142
	Some Jews and some Arabs	143
	A wreath of funerals	145
Eight	Keeping the peace: Palestine in revolt 1936–9	149
	Soldiers of the king	149
	Spring term 1939	151
	Doctor Foster	156
	Spit and polish	159
	Every sign of sentiment dulled	161
	Earth's proud empires pass away	165
Nine	Here and there in the Middle East	169
	Persia: oil in their lamps 1892	169
	Keeping an eye on the Russians 1943	172
	Turkey: grievous bodily harm 1885–91	175
	Exile in Diarbekir 1906	181

CONTENTS

ix

Arabia 1917: Philby and his friend beyond price	184
Harold Dickson, Arabist 1918	186
Dickson in Bahrain 1919	187
With Young in Jidda 1916	189
Hope-Gill in Jidda 1930–33	192
Besieged in Baghdad 1941	194
Tale-end of empire	196