

# WWI-RELATED VAUDEVILLE JOKES, SKETCH MATERIAL, SONGS, POETRY and MISCELLANEOUS STAGE-CRAFT

## 1920

### JOKES

- ▶ - "Do you know the Germans are painting jokes outside their submarines?"  
- "Why?"  
- "So that the Scotch captains won't see them."
  - TT: ? (1920), 23.

### SONG LYRICS/ POETRY

- ▶ Major Maclaine (Fullers Theatre, Sydney) is billed as the Laird of Lochbuie. He has a tuneful voice, plus easy self-confidence; and his songs – of the light, inconsequential type – radiate happiness. The chorus of one of them runs: -

What was the tale the colonel told the adjutant?  
Whata did the adjutant say to Major Brown?  
Brown he went and whispered it to the captain,  
The captains told the subs to pass it down;  
The quartermaster whispered it to the sergeant,  
The sergeant told the corporal it appears,  
The corporal told the private and the private told his girl –  
Now's she's looking for Mademoiselle from Armentieres.

- **Major Maclane** TT: June (1920), 17.

- ▶ The chorus of one of Fred Bluett's biggest song successes runs: -

Roses and radishes, pansies and peas -  
They make the dicky birds sing in the trees;  
Three cheers for our sailors who plough up the seas,  
Singing roses and radishes, pansies and peas

- **Fred Bluett** TT: Oct. (1920), 20.



*Smith's Weekly* 28 Feb. (1920), 20.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- ***The General and His Army***: A revusical produced by Walter Johnson at the Cremorne Theatre, Brisbane, it is described in advertising as an Eastern comedy.

• BC: 10 Jan. (1920), n. pag. See also 1920 AVTA entries for further details.

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- Leonard Nelson holds the stage – and the audience – for fully thirty minutes. You need to be pretty good to do that. Ease, self-assurance, a clear expressive voice, and a natural sense of comedy are merely a few of the factors in the stage pre-eminence Mr Nelson has long enjoyed. "What we'd do to the Kaiser" enables him to delineate in turn an Irishman, an American, a Scotsman, a Dago and an English K-nut. With very few aids in the way of make-up – done in full view of the audience – it is an excellent burlesque characterisation that he succeeds in giving.

• **Leonard Nelson** TT: Mar (1920), 23.

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- An American troopship was on its way to England when a private fell overboard. A sailor immediately grabbed a lifebuoy and was rushing to the side when a Y. M. C. A. man stopped him. "What are you going to do with that?" he said. "Why I'm going to give it to that poor struggling man in the water," answered the sailor. "Don't give it to him," said the Y. M. C. A. official; "sell it to him!"

• **Harrington Reynolds** TT: Sept. (1920), 20.

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- A soldier who was broke once walked into a Y. M. C. A. hut and asked permission to write a letter. "Certainly," said an official, "go ahead." The soldier wrote his letter and handed it to the Y. M. C. A.-man, saying "I'll call back for an answer." The extraordinary address on the envelope caused the Y. M. C. A.-man to open it. He found this note: - "Dear God – Please send me one hundred dollars. I'm broke." Overcome with emotion everybody three in a dollar and the Y.M.C.A.-man presently had a total of fifty dollars. Sure enough the soldier came back and quite coolly inquired if there was any mail for him. "Yes, my man," said the official, benevolently; "here's a letter for you." The soldier opened it, and found fifty dollars. He went down on his knees and while everybody held their breath, he prayed. "Dear God," he murmured; "I asked you for a hundred dollars but only got fifty. Next time you send me money, send it care of the Salvation Army."

• **Harrington Reynolds** TT: Sept. (1920), 20.

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