

CONCERTS AND THEATRE PROGRAMS COLLECTION

Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) is located at Treloar Crescent, Campbell in the Australian Capital Territory. Its purpose is to commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war. Its mission is to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society.



The AWM's website provides access to an enormous collection of digitised documents, manuscripts, images and miscellanea. Of particular interest is the **Concert and Theatre Programs Collection**, which contains hand-drawn and commercially printed programs produced to complement or advertise concerts, plays, musical evenings, recitals, pantomimes and revues. These events were arranged to entertain troops, as well as to raise money, or to mark an occasion like Christmas or New Year. Most programs list the names of cast members. Some contain nominal rolls. The professionally produced programs contain advertising and editorial material. The earliest items are from 1914; the latest is dated 1931, but refers to an event during the war. The programs were produced in many different countries, including England, Australia, France and Egypt. Photographs of various concert parties are also included in this collection.

The AWM memorial and its website also hold a collection of photographs relating to concert parties and field theatres. These can be accessed either through the AWM's website (via the "Search" function) or through the individual entries in the *Australian Variety Theatre Archive*.

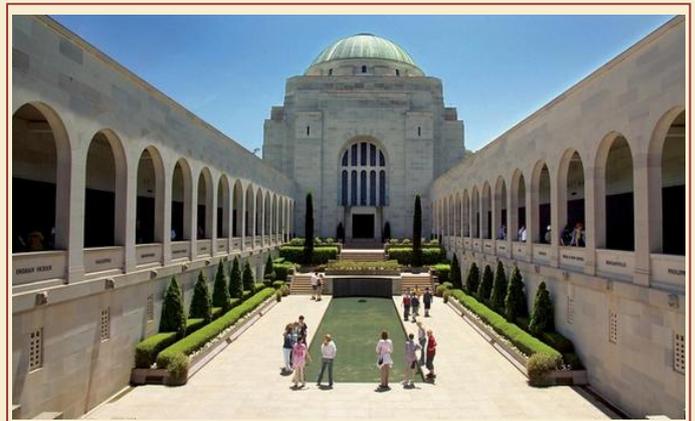
The Concert and Theatre Programs Collection comprises the following series. You can access each of the series by clicking on any of the following (**blue**) hyperlinks:

[Series 1: Concerts Associated with Ships:](#) Contains programs for concerts, plays and revues performed at sea or on land. These programs are for entertainment performed by concert parties, soldiers and members of the ship's company or band.

[Series 2: Theatre Programs and Tickets:](#) Includes theatre programs and associated material from theatres in the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa and Australia during the First World War. There are also some programs related to performances attended by troops whilst waiting to return to Australia after the war. The majority are for theatres in London and include programs for concerts, ballets and plays held in theatres.

[Series 3: Cinema Programs and Tickets:](#) This series contains tickets, programs and other souvenirs related to screenings of movies at cinemas or other venues in Australia, Europe, Egypt and the Middle-East. These relate to film screenings during the First World War and the period afterwards when troops were waiting to return to Australia.

[Series 4: Concerts Given by Military Units:](#) Materials related to concerts and other performances given by military units from both Allied and Axis countries during the First World War are held in this series. These programs range enormously in their style, production methods, paper type and content.



Series 5: Benefit Concerts: This series contains items related to benefit concerts held during the First World War. There are also some items for events related to the First World War but held afterwards. These programs and related souvenirs relate to performances staged in Australia for various causes.

Series 6: Concerts for the Troops by Organisations and Societies: This series includes material related to concerts produced by organisations and societies to entertain servicemen during the First World War. Styles range from hand-drawn to multi-page professionally produced items featuring advertisements, photographs and editorial material.

Series 7: Prisoner of War and Internment Camp Concerts: This series includes items made by prisoners of war for concerts held in German POW camps.

Series 8: Concerts in Honour of Groups and Individuals: This series features items related to concerts held to farewell and welcome home troops during the First World War. These events were held in honour of units and individuals as well as home town celebrations.



Series 9: Entertainment after the War: This series contains programs for performances and other events held after the First World War. These performances were organised for a variety of purposes including fundraising for various returned soldiers organisations and appeals. This series also includes programs for plays exhibiting a military theme.

Series 10: Personal Collections: This series contains large personal collections of concert and theatre performances from the First World War that were collated by individual servicemen. Included in this series is a collection of concert and theatre programs and related souvenirs from France, Belgium and Greece that were collected by Mr Robert Luks who served with the Royal Australian Naval Bridging Team during the First World War.



The information presented in this entry has been sourced from the Australian War Memorial Website.

<http://www.awm.gov.au/>

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NB: The URL for this PDF will change each time it is updated. If you wish to cite or link to this record please use the following:
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