

Arthur William Fadden

Prime Minister of Australia, August–October 1941

Having served a single term in the Queensland Legislative Assembly (1932–35), Arthur Fadden entered the House of Representatives as a member of the Country Party following a by-election for the seat of Darling Downs in 1936.

A backbencher during the Lyons government, Fadden entered the government of Robert Menzies as a junior Minister (Supply and Development, and later Air, and Civil Aviation). Following the return of the United Australia Party/Country Party coalition government after the October 1940 general election, albeit with the support of two independents, Fadden was promoted to Treasurer. On ascending to the leadership of the Country Party, appointment as deputy Prime Minister was soon to follow.

In August 1941 Menzies resigned as Prime Minister, and was replaced by Fadden, who served until 7 October 1941 when the Independents, who provided his government's majority, agreed instead to support the John Curtin-led Labor Party. This brought about a change of government.

Remaining as Country Party leader, Fadden again became Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer when the Menzies Liberal-Country Party government returned to power in December 1949. He held both posts until his retirement in December 1958.

Records about Arthur Fadden held by the National Archives

Although Fadden did publish a volume of his memoirs (*They call me Artie*, Jacaranda Press, Brisbane) in 1969, no collection of his personal records is known to exist.

The National Archives holdings include many records relating to Fadden's long period in Parliament, and especially his years as Treasurer. While his period as Prime Minister was brief he was Deputy Prime Minister for a number of years (1940–1941 and 1949–1958), and as a consequence also served as acting Prime Minister.

Selected records about Arthur Fadden held in Canberra

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Menzies and Fadden Ministries – folders of minutes and submissions</u>	1939–41	A2697
<u>Menzies and Fadden Ministries – folders of minutes and submissions</u>	1939–41	A2697, Roll 1
<u>Menzies and Fadden Ministries – folders of minutes and submissions</u>	1939–41	A2697, Roll 2
<u>Menzies and Fadden Ministries – folders of minutes and submissions</u>	1939–41	A2697, Roll 3
<u>Menzies and Fadden Ministries – folders of minutes and submissions</u>	1939–41	A2697, Roll 4
<u>Censorship. Complaint re control and application of censorship. Deputation to Mr Fadden headed by EJ Ward MP</u>	1940–41	SP109/3, 342/07
<u>Portrait of Sir Arthur Fadden</u>	1941–60	A463, 1965/2002
<u>New Guinea – visit to New Guinea by Messrs Harrison, Holt and Fadden</u>	1941	A518, AL836/3
<u>Advisory War Council – appreciation of Mr Fadden's Chairmanship</u>	1941	A5954, 207/8
<u>Administration. Mr Fadden appointed as Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Co-ordination</u>	1941	A5954, 1597/8
<u>Commission appointing Hattil Foll as Minister for Information, dated 29 August 1941 and signed by A Fadden</u>	1941–42	A9357, 2
<u>Budget: 1941/42 – Fadden</u>	1941	CP6/2, 3
<u>Criticism of Mr Fadden by the Minister for Labour and National Service</u>	1942	A2684, 1025
<u>Fadden, Honourable Arthur William, appointment as member of the Privy Council</u>	1942	A2926, A26
<u>Election campaign, July/August 1943. Rural policy speech by Mr Fadden, Leader of the Country Party, 27 July 1943 with political and press comment</u>	1943	A5954, 598/3
<u>Rt Hon. AW Fadden MP – Privilege motion – House of Representatives, October 1948</u>	1948	A432, 1948/1175
<u>Teleprinter services for Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Fadden</u>	1950	A461, A388/1/8
<u>Visit abroad of Treasurer Right Hon. Sir Arthur Fadden – September 1955</u>	1955–57	A462, 114/59
<u>Menzies Ministry – periods in which Sir Arthur Fadden acted as Prime Minister</u>	1955–57	A463, 1958/131

Selected records about Arthur Fadden held in Sydney

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Menzies, RG and Fadden, AW – announcement of end of the European War – Sydney 8 May 1945 (audio tape)</u>	1945	C102, 1499277

<u>ABC radio presentation by Sir A Fadden – '14th Security Loan'</u>	1951	SP369/1, F/11
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