

Robert Menzies

Guide to archives of
Australia's prime ministers



Ted Ling with an introduction by Troy Bramston

This guide is one of a series of research guides to Australia's prime ministers published by the National Archives of Australia.

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- *Bob Hawke* by Paul Dagleish, with an introduction by Troy Bramston.

While guides include material known to be relevant to their subject area, they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material. They include selected records from various institutions.

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Project managers: Penny O'Hara, Eric Meredith

Editor: Mary Webb

Designer: Tony Kelly

Indexer: Sherrey Quinn

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Additional research and manuscript review by Carolyn Connor and Hilary Rowell.

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About the authors

Troy Bramston is a senior writer and columnist with the *Australian* newspaper, and a contributor to Sky News.

Troy is an award-winning and bestselling author who has authored or edited 9 books, including *Robert Menzies: the art of politics* (2019), *Paul Keating: the big-picture leader* (2016) and *Rudd, Gillard and beyond* (2014). He co-authored *The Dismissal: in the Queen's name* (2015) and *The truth of the Palace letters* (2020) and *The Truth of the Palace letters* (2020) with Paul Kelly. He is currently writing a biography of Bob Hawke.

Troy was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 for services to the Centenary of Federation commemorations. He lives in Sydney with his wife, Nicky, and children, Madison and Angus.

Ted Ling is a Canberra-based researcher, historian and who worked at the National Archives of Australia for over 3 decades. He is the author of *Commonwealth Government records about the Australian Capital Territory* (2013) and *Commonwealth Government records about the Northern Territory* (2011).

Abbreviations

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Commission
ANU	Australian National University
ANZAM	Australia, New Zealand and Malaya
ANZUS Treaty	Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
CA	Commonwealth agency (National Archives of Australia)
CP	Commonwealth person (National Archives of Australia)
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NSW	New South Wales
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
SEATO	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
USA	United States of America

About this research guide

This guide to the archives of former Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies has been produced by the National Archives of Australia to help researchers find records in the National Archives and other collections.

It contains:

- biographical information about Robert Menzies and Pattie Menzies
- descriptions of records created by Robert Menzies, including official records, letters and diaries
- descriptions of records about Robert Menzies, including photographs, memorabilia, oral histories, films and other audiovisual materials
- descriptions of records by, or about, Pattie Menzies.

While this guide includes a wide selection of material about Robert Menzies, it is not intended to be a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material. Rather, it includes a range of selected records from the various institutions in Australia and overseas.

Organisations holding records about Robert Menzies

National Archives of Australia

The National Archives preserves and cares for a diverse archival collection documenting the relationship between the Australian Government and the Australian population – a rich resource for the study of Australian history, society and people. The collection spans over 200 years of Australian history. Its main focus is material documenting federal government activities since Federation in 1901.

The National Archives has a rich collection of records created by Australia's prime ministers, ministers, leaders of the opposition and shadow ministers. Further information about these records is available on the National Archives' website (naa.gov.au), as is a wealth of information about Australia's prime ministers and their spouses.

The National Archives holds a substantial collection of records relating to Sir Robert Menzies during his years as a member of parliament and Prime Minister. Commonwealth departmental and Cabinet records of Menzies's governments are available. The National Archives holds a small quantity of personal records created by Menzies and also holds the personal papers of some who served as ministers in the Menzies governments or as senior public servants, and a considerable number of photographs. Many of the records are digitised and available online through the National Archives website.

Other collections

A small selection of material held in other institutions, mainly the National Library of Australia, is included in the guide. Other institutions included are:

- British and Irish Legal Information Institute
- National Film and Sound Archive of Australia
- University of Melbourne Archives
- University of Melbourne Library
- Parliament of Victoria.

Further information about these and other Australian and overseas collections relating to Menzies is listed in Appendix 3.

Using this research guide

Record descriptions: National Archives of Australia

Entries in this guide describe groups of records that have been maintained together as a series. A series is made up of items, which are often individual files (sometimes volumes, sets of cards or photographs) that were received by the National Archives from the creating agency or person. In this guide, items described within particular series are usually just a selection of what is held.

National Archives records on Robert Menzies have been grouped under relevant headings, with series and item descriptions organised chronologically as far as possible. In many instances, particular series contain relevant material on several aspects of Robert Menzies's activities and responsibilities; these have been included more than once, with a full description of the series given in the first instance.

A sample description of a National Archives record appears on the following page.

**1 PERSONAL PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES
AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL, 1934–38**

CP450/7

- 2** Recorded by: 1934–38 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)
- 1934–38 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office – Attorney-General (CA 5)
- 1937 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office – Acting Treasurer (CA 11)

3 Canberra 2.52 metres

4 Robert Gordon Menzies was Commonwealth Attorney-General from October 1934 to March 1939 and acting Treasurer from February to July 1937 during the Lyons government. This series mainly comprises representations from private individuals, political colleagues, companies, trade unions and so forth on a wide range of matters. They cover matters such as appointments, legislation, trade and territories. The series also includes letters of congratulation on his appointment as a Privy Councillor and election as deputy leader of the United Australia Party, letters of introduction, invitations, papers relating to his visit to England in 1935, notes of deputations, various reports and publications. All 390 items have been listed on RecordSearch and are digitised.

5 Deputation from the Trades Hall Council regarding Egon Kisch, 1934 CP450/7, 12

6 This is a 4-page summary of the delegation to Menzies, as Attorney-General, on 9 November 1934. The members of the delegation were Mr Monk, Mr Beardsworth, Mr PJ Clarey and Mr Crofts.

Key

- 1** This is the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- 2** This is the **person or government agency that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are unique identifiers allocated by the National Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or agency, and the records they created, from the National Archives' online database, RecordSearch.
- 3** This is the **location where the series is held**, and the total quantity of records in the series, measured in shelf metres. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- 4** This is a brief **description of the series**.
- 5** This is **the title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- 6** This **describes the main contents of an item**. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.

Record descriptions: National Library of Australia

A sample description of a National Library record appears below.

1	PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78	MS 4936
2	Recorded by: 1905–78 Sir Robert Menzies	
3	151.86 metres	
4	This collection contains correspondence, speeches, press releases, photographs, and many other items from Menzies's terms as prime minister and leader of the opposition, and in other political roles.	
5	Savage Club dinner in honour of Robert Menzies, 1947	MS 4936, Box 429, Folder 24

Key

- 1** This is the **collection title** and the date range of the records that make up the collection. The **collection number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- 2** This is the **person who created the collection**. It also shows the date range during which the collection was created or recorded.
- 3** This is the **total quantity of records** in the collection, measured in shelf metres.
- 4** This is a brief **description of the collection**.
- 5** This is **the title given to the item**. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.

Accessing the records

The National Archives records described in this guide are listed in RecordSearch, the National Archives' collection database. It is accessible online (naa.gov.au) and in National Archives research centres in all capital cities. Indexes and inventories of records, providing item lists for some series, are also available in National Archives research centres.

Access to archival records is governed by the *Archives Act 1983*, which gives a right of access to most Australian Government records once they reach the open access period.

From 1 January 2021, the open access period commences at 20 years. This is a reduction from the previous 30 years following amendments to the *Archives Act 1983* in 2010 implemented over 10 years.

Records in the open period are available for public access unless they contain information that falls into certain exemption categories defined in section 33 of the Archives Act. Before the National Archives releases records for public access, they are examined to ensure they do not contain exempt information. Most records (98%) are wholly released for public access, while 1.75% are released with some exempt information deleted. A very small percentage, about 0.25%, is fully withheld. The information withheld from public access falls into 2 broad areas: sensitive personal information, and information about the security of the Commonwealth and its residents.

Most access examination is completed within a month, but it may take up to 90 business days to examine some files as consultation with other government departments is sometimes required. The National Archives will inform researchers if delays are expected.

More information on accessing records is available on the National Archives' website: naa.gov.au.

Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records in the National Archives and in other collections is important, both when requesting the records and when referring to them in written or published works. Using proper citations will help staff more readily locate records and will help other researchers find the material.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives of Australia is: National Archives of Australia, followed by a colon and a space, then the series number followed by a comma, then the item number. An example is: National Archives of Australia: CP450/7, 12.

National Archives of Australia may be abbreviated to 'NAA' provided the full name has been used in the first citation, for example: NAA: CP450/7, 12.

Correct citations for other institutions should be checked with the relevant institution.

1 Robert Menzies: a short biography

Robert Menzies continues to loom large in Australian politics. He served as Prime Minister from 1939 to 1941 and from 1949 to 1966 – longer than anybody else who has held that office. He is the only prime minister to have resigned at a time of his own choosing in the postwar era. He led the nation in war and peace. He was the principal founder of the Liberal Party and led it to 7 election victories. He is continually invoked by Liberal leaders who seek inspiration and guidance, and reassurance they are following in the Menzies tradition.

For a boy born in a small country town in Victoria, Menzies never dreamed of becoming prime minister. In his youth, he aspired to be a lawyer. He won scholarships to study at schools in Ballarat and Melbourne, and to the University of Melbourne where he studied law. As a leading barrister, he aspired to be the Chief Justice of Victoria. Having not enlisted in the First World War, Menzies saw politics as service of another kind. He became a prominent minister in both state and federal politics before ascending to the prime ministership.

Menzies's first prime ministership ended in humiliation and resignation. But his second lengthy term in office saw sustained electoral success, political dominance and a dramatic transformation in Australian society, economy and international outlook. The economy roared through the 1950s and 1960s, living standards improved and 2 million migrants made Australia their home. The Menzies government introduced significant changes to school and university education, signed the ANZUS security treaty, boosted trading partnerships and developed Canberra. But he also sent troops to a doomed war in Vietnam, attempted to ban the Communist Party, which ran counter to liberal principles, and remained a staunch defender of the White Australia policy.

When Menzies resigned the prime ministership in 1966, he was widely admired and respected although not universally loved. He was seen as rather an aloof and arrogant man with an imposing and dominating presence, a brilliant intellect, who was always well dressed and spoke in a smooth voice that projected gravitas and stature. For generations of Australians, Menzies was *the* prime minister.

Family background

Robert Gordon Menzies was born in a room at the back of the family's general store in the small Victorian wheat town of Jeparit – about 350 kilometres north-west of Melbourne – on 20 December 1894. He would be the last Australian prime minister born in the 19th century.

Robert was the fourth of 5 children born to James Menzies and Kate Menzies (nee Sampson). He was named Robert after his paternal grandfather. His middle name, Gordon, was given in tribute to British Army officer General Charles George Gordon. Young Menzies was closest to his sister and admired his 2 older brothers. The 2 people who had the strongest influence on him in his youth were his mother and her brother, his uncle, Sydney Sampson.

James Menzies was born on 9 August 1862 in Ballarat. His father, Robert, and mother, Elizabeth (nee Band), were born in Scotland. The family were rural tenant farmers. Robert migrated to Australia in 1855. He met Elizabeth in Victoria and married that same year. They owned and operated a small business that sold machinery to miners and together had 10 children of which James was the fourth. James wanted to be an artist but had to abandon plans to study

art overseas on a scholarship when his father died and the family was left in difficult financial circumstances. James later established a coach-painting business.

Menzies's relationship with his father was strained. Menzies described his father as 'very intense' and 'serious' (Dawes 1951–52). James was stern and strict, and his explosions of anger were frequent. He was also devoutly religious and was a Methodist lay preacher in Jeparit. (There was no Presbyterian church in town.) He dedicated himself to public service and his son admired him for that. He was a Dimboola Shire councillor (1898–1912), including 2 terms as president (1901–02 and 1911–12). He later served in the Victorian Legislative Assembly (1911–20).

Robert described his father as having a 'nervous tension' and was embarrassed by his often emotional public speeches (Menzies 1967:11). Sydney Sampson, Kate's brother, owned the general store in Jeparit and also published the local newspaper. He suggested the family relocate to Jeparit, where the weather was warmer, and take over the ownership and running of the store. He thought it would help improve James's health. The family moved from Ballarat to Jeparit in late 1893. In Melbourne, post-politics, James later worked as a statistical officer and tariff adviser for BHP (1926–45). He died on 1 November 1945 at home in Kew.

Kate was born on 6 November 1865 in Creswick, Victoria. Her father, John Sampson, and mother, Mary Jane Sampson (nee Organ), had migrated from England. Kate was one of 9 children born to John and Mary. When Kate was just 12 years old, her mother died. John, who was a founding member of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, later remarried. Kate attended to her children and managed the family home in addition to working in the general store in Jeparit. She never complained about living in an isolated country town, with a difficult husband, or contending with several children.

Robert had an affectionate and loving relationship with his mother, who he found to be more balanced in her temperament than his father and with an appreciation of the lighter side of life. He described her as having a beautiful face and a calming personality that often helped to soothe her husband's eruptions of anger. Kate showed no favouritism to any of her children and stressed that she loved them equally. She died on 30 June 1946, also at home in Kew.

James and Kate, who had met and courted in Ballarat, married on Christmas Day 1889. They had 5 children. Les (1890), Frank (1892) and Belle (1893) were born in Ballarat. Robert (1894) and Sydney (1905) were born in Jeparit. They were a typical middle-class family who prized Protestant values such as hard work, thrift, self-respect, independence and community service. Les climbed the ranks of the public service and was posted to Wellington, New Zealand, and New York, United States of America. Frank became a distinguished lawyer and was Crown solicitor in Victoria. Belle ran a service bureau in the Myer Emporium and worked for *The Argus* newspaper. She later became trustee secretary for Melbourne's Exhibition Building and was a prominent member of Melbourne society. Sydney, born more than a decade after Robert, enjoyed a career in business and managed a manufacturing company.

Childhood in Jeparit

Menzies's upbringing in country Victoria could not be further from the establishment youth into which many of his later contemporaries in the law and politics were born. There was no family fortune and few connections. In the 1890s, Jeparit was a small town with a dirt main street and about half-a-dozen businesses and a few score houses. The year before Menzies was born, when the family moved to Jeparit, the population was estimated to be just 55.

Menzies lived an isolated but not lonely life in Jeparit. It was often hot, windy and dusty. There were few trees in the centre of the town. Rain was collected in galvanised-iron tanks. There was no electricity. Along Roy Street were a bank, bakery, butcher, a timber yard, 2 general stores and the Hopetown House Hotel. By the end of the 1890s, the population of Jeparit had grown to around 200.

The Menzies family owned and operated the general store located on the corner of Roy and Charles streets. The family lived in the back of the store and later in a standalone house behind the store. James focused on the sale and servicing of farm machinery while Kate worked behind the counter and managed the family home. The store, like others, experienced some difficulty during challenging economic times. Farmers were often extended credit and merchants in Melbourne charged high interest rates on loans extended to the store.

Menzies recalled his childhood as a happy time even though he witnessed droughts and floods and had been born during the 1890s depression. He saw emus and kangaroos, swam and fished in Lake Hindmarsh, and ran through the town with other kids. His parents encouraged his learning. Young Menzies borrowed books from the Mechanics' Institute. The family read aloud to each other in the evenings. Menzies folded and delivered the local newspaper.

From a young age, Menzies dreamed of becoming a lawyer. The genesis of that idea came from a travelling phrenologist who visited his primary school, ran his hand over the young Menzies's skull, and proclaimed with certainty that he would become 'a barrister and public speaker' (Seth 1960:5; Menzies 1967:316). When he quizzed his mother about the prediction, she informed him that to be a barrister he needed a university education. The Menzies family could not afford to send him to university, so his only pathway was via scholarships. 'My course was charted and my mind clear, provided that I could win enough free passages, that is, scholarships and exhibitions, to bring me to port,' Menzies recalled (Menzies 1967:316).

Education

Menzies began his formal schooling at the local state primary school in Jeparit on 4 June 1898. The school was originally located inside the Mechanics' Institute on Roy Street, close to the Menzies's general store. It later moved to the outskirts of town, just a 5-minute walk from his home. In these years, there were about 30–40 other students enrolled. There was a strict learning routine and the cane or strap was used to discipline students.

In 1905, Menzies moved to Ballarat to continue his schooling at the Humffray Street State School. Menzies lived with his paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Menzies, along with his sister, Belle, who had also moved schools. Les and Frank had already moved to Ballarat years earlier. They lived in her small wooden cottage on the western side of town, opposite an insane asylum. Robert won a scholarship to enrol in Grenville College, a private school in Ballarat, and commenced in 1908.

Menzies recalled applying himself to his studies in these years, encouraged by his dour and devout grandmother. He studied for 6 hours, from dinner until after midnight, every night other than Sundays. 'Now, Robert,' his grandmother would say after dinner, 'get to your book!' (Dawes 1951–52). Robert and Belle explored the city to its fullest and frequently visited their maternal grandfather, John Sampson, the former union activist. At Grenville, Robert played cricket and Australian Rules football, and was known for his mimicry and oratory. After a few years of study, Robert sat the Senior Public Examination and won a scholarship to the prestigious Wesley College in Melbourne.

In 1910, Menzies enrolled at Wesley. He was 15 years old. By this time, James and Kate had also relocated to Melbourne, having made a 10-fold profit on a 640-acre (259-hectare) farm in Jeparit. Menzies was known as a confident, often overly proud, student. He was charming and good looking but often rubbed people the wrong way with his arrogance and ambition. His academic results were mixed, and he did not win a scholarship to university at the end of his first or second year. Percy Joske, who knew Menzies then, said he did not 'shine' in his first years there (Joske 1978:9). At the end of his third year, Menzies won an exhibition (scholarship) to study at university.

Menzies enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Melbourne in 1913 while living at home with his parents in South Yarra. He did well, studying English, history, psychology, Latin and economics, and a range of law subjects in his third and fourth years, and passed with first class honours. He went on to complete a Master of Laws, which he completed in 1918, and collected a range of prizes. He was elected president of the Students' Representative Council, president of the Law Students' Society and president of the Students' Christian Union. He helped to establish a historical society. He also became editor of the *Melbourne University Magazine* which was published 3 times a year. In 1919, Menzies was employed as a sessional academic in the Law School and then spent a year as an articled clerk with a Melbourne solicitor.

First World War, 1914–18

The advent of war plunged the Menzies family into emotional turmoil. The older brothers, Les and Frank, had enlisted and were sent abroad. Belle had eloped with a soldier, George Green, and was banished from the family. Menzies revealed in an interview not made public until April 2019 (Bramston 2019:36) that his father was so stricken with grief that he nearly died (McNicoll 1972b). After a family conference, it was decided that Robert, then a university student, would not enlist, but remain in Melbourne to look after the family. He was deeply affected by this decision. Menzies joined the Melbourne University Rifles – a citizens' militia – as part of his compulsory military-training duty. He served from 1915 to 1919 and attained the rank of lieutenant.

About 40% of young men in Australia enlisted to serve in the war. Menzies was branded a coward for not enlisting. This, he said, had 'a very searing effect on my mind'. So he decided to go into politics, viewing it as 'public service of some kind', to erase the perceived stain on his name. 'I just had to do something to justify my existence,' he recalled. The upshot was that the First World War was the decisive event that propelled Menzies into politics. It was not a reason he decided to stand for parliament but the 'dominating reason', he said (McNicoll 1972b).

Not enlisting, and the attacks that came with it, continued to affect Menzies deeply. One of the reasons he went to London during the Second World War – and stayed for months while his colleagues were growing restless at home – was to show people that he was not without courage. He was still chasing his demons. Menzies said he had to show the world that he was 'not yellow' (McNicoll 1972b).

Legal career

After being admitted to the Victorian Bar in May 1918, Menzies took rooms at Selborne Chambers in Melbourne and was accepted to read with eminent barrister Owen Dixon who later became Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. Menzies's focus was constitutional and industrial law, taking briefs for cases and providing opinions, while also appearing as Dixon's junior in cases before the High Court and the Supreme Court of Victoria.

In 1920, Menzies argued for the Amalgamated Society of Engineers before the High Court in a case concerning whether the Commonwealth's industrial powers could be applied to workers engaged by state-owned enterprises. Menzies, age 25, appeared for the engineers against an all-star line-up of counsel representing various states. Menzies won the case, arguing that federal powers could be applied to the states, and cemented his name as a lawyer.

In these years, while building his legal career, Menzies expanded his network. He joined the Savage Club, the West Brighton Club and the KK Club. He was also a Freemason. He was, however, denied membership of the Melbourne Club, a bastion of the establishment. It is believed that his non-enlistment was the reason. Menzies declined a renewed offer to join the Melbourne Club in 1939, when he became prime minister.

Marriage and children

While at Melbourne University, Menzies was briefly engaged to be married to fellow student Phyllis Lewis. Menzies never spoke about it. The Lewis family recalls that Menzies nervously proposed marriage during a university party that was accepted, essentially because Lewis did not want to hurt his feelings. Her reservations grew in subsequent months. Lewis had 2 brothers, and one was killed in France during the war. Family legend has it that the brother appeared to her in a dream and told her not to marry Menzies. Meanwhile, a boy Lewis admired years earlier, and who had served in the war, returned home. Their relationship was rekindled and cemented. It is assumed that Menzies's lack of wartime service contributed to the engagement being broken off.

Menzies first met Pattie Maie Leckie as a young girl, and was reacquainted with her at a party in 1919. They began courting and within a few months were engaged. Their wedding took place on 27 September 1920 at the Kew Presbyterian Church in Melbourne. After the wedding, they lived in a flat on Wellington Street, Kew. Pattie enjoyed following politics and supporting her husband's career. But there were tensions in the marriage from time to time and daughter Heather Henderson thought her mother was not as supportive of her father as she could have been. Pattie could be prickly, assertive and made snap judgements about people. Robert tended to avoid confrontation. Robert also financially supported his sister, Belle, which irked Pattie (H. Henderson interview with author, 13 October 2017).

Pattie was born in Alexandra, Victoria, on 2 March 1899 to John William Leckie and May Beatrix Leckie (nee Johnston). May died when Pattie was 11 years old. Leckie later married journalist Hattie Martha Knight. Leckie worked in the family's farming business and general store. He was a local councillor and state member of parliament before serving in the House of Representatives (1917–19) and in the Senate (1934–47), overlapping with his son-in-law's time in federal parliament.

Robert and Pattie had 3 children: Kenneth Leckie Menzies (born 14 January 1922), Robert Ian Menzies (12 October 1923) and Margery Heather Henderson (3 August 1928). (Another child, before Heather, was stillborn.) Menzies worked long hours in the law and politics, and travelled frequently. He made time to spend with the family, though, especially on Sundays. Menzies was closest to his daughter and they talked regularly about politics. Ken and Ian had a more difficult relationship with their father. 'I never really felt he made any real attempt to get alongside,' Ken recalled (McNicoll 1981). '[I] don't think he ever really understood the problems involved in being the son of a prominent and great man.'

Victorian politics, 1928–34

Menzies stood as a Nationalist Party candidate for the seat of East Yarra in the Victorian Legislative Council on 2 June 1928. But he lost the election – his non-enlistment was suspected to be a factor – and he was not sure if politics was for him. But when the man who had defeated him – George Swinburne – suddenly dropped dead in the parliament months later, Menzies decided to contest the by-election on 6 October 1928. He won the seat comfortably. He was 33 years old.

Now in parliament, Menzies's star rose fast. The Nationalists, led by William McPherson, had formed a government with the support of the Country Progressives. Menzies became a minister without portfolio. But in July 1929, he resigned from Cabinet when the government agreed to continue to provide support for loss-making rural enterprises. He was marked out as an intelligent and capable young member of parliament but one who struggled to make friends, had strong opinions and was, as ever, perceived as arrogant. Menzies continued his law practice and had become a King's Counsel earlier that year. In November 1929, Menzies resigned from the upper house to contest the lower house seat of Nunawading, which he won, although Labor was elected to govern.

When the United Australia Party was formed at the federal level on 7 May 1931, Menzies was one of the first to join the new political organisation. He and others had encouraged Joseph Lyons to quit the Labor Party and join the United Australia Party with the leadership in mind. Lyons became leader and the new party won an election victory on 19 December 1931. Lyons was sworn in as Prime Minister on 6 January 1932. At the state level, Stanley Argyle led the United Australia Party to victory on 14 May 1932. Menzies returned to Cabinet as Attorney-General and Minister for Railways, as well as deputy Premier.

Menzies approached his ministerial portfolios with energy and enthusiasm. He sought to reorganise the state railways by reducing debt and reviewing subsidies paid to farmers to transport wheat. He also sought to license and charge road freight vehicles. None of this went down well with Country Party members of parliament, or the Premier, but Menzies was given scope to argue the case and try to negotiate the reforms through parliament. He succeeded in passing legislation that helped reduce operating costs and burgeoning debt. Menzies regarded this as his 'greatest achievement in state politics' (McNicoll 1972a).

Federal politics, 1934–66

As Menzies gained notoriety in Victoria, and nationally, he fielded several offers to contest a seat in the federal parliament. When John Latham announced he would retire from the Melbourne seat of Kooyong, where Menzies lived, an opportunity arose. Joseph Lyons offered to make him attorney-general, and, possibly, to succeed him as prime minister. Menzies initially declined, as he was unsure about the impact on his family and giving up his law practice. But, after encouragement from Pattie, he changed his mind and accepted the offer. On 23 July 1934, Menzies declared his candidacy for Kooyong. He won the seat comfortably at the election on 15 September 1934, at which the Lyons government was returned.

Menzies became Attorney-General and Minister for Industry. The choice of deputy leader of the United Australia Party was deferred by Lyons for more than a year, but Menzies was eventually chosen on 4 December 1935. Menzies was seen as confident, clever and articulate, and many judged him to be a future prime minister. Menzies grew impatient with Lyons who was not always focused and delayed decision-making. Yet he was a popular prime minister.

Meanwhile, Menzies's reputation see-sawed through the mid-to-late 1930s and he often had a prickly relationship with fellow members of parliament. He mishandled the entry to Australia of communist writer and peace activist Egon Kisch, who Menzies tried to have deported but lost in the High Court. He had a draconian response to the wharf dispute at Port Kembla, where labourers refused to load pig iron exported to Japan for fear it could be used against Australia in wartime. Eventually a settlement was reached and Menzies gained the sobriquet 'Pig Iron Bob'.

The Lyons government was re-elected on 23 October 1937. Speculation about the Prime Minister's future increased due to his deteriorating health. There were occasional leaks from Cabinet and unhappiness in the party room. Menzies was not the universal choice to be Lyons's successor. Dick Casey and Billy Hughes were often mentioned, so too New South Wales Premier Bertram Stevens. Lyons even offered the prime ministership to Stanley Bruce, then in London, but changed his mind. In any event, Lyons was no longer of the view that Menzies should be the next prime minister. He was encouraged to this view by a speech Menzies gave on 24 October 1938 in Sydney where he lamented the lack of 'inspiring leadership' evident abroad, even in 'dictator countries'. It was seen as a veiled critique of Lyons (Green 1969:111).

Menzies resigned from the Lyons Cabinet on 14 March 1939, less than 6 months later, when implementation of a new social security system was delayed. The *National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938* had caused the Cabinet considerable grief: it was delayed, redesigned, then shelved. Menzies was accused by some colleagues of petulance, but he claimed he had promised voters in his electorate that the United Australia Party would implement the scheme and failure to do so justified his resignation. Others praised him for taking a principled stand. And some saw it as the actions of a man too eager to rise to the prime ministership.

On 7 April 1939 – Good Friday – Lyons died of a heart attack. The United Australia Party was now without a leader and a deputy leader. The wily Earle Page, the Country Party leader, saw an opportunity. He was sworn in as Prime Minister by Lord Gowrie until the United Australia Party could determine its leader. Page would not serve in Cabinet if Menzies was chosen. He tried to persuade Bruce to return to lead the government. Casey and Hughes were also mentioned as candidates along with Percy Spender and Geoffrey Street, and Menzies. On 18 April 1939, the United Australia Party met to decide its leader. Bruce was willing to nominate in absentia provided he could form an all-party government. This was rejected. Four men stood: Casey, Hughes, Menzies and Thomas White. After a series of ballots, Menzies defeated Hughes by 23 votes to 19. He would now become prime minister.

Page refused to serve in Cabinet and withdrew the Country Party from the Coalition. On 20 April 1939, Page delivered a bitter attack on Menzies in parliament. He accused the United Australia Party leader of being a coward for not enlisting in the First World War and undermining Lyons with his speech about leadership a year earlier, and said his resignation from Cabinet had contributed to Lyons's death. Page said Menzies was not up to the job of being prime minister. It was a speech of pure political poison. But it did not stop Menzies becoming prime minister and he responded in his own defence. Many Country Party and United Australia Party politicians were appalled by Page's attack on Menzies's character.

Prime Minister, 1939–41

On 26 April 1939, Robert Menzies was sworn in as Australia's 12th Prime Minister by Governor-General Lord Gowrie at Government House in Canberra. The Cabinet had been announced 2 days earlier and met briefly at Parliament House after the swearing in. In a radio broadcast,

Menzies spoke about his modest upbringing and emphasised that he was not 'born to the purple' ('Ministry's policy' 1939:9). Menzies took office in challenging circumstances. The United Australia Party was divided and there were substantial doubts within the party about his capacity to lead the nation effectively, as war abroad loomed. The United Australia Party did not have the majority of seats in parliament until a new coalition agreement was struck with the Country Party, led by Archie Cameron, on 14 March 1940.

Menzies addressed the nation via radio on 3 September 1939 advising that Australia was at war with Germany. 'It is my melancholy duty to inform you, officially, that in consequence of a persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her and that, as a result, Australia is also at war,' he said ('Australia's part' 1939:11). The address attracted criticism for implying that Australia was automatically at war because Britain was at war. Menzies, like many Australian and British politicians, had supported a policy of appeasing Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany in an effort to avoid war. Memories of the First World War were still fresh. Yet Menzies continued to examine the possibility of appeasing Germany even after the invasion of Poland on 1 September. He wrote to Australia's High Commissioner in London, Stanley Bruce, arguing as much on 11 September.

The government focused on the war. Compulsory military training was reintroduced. The Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was raised. Military forces were sent to fight overseas, with the 6th Division of the AIF departing for the Middle East in January 1940 and the 7th and 9th divisions later sent to the Middle East and Africa. Local war production was stepped up and new regulatory powers were introduced. Australian diplomats were dispatched to foreign capitals. Menzies remonstrated with Winston Churchill in London about being consulted on military strategy and the importance of defending Singapore. And he won a private concession from Franklin Roosevelt in Washington that the United States would come to Australia's defence if it were imperilled.

There were criticisms, though, about progress made in mobilising industry and increasing losses of troops abroad. On 21 September 1940, Australians voted at an election. The prosecution of the war was the central issue. Menzies was respected as intelligent, hardworking and capable, but attracted little affection or admiration from voters. His relationship with the media was strained. The government lost its majority and 2 Victorian independent members of parliament – Arthur Coles and Alexander Wilson – now held the balance of power. Its political position was now more tenuous.

Menzies wanted John Curtin's Labor Party to support the establishment of an all-party government of national unity, as in Britain. Curtin refused, arguing that Labor could not support a government that had different political and policy principles. He instead agreed to join an Advisory War Council that included the 6 members of the War Cabinet along with 4 opposition Labor members of parliament.

From January to May 1941, Menzies was abroad in London, Dublin, Washington and Ottawa, pressing the case for Australia's interests to be given a higher priority. He had mixed success. Meanwhile, at home, trouble was brewing. Menzies had been away for too long. He was criticised by members of parliament for being too slow in making vital decisions and communicating to voters what the government was doing. On his return to Australia, he knew what lay ahead. 'I come back with one sick feeling – that I must play politics,' he told the media who met him at Rose Bay on 24 May 1941 ("Diabolical" to play politics in war' 1941:1). His main problem was that he could not unite his party or his Cabinet, or galvanise the nation, at a time of national peril. Another appeal to Curtin to join an all-party national government failed. It was clear he had lost support in Cabinet and so he resigned as Prime Minister, which took effect on 29 August 1941.

Wilderness years, 1941–49

To many colleagues, journalists and voters it looked like a humiliating end to a dazzling political career. Menzies thought deeply about what had gone wrong. 'I do not doubt that my knowledge of people, and how to get along with them and persuade them, lagged behind,' he acknowledged (Menzies 1967:57). 'I had yet to acquire the common touch, to learn that human beings are delightfully illogical but mostly honest, and to realise that all-black and all-white are not the only hues in the spectrum.' Eventually – after considering resignation or accepting a diplomatic appointment – he decided to stay in parliament and rehabilitate his political career.

Arthur Fadden had been elected acting Country Party leader on 15 October 1940 and this was confirmed on 12 March 1941. He was unanimously chosen by the joint party room to become Prime Minister on 28 August 1941. His government was short lived. When Arthur Coles and Alexander Wilson rejected the budget, the government fell, and they supported John Curtin becoming Prime Minister on 7 October 1941. Menzies failed to win support to become opposition leader and resigned as United Australia Party leader on 9 October 1941. Fadden became opposition leader. Menzies was succeeded by the ageing Billy Hughes as United Australia Party leader. He quickly became a critic of the new leader and began agitating for new policies for the dying party. But Hughes, ever wily, defeated an attempt to spill the leadership in March 1943.

At 9:15 pm on 22 May 1942, radio listeners tuned to the Macquarie Radio Network in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane heard Menzies deliver what became known as 'the forgotten people' broadcast. 'The time has come to say something of the forgotten class, the middle class who, properly regarded, represent the backbone of this country,' Menzies said. They were neither the 'rich and powerful' nor 'the mass of unskilled people' organised by unions and 'safeguarded by popular law'. Instead, Menzies gave voice to the vast 'unorganised and unselfconscious' group of Australians who represented 'in the political and economic sense the middle class' and who were taken for granted by the major parties. They were 'salary-earners, shopkeepers, skilled artisans, professional men and women, farmers and so on'. These men and women were looking for economic security and opportunity. They were motivated by moral values such as aspiration, hard work and self-reliance. They were 'lifters', not 'leaners'. They prized family, home and community. They were, Menzies said, 'the backbone of the nation' (Menzies 1942).

Menzies's series of broadcasts took place almost every week from January 1942 to April 1944. There were 105 in total, and 'the forgotten people' broadcast was the 20th in the series. The seminal broadcast was published as a pamphlet in June 1942 (Menzies 1942). A collection of several of the broadcasts, though not in order of their delivery, was published as a book in May 1943 (Menzies 1943). These broadcasts were a critical step in Menzies's political revival, and in the formation of the Liberal Party and its later stability and direction in government. However, the broadcast did not have any significant immediate impact in reviving the fortunes of the non-Labor side of politics.

When the Curtin government was re-elected in a landslide on 21 August 1943, Menzies knew that the United Australia Party was finished as a political force but still decided to stand for leadership of the party. In the lead-up to the party room meeting, Hughes had refused to signal whether he would stay or go. At the meeting, on 22 September, Hughes declined to nominate. Those who stood against Menzies were Allan MacDonald, Thomas White and Percy Spender. In the first ballot, Spender was eliminated. Menzies won 14 out of 26 votes in the second ballot, the majority, and became leader of the opposition. Hughes, just 3 days shy of his 81st birthday, was elected unopposed deputy leader.

Menzies advocated 'a liberal revival' in Australian politics. He did not think the United Australia Party could survive and began organising for a new party. Others also turned their minds towards establishing a new party to counter Labor. Menzies invited representatives from other parties to Canberra to coordinate their efforts towards defeating the Curtin government's 'Fourteen Powers' referendum on 19 August 1944. Then, on 7 September 1944, Menzies wrote to a range of centre-right organisations and individuals to invite them to a conference in Canberra to discuss forming a new political party. 'The time seems opportune for an effort to secure unity of action and organisation among those political groups which stand for a liberal, progressive policy and are opposed to socialism with its bureaucratic administration and restriction of personal freedom,' he wrote (Menzies 1944).

The conference was held on 13–16 October 1944 at the Masonic Hall in Canberra. In attendance were 77 delegates and observers from 18 centre-right organisations. Menzies proposed, and it was agreed, that a new party be formed with a federal structure and a mass membership on a national basis. It would not be captive to outside groups with vested interests. It would be called the Liberal Party of Australia. A second conference was held in Albury, on the border of New South Wales and Victoria, on 14–16 December 1944. A constitution and platform were agreed. Menzies was the most important figure in the formation of the party and in the development of its structure, philosophy and policies. On 21 February 1945, Menzies informed the House of Representatives that the Liberal Party had been formed and he was its leader.

The next few years were not easy for the party, especially given the popularity of Curtin and the re-election of the Labor government led by Ben Chifley on 28 September 1946. Although membership soon numbered over 100,000, branches were established and new candidates recruited, there were some who doubted the party could win with Menzies as leader. In September 1947, Menzies resigned as leader and asked for anybody to come forward to replace him. Nobody did and Menzies's leadership was endorsed. He soon seized on the issue that would catapult him back to power: Labor's plans for bank nationalisation. He worked more effectively with others and was less brusque and overbearing. At the election on 10 December 1949, Menzies led the Liberal Party to a landslide victory.

Prime Minister, 1949–66

Governor-General Sir William McKell commissioned Menzies to form a government on 19 December 1949. Arthur Fadden, as Country Party leader and Treasurer, was the second most senior minister. Deputy Liberal leader Eric Harrison, a close Menzies ally, was third in seniority ranking. The Cabinet met later that afternoon and again the next day. Menzies maintained Allen Brown, who was close to his predecessor prime minister, as secretary of the Prime Minister's Department.

The next day, Menzies made a radio broadcast to the nation. 'The new government is the government of the nation,' he said. 'We take up our task with no foolish sense of triumph and certainly with no wrong-headed idea that we are the servants only of those who voted for us. We are and must be the servants of all of you' ('Govt. "to restore value of money"' 1949:6). Over the next decade and a half, Menzies would be a champion of free enterprise and a believer in Keynesian economics rather than laissez-faire capitalism to support full employment and the welfare state. He was a staunch anti-communist, mindful of the dangers of totalitarianism, and of the continuing threat to liberty at home and abroad. He was a cautious reformer who advocated greater liberalism within a largely conservative economic and social policy framework. The Federation-era policies of industry protection, centralised industrial relations and White Australia remained largely in place.

Menzies understood that a prime minister who had authority and respect in his party and Cabinet, and in the electorate, could lead a government successfully. He routinely worked a 70-hour week. He rarely began his day at his Parliament House office before 10 am but often worked until 11 pm or later. He often returned home to the Lodge for dinner. By 1966, his personal staff numbered around a dozen. They recalled a man unlike the public stereotype: respectful, appreciative, good-humoured, easy to get along with and often shy. He had a close relationship with departmental heads and looked to them for policy advice.

He ran an efficient Cabinet process, was always across submissions, and dominated in meetings while also allowing ministers to have their say. But he could be brutal with ministers who were not across their brief. In 1956, he introduced a 2-tier ministry which established an inner and outer Cabinet. His closest relationships were with Liberal deputy leaders Harrison and Harold Holt, and Country Party leaders Fadden and John McEwen. Menzies despised Billy McMahon, whom he accused of being a serial leaker from Cabinet. In 1959, Menzies caught McMahon red-handed and extracted a signed confession. The Prime Minister kept it in his safe and threatened to reveal it if he was caught leaking again (Menzies 1959, NAA: M2576, 2).

Economic and social policy

The Menzies government focused on national development rather than a continuation of postwar reconstruction. Holding office during the long postwar boom, some critics have suggested administration during the period is best described as ‘managed prosperity’. While long-run economic growth with low inflation and unemployment characterised the period, there were short booms and sharp corrections which led to some describing policymaking as ‘stop-go’ economic management. There was a recession in 1952–53 and a credit squeeze in 1960–61. Nevertheless, the 1950s and 1960s were a period of strong economic growth, increasing wages and rising living standards. There was a huge influx of new migrants and foreign investment, and the workforce increased by more than one million.

Manufacturing accounted for 30% of gross domestic product (GDP) and employed 30% of the workforce. Agriculture and mining made up almost 80% of Australia’s exports. Certain industries benefited from generous taxation concessions. To facilitate national development, the government funded construction of roads, railway lines and ports. Home ownership, helped by new lines of bank credit and a home savings grant scheme, increased from 53% in the late 1940s to 71% by the mid-1960s. The currency’s exchange rate was pegged to the British pound, alongside capital and exchange controls. Businesses were protected behind a tariff wall. (The government did, however, sweep away the structure of quantitative controls on imports in 1960.) The creation of the Reserve Bank of Australia, in January 1960, gave the government a more effective monetary policy tool with which to manage the economy in the future.

The Menzies government was responsible for a number of social policy innovations. The age pension was increased from around £2 to £6 per week for single people, and from £4 to £11 per week for married couples. The property and income means tests were relaxed, and those in retirement who qualified for the age pension increased from around 37% to 53%. Menzies introduced child endowment in 1941 for each child after the first under the age of 16. Coverage of the first child was introduced in 1950, and rates were later increased, and eligibility extended. The national health scheme provided limited voluntary insurance against sickness that was supplemented with contributions from government. More than 70% of Australians had medical or hospital insurance, with a government subsidy, by the end of the Menzies period. The cost of pensioner visits to their local general practitioner was met by the government.

Schools

About 30% of Australian school students attended non-government schools in the 1950s and 1960s. This relieved pressure on government schools. With about 80% of those students not in government schools attending Catholic schools, there were growing calls from the church community for government assistance. In the 1950s, the Menzies government gradually began to increase support for these schools and the parents of fee-paying children by making school fees and donations tax deductible. In the 1960s, the government provided scholarships for fees and books to encourage students to continue studying in the final years of school.

The catalyst for the major change in school funding arose out of a dispute over who would pay for a new toilet block at a Catholic school in Goulburn, New South Wales. The state government required the school to provide the new facilities, but the school said it did not have the funds to do so. The Catholic Church complained that it was educating children without any financial assistance from the government; what was more, if those students were forced to attend state-run schools, the schools would not be able to cope. So, on 16 July 1962, the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn closed its schools in Goulburn. Parents turned up at state-run schools asking to enrol their children; of course, they could not all be accepted. After a week, the Catholic schools reopened. The point had been made.

Labor leader Arthur Calwell and his deputy, Gough Whitlam, both supported state aid to non-government schools, but the party's federal executive and conference opposed this policy. Menzies saw an opportunity. In his policy speech ahead of the 30 November 1963 election, he announced new federal assistance to all secondary schools. An annual grant of £5 million would be provided to state governments for the building and equipment costs of technical schools and a further £5 million grant was made available for building and equipment facilities for the teaching of science in secondary schools. Ten thousand scholarships would also be provided for students to attend the final 2 years of school and 2,500 scholarships for students receiving a technical education.

Universities

In August 1949, the Chifley government had approved an annual scholarship scheme for 3,000 university and college students. It was to provide fees and a living allowance for talented students from poorer families, and was due to begin in January 1951. In March 1950, the Menzies government announced that it would continue with this scheme. Assistance to students continued to grow during the Menzies government and, by 1966, around three-quarters of students at universities and colleges had their fees paid for via scholarships, bursaries or cadetships, and many also received a living allowance.

In December 1956, the Menzies government commissioned Sir Keith Murray, the Chair of the British University Grants Committee, to head an inquiry into Australia's university system. The *Report of the Committee on Australian Universities* (Murray Report), presented in September 1957, expressed alarm at the lack of appropriate facilities, the substandard quality of teaching and the explosion in student numbers. The case for increased Commonwealth assistance was evident. An Australian University Grants Committee would advise governments on the type of assistance that was needed and where. While the committee was being established, Commonwealth funding was to be allocated for capital expenditure, academic salaries and emergency grants. Some of this would be matched by the states. Between 1958 and 1960, a triennial funding period, the Commonwealth more than tripled its spending on universities, increasing it to £22 million.

In 1964–65, Sir Leslie Martin, who was the Chair of the Australian Universities Commission, presented a further report to government proposing to overhaul the higher education sector. It recommended the establishment of a 2-tier 'binary system' of higher education, with universities and technical colleges being supported to meet national education objectives. This report provided a framework for higher education that lasted until the 1980s. The impact of the Menzies government's higher education policies was significant. In 1955–57, the budget allocated \$12 million in grants to universities. By 1964–66, this figure had increased to \$117 million. The number of universities doubled from 6 in 1949 to 12 by 1965.

Development of Canberra

In the 1950s and 1960s, Canberra was an underdeveloped city. When Menzies moved into the Prime Minister's Office at Parliament House, he could see sheep grazing on the grass outside. The capital city developed considerably during the Menzies era. The population more than tripled from around 25,000 in the early 1950s to over 90,000 by the mid-1960s. The National Capital Development Commission, tasked with designing, developing and constructing a modern capital city, was established. More than 1,000 public servants and their families working in Sydney and Melbourne moved to Canberra. Ministers oversaw the planning and construction of new suburbs, roads and bridges. They funded public transport links, schools and hospitals. Scrivener Dam was completed in September 1963, allowing the waters of the Molonglo River to form Lake Burley Griffin, which was formally opened by Menzies in October 1964. And the National Library of Australia was established on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, and opened in August 1968.

Communism

The threat of communism permeated the Menzies years, and was often exploited for political purposes. But there was a threat abroad during the Cold War, and a growing danger at home. In the early 1950s, the government was concerned that a third world war might break out. A Soviet spy ring was operating in Australia and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has acknowledged it was penetrated by Soviet spies. On 27 April 1950, Menzies introduced the Communist Party Dissolution Bill into parliament to outlaw the Communist Party of Australia. The legislation would wind up the Communist Party and its associations, and dispose of their property. A union official, public servant or private individual could be 'declared' as communist and then prohibited from either holding office in a union or a position in the public service. Private property could be seized. The onus of proof would be reversed, so that those accused of being communists would have to prove they were not.

Most voters were initially supportive but Menzies faced opposition from some within his own party for stifling freedom of speech and association. He bungled the debate in parliament, wrongly naming several union leaders as communists and threatening to 'declare' several Labor members of parliament. Some Labor members were opposed to the legislation but the party's federal executive directed them to pass it through the Senate. Some opposition amendments were adopted by the government, but passage of the Bill stalled when the House and the Senate, which was controlled by Labor, became deadlocked in June 1950. Menzies reintroduced the Bill 3 months later, whereupon Labor pushed for further amendments, but these were not supported by the Coalition. Labor's federal executive again ordered its members of parliament to support its passage through the Senate. It did not want to fight an election while being accused of being soft on communism, and the Bill eventually won Senate approval on 19 October 1950.

The legislation was immediately challenged in the High Court by the Communist Party and several unions. Labor's deputy leader, HV 'Doc' Evatt, acted as counsel for the communist-controlled Waterside Workers' Federation. On 9 March 1951, the High Court ruled 6–1 that the legislation was invalid as it breached the Constitution. Menzies forced a double-dissolution election, based on new banking legislation that was opposed by Labor, and won a majority in both houses of parliament on 28 April 1951. Menzies proposed a referendum to amend the Constitution to uphold the *Communist Party Dissolution Act 1950* and provide the government with a general power to deal with communism. But Menzies struggled to make a clear case for the constitutional change against Evatt's 'No' campaign, and on 22 September the referendum was defeated.

The Petrov defection

On 13 April 1954, Menzies announced to the House of Representatives that Vladimir Petrov, a high-ranking diplomat from the Soviet Union's embassy in Canberra, had defected and sought political asylum in Australia. This was a political bombshell. In exchange for embassy files, which contained information about Soviet espionage activities in Australia, Petrov was paid £5,000. The documents implicated Labor leader 'Doc' Evatt: 2 of his staff were named and a third had authored one of the documents. Menzies announced that a royal commission into Soviet espionage would be established.

Meanwhile, Petrov's wife, Evdokia, did not know her husband had defected. On 19 April, she was escorted to Sydney Airport by Soviet Union officials to return to Moscow. A hostile crowd of anti-communist protesters tried to stop her departure. Menzies, after hearing these reports, organised for her plane to be boarded in Darwin and asked if she wanted asylum in Australia. She did and it was granted. She was reunited with her husband.

These events took place just 6 weeks before an election, on 29 May 1954, as opinion polls showed Labor heading for victory. Menzies was accused of smearing Evatt by making him appear to be a communist sympathiser even though he had initially supported the royal commission. Menzies did not raise the Petrov matter during the campaign. He didn't need to. It was everywhere in the media, while Arthur Fadden, and other ministers, claimed that Labor was weak on communism. The Petrov defection underscored what Menzies had been saying about the dangers of communism. It was not the only reason for the Coalition's narrow victory over Labor. Menzies had outsmarted Evatt with a clever campaign built on modest promises and achievements.

The Royal Commission on Espionage commenced hearings several weeks before the election. Evatt argued the Soviet defection and royal commission were an elaborate conspiracy between ASIO and the Menzies government to destroy him. He appeared before the commission to defend several of his staff and, after several shrill and excitable outbursts, had his leave to appear withdrawn. On 14 September 1955, the report of the royal commission was tabled in parliament. The commission found that documents handed over by the Petrovs were genuine, but no prosecutions were recommended, and they did not support Evatt's claims of a conspiracy. Evatt lost credibility when he informed parliament that he had written to the Soviet Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Molotov, and was reassured that the Petrov documents were 'fabricated' and that Petrov was not a spy. The House of Representatives was in uproar as government members of parliament laughed and those of the Labor Party were embarrassed by such naivety.

Immigration

The Menzies government supported the postwar immigration program introduced by the Curtin–Chifley governments. New migrants were welcomed from selected European countries, but they were deemed to be ‘white’ and had to be ‘assimilated’ into Australian life. Over 2 million migrants came to Australia between 1950 and 1970, and more than half were from Europe: Greeks, Italians, Maltese, Germans and Dutch. While Asian students came to Australia under the Colombo Plan (described below), Menzies did not want permanent migrants from Asia. However, the government did allow some relaxation in the policy in the late 1950s, such as abolishing the dictation test and allowing immigrants from Asia to become permanent residents after they had lived in the country for 15 years. Minister for Immigration Hubert Opperman urged Menzies to move towards a non-discriminatory immigration policy. In September 1964, he presented Cabinet with a proposal to allow ‘distinguished and highly qualified’ non-Europeans permanent entry into Australia but was rebuffed. Menzies supported the White Australia policy, like Curtin and Chifley. The Holt government began dismantling the White Australia policy in 1966.

First Nations peoples

Menzies showed little interest in Australia’s First Nations peoples. Still, in September 1959, the provision of social services was extended to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In May 1962, First Nations peoples were granted the right to vote in federal elections. On 14 and 28 August 1963, bark petitions from the Yolngu people of Yirrkala – calling for recognition of their rights to traditional lands – were tabled in the House of Representatives. These were important initiatives. Yet Menzies and his Cabinet did not support Billy Snedden’s proposal to hold a referendum that would amend section 51(xxvi) of the Constitution, which stipulated that the parliament had the power ‘to make laws’ with respect to ‘the people of any race, other than the Aboriginal people in any state, for whom it is necessary to make special laws’. Snedden recommended removing the words ‘other than the Aboriginal race in any state’. The Cabinet did support repealing section 127, which would enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be counted in the census, and legislation was passed to hold this referendum. The Holt government decided to put both questions to a referendum on 27 May 1967.

Menzies abroad

Although Menzies continued to refer to Australia as ‘completely British’, and to Australians as ‘British people’, and saw Australia first and foremost as a Commonwealth country, his government initiated diplomatic, economic and cultural links in the Asia–Pacific region. No prime minister had travelled to more foreign capitals or established personal relations with so many United States presidents and British prime ministers, as well as many other heads of government, before Menzies. He was generally admired and respected as he pursued a foreign policy based on realism rather than idealism. For example, Menzies struck up a friendly relationship with John F Kennedy and the President promised to ‘definitely’ visit Australia (Beale 1963, NAA: M2576, 20). He would have been the first sitting president to do so, but was assassinated in November 1963.

However, Menzies’s mission to convince Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser to reverse his nationalisation of the Suez Canal in the second half of 1956 was a failure. It was not the only misjudgement. He allowed Britain to test atomic weapons in Western Australia and South Australia between 1952 and 1957 without proper oversight or adequate safeguards. And he was on the wrong side of history when he refused to join other Commonwealth nations in encouraging, or pressuring, South Africa to change its policy on apartheid.

Although the British royal family was widely admired by Australians in the 1950s and 1960s, Menzies was increasingly out of step with attitudes towards the monarchy. While there had been several Australian-born governors-general, Menzies thought the vice-regal post was best suited to a British man known personally to the Queen (Menzies 1961, NAA: M2576, 14). In March 1961, he suggested to John McEwen a range of British dukes, lords and earls who could take up the post. In 1965, he reluctantly appointed Dick Casey, then in the House of Lords, after other candidates were unavailable. In June 1963, the government announced that Australia's new currency would be called the 'royal'. The public backlash was quick and overwhelming, and the plan was jettisoned ('Decimal currency' 1963, NAA: M2576, 20). Menzies also read the audience wrongly when he fawned over Queen Elizabeth II at a reception at Parliament House on 18 February 1963, when he declared: 'I did but see her passing by/And yet I love her till I die'. The Queen later acknowledged to her private secretary, William Heseltine (interview with author, 22 June 2017), that she was embarrassed. The Queen conferred a personal knighthood on Menzies – the Order of the Thistle – in March 1963 and appointed him Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle in October 1965.

The Menzies government dispatched Australian combat troops abroad in 4 key conflicts: the Korean War (1950–53), the Malayan Emergency (1950–60), the Indonesian Confrontation (1963–66) and the Vietnam War (1962–73). In April 1951, compulsory military training for all 18 year olds began under the *National Service Act 1951*. The National Service Scheme initially ran from 1951 to 1960, by which time more than 500,000 young men had been registered and over 225,000 had received military training. It was reintroduced on a selective basis in November 1964. The decision to send combat troops to Vietnam – opposed by Labor at the time – was a significant mistake that saw 500 Australians killed.

Asia–Pacific relations

The Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America (ANZUS Treaty) between Australia, New Zealand and the United States was signed on 1 September 1951 in San Francisco. This is the cornerstone of Australia's security. It reflected the Menzies government's recognition that Britain's influence and interest in the Asia–Pacific was declining while also affirming the Prime Minister's belief that Australia needed 'great and powerful friends' (Menzies 1962). The pact made a commitment to the region's 'collective defence for the preservation of peace and security' and pledged to come to the aid of each other should they be imperilled.

The Australia–Japan Agreement on Commerce was negotiated by Minister for Trade John McEwen and signed on 6 July 1957 near Tokyo. This agreement cemented Australia's most significant long-term postwar trading relationship. McEwen wanted to guarantee continued access for Australia's wheat and wool exports, primarily, in return for accepting a larger share of manufacturing imports from Japan. The change in Australia's trading relationships was considerable.

The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia — formulated by Minister for External Affairs Percy Spender and launched on 1 July 1951 — was another initiative of the Menzies government. The purpose was to have the more prosperous Commonwealth members (such as Great Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand) contribute to the growth of developing countries (such as India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Ceylon [now Sri Lanka]). The concept expanded to include more countries that would receive assistance, and the United States and Japan also agreed to contribute. A key aspect was to provide funding for Asian students to be educated at Australian universities. By the end of the Menzies government, more than 5,000 students had been awarded grants to attend university in Australia.

Politics and elections

It is difficult, in hindsight, to imagine Labor leaders ‘Doc’ Evatt (1951–60) or Arthur Calwell (1960–67) ever becoming prime minister, even though they both came close at the 1954 and 1961 elections, respectively, winning a majority of votes but not a majority of seats. Menzies led the Liberal Party to 7 election victories from 1949 to 1963. He was a shrewd campaigner who was skilled at the timing and framing of elections, and prosecuting his case for election and re-election. Menzies enjoyed political campaigning. He relished the adversarial side of politics, provided that it was in pursuit of greater objectives. He was a talented radio broadcaster who adapted his style successfully for television. He was also a master of the town hall meeting, where interjections were frequently dispatched with cutting wit. And in parliament, he was unrivalled in his time as a speaker and debater. Although he had a prickly relationship with journalists, he was adept at answering their questions at press conferences.

Menzies also had a fair dose of political luck. He benefited from the Petrov defection ahead of the election of 1954, which aroused fears of communism, and the death of John F Kennedy before the 1963 election, which underscored national security concerns. The Labor split in 1954–55 and the creation of the Democratic Labor Party, which directed preferences to the Coalition, also helped considerably. And he exploited Labor’s ‘faceless men’ scandal concerning the proposed United States naval communications station and its opposition to state aid for education in 1963. Menzies went to early elections in 1951, 1955 and 1963, when Labor was vulnerable, to maximise chances of victory. He was lucky, but he also made his own luck. Moreover, it would be a mistake to think that Menzies was always politically dominant even though he learnt from mistakes and always consolidated his position.

Retirement and death, 1966–78

Menzies resigned the prime ministership on 26 January 1966. He had announced his retirement to the Cabinet a week earlier, on 19 January. The Cabinet notebook of the meeting reveals that Harold Holt, his successor, was shocked and utterly clueless about when it would officially take place and what the process would be to choose a new Liberal leader (Bunting 1966, NAA: A11099, 1/77). Menzies informed the joint party room on 20 January. He had been thinking about retiring before the 1961 or 1963 elections. He did, however, confide his resignation plans to his family over Christmas 1965 and to his young press secretary, Tony Eggleton, and also to Labor leader Arthur Calwell, which is a testament to their friendship. He was 71 years old. Menzies gave a farewell press conference broadcast live on television and radio on 20 January. He resigned the seat of Kooyong on 17 February.

In retirement, Menzies continued to read books about, mostly, politics, history, poetry and fiction. He still wrote verse as a hobby. He loved watching cricket – he established the Prime Minister’s XI in October 1951 – and barracking for his beloved Carlton Football Club. He travelled abroad to meet old political colleagues, and gave a series of lectures at the University of Virginia in late 1966 and early 1967. He occasionally gave interviews for television, radio and newspapers, and wrote the odd article. He wrote 2 volumes of memoirs (Menzies 1967, 1970). He served as Chancellor of the University of Melbourne from 1967 to 1972. He was installed as the 117th Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle on 20 July 1966, and made annual visits to his new constituency until 1972. He occasionally saw his former Cabinet and party colleagues but became a critic of the party in his later years, and did not vote Liberal in 1972 (and likely in 1969 and 1974). He voted Democratic Labor Party. He suffered strokes in September 1968 and November 1971, which curtailed his activities even though his mind remained sharp.

Sir Robert Menzies died at 4:15 pm on 15 May 1978. He was at home reading in his study. He was 83 years old. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, said Menzies had left ‘an enduring mark on Australian history’ (Fraser 1978). A state funeral was held at the Scots’ Church in Melbourne on 19 May attended by scores of politicians and dignitaries from Australia and around the world. After the funeral, watched by around 100,000 people, Menzies’s body was driven to Springvale crematorium, where a private family service took place.

Dame Pattie Menzies moved to a smaller house in Melbourne and often attended official government and Liberal Party events. In the final years of her life, she moved to Canberra to be closer to her daughter, Heather. She died at 7:45 am on 30 August 1995 in Canberra.

This biographical essay, by Troy Bramston, is adapted from his 2019 biography *Robert Menzies: the art of politics* (Scribe, Melbourne).

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2 Early life, 1894–1934

Starting out, 1894–1918

Robert Gordon Menzies was born on 20 December 1894 in Jeparit, Victoria. He was the fourth of 5 children, born to James and Kate Menzies, nee Sampson. He was educated at Jeparit State School, Humffray Street State School and Grenville College, Ballarat, and Wesley College, Melbourne. At Wesley, he won a state scholarship of £40 which enabled him to study at the University of Melbourne. He entered the Melbourne Law School in 1913 and graduated in 1916 with first class honours. He went on to complete a Master of Laws in 1918. Some of the notebooks he used at this time, as well as his student registration records, have survived and are held by the University of Melbourne.

Robert Menzies did not enlist to serve overseas during the First World War – which would be used against him by some of his political opponents in later years – primarily because his parents felt that having 2 sons already serving in the armed forces was sufficient to meet family obligations. Menzies did, however, serve in the Melbourne University Rifles between 1915 and 1919.

Early career in law and Victorian politics, 1918–34

Menzies was admitted as a barrister in 1918 and subsequently established his own legal practice. His specialist leaning was towards constitutional law, which he had studied under an admired university teacher, Harrison Moore. In these early years, Menzies was involved in several legal cases that resulted in appeals to the High Court of Australia. One of these in particular helped establish him as a highly successful lawyer. In 1920, as advocate for the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, he won a case in the High Court which proved a landmark in the positive reinterpretation of Commonwealth powers (Martin 1996:40–1). The engineers' case not only cemented his place as a talented lawyer, it also benefited him personally. Indeed, he would later admit that 'I got married on the strength of it' (Menzies 1968:31).

Robert Menzies married Pattie Maie Leckie at the Presbyterian Church at Kew, Melbourne, on 27 September 1920. They had 4 children: Kenneth Leckie (born 1922) Robert Ian (1923) and Margery Heather (1928). The fourth child was stillborn.

In 1925, Menzies joined the Melbourne Savage Club, an institution that had been established in 1894. It was modelled on the London club of the same name; its members were largely writers and artists. Menzies would later serve as president of the club from 1947 to 1962.

Menzies's career continued to flourish and in 1929 he was appointed as a King's Counsel, the youngest in Victoria. He was soon the subject of a feature in the society magazine *Table Talk* which had a series on prominent personalities. In April 1929, the magazine included an article on Menzies. The writer, after noting that Menzies stood 6 feet and one inch (1.85 metres) tall in his socks, said that he 'showed that he had an intelligence that could doff its legal clothes, saunter for a while in the philosophic grove, or wag it with mine in the field of the seven arts' (Bradish 1929:13).

Menzies then decided to enter politics through the Victorian State Parliament. He stood as a candidate for the Legislative Council seat of East Yarra in June 1928 but was defeated by George Swinburne. Just a few months later, Swinburne died and Menzies successfully contested the seat at a by-election held on 6 October 1928. He served as a minister without portfolio from 1928 but resigned in July 1929 following a disagreement with the government's financial policies.

Menzies was persuaded to contest the Legislative Assembly seat of Nunawading at a general election held on 30 November 1929. He won the seat and held it for the next 5 years. In 1932, he was appointed both Attorney-General and Minister for Railways.

During his ministerial career, Menzies had to deal with the debts owed by the Victorian state railways, and to seek ways of reducing these debts. He also had to deal with a miners' strike at the Wonthaggi coal mine, which began in March 1934 and lasted for 5 months. Menzies was also acting Premier of Victoria from February to May 1934 due to the ill health of the Premier, Stanley Argyle. Menzies consequently attended the Premiers' Conference held in Melbourne in February 1934.

Entry into federal politics, 1934

It was about this time that Menzies was being wooed by colleagues in Canberra suggesting he quit Victorian politics and enter the federal arena. It was widely believed that Attorney-General John Latham would be resigning his federal seat of Kooyong to take up a position as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. This is indeed what happened, thus freeing the way for Menzies to announce his departure from Victorian politics in order to pursue the seat of Kooyong at the next election.

In announcing his decision to leave the Victorian Parliament, Menzies said that it was his 'sincere regret at leaving a Parliament in which I have enjoyed much happy political experience ... I will always value what I have learned to appreciate in the Victorian Parliament – namely, that vigorous political differences and conflict are not inconsistent with mutual respect and warm personal friendship' (Parliament of Victoria 1934).

Although keen to enter federal politics, Menzies was not quite as keen to move to Canberra. Prime Minister Joseph Lyons likely convinced him with the suggestion that he would be offered the leadership position after he resigned. Lyons actually admitted this in a letter he wrote to his wife, Enid, soon after the 1934 election in which he said:

I have had quite a talk with [EH] Willis about my position and I told him that as we induced Menzies to come in in the expectation that he would succeed me I was quite prepared to stay in or go out according to their wish. Before I finished he interrupted to say 'I know what you're going to say, and I want to tell you that our people are unanimously of the opinion that Menzies is not ready for the job and that you have got to remain to lead us at the next election'. He was very definite about it (Lyons 1934).

The election was held on 15 September 1934 and Menzies, representing the United Australia Party, won the seat of Kooyong easily. He would hold the seat for the next 32 years.

National Archives of Australia

FULL COURT CASE RECORDS (VICTORIA), AND FROM 1973, COURT AND CASE RECORDS, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–80

A10074

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Principal Registry, Melbourne (CA 8286)
1973–80 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Melbourne (CA 8196)
Canberra 79.51 metres

This series documented cases heard before the Full Court of the High Court of Australia that were registered at the Victorian registry from 1903 until the end of 1980. The Victorian registry was the principal registry between 1903 and 1973.

Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association of Australasia versus Adelaide Chemical and Fertilizer Company Limited and others, 1919–20

A10074, 1919/44

Amalgamated Society of Engineers versus Adelaide Steamship Company Limited and others, 1920

A10074, 1920/16

Merchant Services Guild of Australia versus Commonwealth Steamship Owners Association and others, 1920

A10074, 1920/29

Merchant Services Guild of Australia versus Commonwealth Steamship Owners Association and others, 1920

A10074, 1920/30

Australian Commonwealth Shipping Board versus Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia, 1925

A10074, 1925/28

MILDENHALL COLLECTION OF GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES, 1921–35

A3560

Recorded by: 1921–35 William James Mildenhall (CP 491)
1921–24 Department of Works and Railways, Federal Capital Territory (CA 14)
1925–30 Federal Capital Commission (CA 226)
1930–31 Federal Capital Territory Branch, Department of Home Affairs (CA 756)
1932–35 Australian Capital Territory Administration Branch, Department of the Interior (CA 757)
Canberra 66.39 metres

This series consists of over 7,000 glass plate negatives, mainly of Canberra and the surrounding area. Most of them were taken by William James Mildenhall who was employed in the Federal Capital Territory from 1921 in various capacities.

Photograph of delegates at the Premiers' Conference, 1934

A3560, 7326

Robert Menzies is standing in the back row.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

Recorded by: 1905–78 Sir Robert Menzies

151.86 metres

This collection contains correspondence, speeches, press releases, photographs and many other items from Menzies's terms as prime minister and leader of the opposition, and in other political roles.

Savage Club dinner in honour of Robert Menzies, 1947 MS 4936, Box 429, Folder 24

University of Melbourne Archives

The University of Melbourne Archives holds material relating to Robert Menzies from his time as a law student, president of the Students' Representative Council, tutor and later as Chancellor from 1967 to 1972. The catalogue entries for the following items can be located online at archives.unimelb.edu.au.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE. PROFESSIONAL BOARD

Minutes, volume 9

1997.0059

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE. STUDENT ADMINISTRATION (FORMERLY STUDENT RECORDS)

Student card for Robert Menzies

1988.0051

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE. OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

[Robert Menzies] Application for lectureship in law, 1920

1999.0014

University of Melbourne Library

ROBERT MENZIES NOTEBOOK COLLECTION, 1913–30

The contents of this incomplete collection of 20 notebooks, mainly dated between 1913 and 1930, are varied and include handwritten notes from when Menzies was an undergraduate student and law tutor at the university, legal notes from his time as a barrister at Selborne Chambers and material relating to his early political career. The notebooks can be viewed online at digitised-collections.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/55385.

Parliament of Victoria

Menzies gave numerous speeches to the Victorian Parliament. See Parliament of Victoria, (1930–34) *Debates*, volumes 182–95.

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3 The move to Canberra, 1934–41

The 7-year period beginning in 1934 would be a tumultuous one for Robert Menzies. It would be a time of speculation over Prime Minister Joseph Lyons successor, Menzies first visit to Great Britain and the beginning of his love affair with all things British, and 2 ministerial resignations.

Following his success in the election of 15 September 1934, Menzies was now a member of Joseph Lyons's government and was appointed as Attorney-General and Minister for Industry. On 19 September 1934, outgoing Attorney-General John Latham sent Menzies a 7-page letter outlining the responsibilities of a Commonwealth attorney-general, which included such subjects as the organisation of the department, the *Bankruptcy Act 1932*, patent law, copyright law, wireless, the High Court building in Melbourne, and territories (Latham 1934).

The Egon Kisch case, 1934

One of Menzies's first duties as Attorney-General was a case involving a German national, Egon Kisch – a noted communist and pacifist. He was invited to speak at the Movement against War and Fascism conference to be held in Melbourne in November 1934. When he arrived in Melbourne, he was denied entry. Public debate raged with suggestions of denial of free speech. Menzies argued that all governments had the right to determine who should and should not be allowed into their country. While his ship travelled on to Sydney, Kisch's supporters successfully lodged an appeal to the High Court. Kisch was allowed to remain in Australia, and left the country in March 1935.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
Canberra 2,088.84 metres

This is the department's main file series and involves all matters of a legal nature, including advice to government, and court cases. It contains material top-numbered from earlier series, dating back to 1901.

Egon Erwin Kisch and Gerald Griffin, delegates to the anti-war conference, action under the Immigration Act 1901–33 on charges of being a prohibited person, 1934

A432, 1934/1736 part 1

There are 5 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–

A446

Recorded by:	1953–74	Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)
	1974–75	Immigration Group, Department of Labour and Immigration (CA 1775)
	1975–87	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 1955)
	1987–93	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, Central Office (CA 5988)
	1993–96	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 7662)
	1996–2001	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 8243)
	2001–06	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Central Office (CA 8872)
	Canberra	2,154.74 metres

This series comprises individual case files and policy files dealing with matters within the areas of interest to the department. The subject matter includes applications for assisted passage, passports and naturalisation, deportation orders, and related policy material.

Egon Erwin Kisch part 1, 1935–38

A446, 1957/21371

Egon Erwin Kisch part 2, 1934–68

A446, 1957/21372

PERSONAL PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL, 1934–38

CP450/7

Recorded by:	1934–38	The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)
	1934–38	Attorney-General's Department, Central Office – Attorney-General (CA 5)
	1937	Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office – Acting Treasurer (CA 11)
	Canberra	2.52 metres

Menzies was Commonwealth Attorney-General from October 1934 to March 1939 and acting Treasurer from February to July 1937 in the Lyons government. This series mainly comprises representations from private individuals, political colleagues, companies and trade unions on a wide range of matters. They cover matters such as appointments, legislation, trade and territories. The series also includes letters of congratulation on his appointment as a Privy Councillor and election as deputy leader of the United Australia Party, letters of introduction, invitations, papers relating to his visit to England in 1935, notes of deputations, various reports and publications. All 390 items have been listed on RecordSearch and are digitised.

Deputation from the Trades Hall Council regarding Egon Kisch, 1934

CP450/7, 12

This is a 4-page summary of the delegation to Menzies, as Attorney-General, on 9 November 1934. The members of the delegation were Mr Monk, Mr Beardsworth, Mr PJ Clarey and Mr Crofts.

CAUSE BOOK CASE RECORDS (NSW), ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–73 **A10072**

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Sydney [I] [NSW]
(CA 1314)

Canberra 30.95 metres

This series documents court cases known as Causes that were heard by a single Justice of the High Court of Australia. Causes are lawsuits in which one party (or parties) sues another and they concern matters that fall under the original jurisdiction of the High Court. Causes are usually initiated by a writ (a written court order).

The King versus Ernest Albert Jon Webb Carter
[ex parte Egon Erwin Kisch], 1934–35

A10072, 1934/58

The King versus Richard William Wilson
[ex parte Egon Erwin Kisch], 1935

A10072, 1935/1

First visit to Great Britain, 1935

In 1935, Menzies was a member of a delegation that travelled to Great Britain. He was accompanied by his wife, Pattie. There were multiple reasons for the visit: trade negotiations, the celebration of the silver jubilee of the reign of King George V, attendance at the conference of the Empire Parliamentary Association and, for Menzies in particular, to represent the government with a legal appeal involving the Privy Council brought by an Australian company, Paper Sacks Pty Ltd.

Menzies kept a diary of his first visit to Britain. Upon arrival in Dover on 21 March 1935, he wrote that 'our journey to Mecca' had ended. Later that same day, he wrote that at '10.30 I sneak out and look at Trafalgar Square and one of the Wren churches by starlight, and so to bed' (Menzies 1935a:70–1). The celebrations for the King's Silver Jubilee took place in May 1935, while the conference of the Empire Parliamentary Association took place in June. The Privy Council appeal was held in May 1935 with Menzies representing the Commonwealth. The council handed down its decision on 26 July and it was in the Commonwealth's favour.

With official duties completed, Menzies returned home, arriving back in Melbourne on 8 September 1935. Having doubtless enjoyed his first experience in Great Britain, Menzies was clearly delighted to return. His diary stated that 'a few hours away is the Rip – and Port Phillip – and HOME' (Menzies 1935b:402).

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50 A461

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 18)
1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
Canberra 161.92 metres

This is the main correspondence series of the agency and covers a wide range of subjects. Some material in the series dates from as early as 1901.

King's silver jubilee, 1935 – state celebrations A461, B396/1/3

Empire Parliamentary Association – visit of Australian delegation to England, 1934–35 A461, J4/1/9

PERSONAL PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL, 1934–38 CP450/7

Recorded by: 1934–38 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)
1934–38 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office – Attorney-General (CA 5)
1937 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office – Acting Treasurer (CA 11)

See series description on page 31.

Empire Parliamentary Association – address on redistribution of populations, 1934–35 CP450/7, 334

Subscriptions, including the Empire Parliamentary Association, 1934–36 CP450/7, 268

FULL COURT CASE RECORDS (VICTORIA), AND FROM 1973, COURT AND CASE RECORDS, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–80 A10074

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Principal Registry, Melbourne (CA 8286)
1973–80 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Melbourne (CA 8196)

See series description on page 27.

Paper Sacks Proprietary Limited and Norman Lethbridge Cowper – transcript book, 1933 A10074, 1933/29 transcript book

RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES, SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, 1970–71 C102

Recorded by: 1970–71 Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office – Radio Archives (CA 251)
Canberra 3.88 metres
Sydney 37.33 metres

The tapes in this series are master and working copies of gramophone discs in the ABC's sound library. The discs are spoken-word recordings and cover a wide variety of subjects. Items in this series date from 1933 to 1971.

Message from Australia to King George V on his silver jubilee, 1935 C102, 1502899

Silver jubilee thanksgiving service for King George V, 1935 C102, 1938870

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78 MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Diaries, A–E, February–September 1935 MS 4936, Box 397

British and Irish Legal Information Institute

[THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECISIONS, 1809–2020]

This website makes available all decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. All items have been listed and digitised. Case law decisions can be located on the institute's database search screen by case citation or keyword in title search at www.bailii.org/form/search_cases.html.

**Paper Sacks Proprietary Limited versus
Norman Lethbridge Cowper [Australia], 26 July 1935** 1935 UKPC 53

Return to Great Britain, 1936 and 1938

Menzies made 2 more visits to Great Britain in rapid succession, one in 1936 and the other in 1938. The 1936 visit involved trade negotiations and, as before, appeals to the Privy Council. As the Commonwealth's Attorney-General, Menzies was obliged to represent the Commonwealth at both appeals. Both visits enhanced Menzies's reputation and confirmed his affection for British culture, but evoked aversion to the ruthlessness of English businessmen.

Unlike the previous visit, Pattie Menzies did not accompany her husband on the 1936 visit, preferring to remain at home and care for the couple's children. Also unlike the 1935 visit, Menzies did not keep a diary.

There were 2 cases that had been referred to the Privy Council – one involved Frederick Alexander James and the other Arthur Payne. Both cases were heard in May 1936.

While Menzies was away, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons wrote to him, first to discuss the fee that Menzies might receive for his work involving the Privy Council, but more importantly the Prime Minister's position. Lyons wrote that:

for some time I have felt that the time had come for you to step into my shoes, both because you should be given the opportunity to use your talents for Australia's benefit and because I feel that I have done a pretty good job, first for Tasmania and then for the C'wealth, and am entitled to a rest (Lyons 1936).

Menzies returned to Australia in late July 1936. Despite Lyons's positive intentions, Menzies would not become prime minister for another 3 years. Indeed, before then he would resign as Attorney-General.

On 2 February 1937, Menzies was appointed a member of the Privy Council, no doubt arising from his recent successful appearances before the council. He would not, however, be sworn in until his next visit to Great Britain.

In 1938, Menzies made his third visit to Great Britain, being a member of a ministerial trade delegation. He was accompanied by his wife on this trip. A highlight of the visit was Menzies's investiture as a member of the Privy Council by King George VI on 23 June 1938. Menzies later wrote to the King asking for his autograph.

While in Europe, he paid an official visit to Nazi Germany. He also was in France for the dedication of a memorial at Villers-Bretonneux to deceased soldiers from the First World War. He was roundly criticised by Thomas White, Minister for Trade and Customs. White, himself a veteran of the First World War, censured Menzies for his failure to enlist in the armed forces. The Menzies returned home in September 1938.

National Archives of Australia

CAUSE BOOK CASE RECORDS (NSW), ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–73 A10072

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Sydney [I] [NSW]
(CA 1314)

See series description on page 32.

Frederick Alexander James versus the Commonwealth and others, 1928–29

A10072, 1928/54

COPIES OF PRIVY COUNCIL PETITION DOCUMENTS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL FROM THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA, 1929–73

A12942

Recorded by: 1929–73 High Court of Australia, Principal Registry, Melbourne [Victoria]
(CA 8286)

Canberra 6.12 metres

This series documents petitions for special leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the United Kingdom from decisions of the High Court of Australia.

In the Privy Council – in the matter of the Income Tax Assessment Acts and in the matter of an appeal thereunder by Arthur Ernest Tyndall Payne, 1931–35

A12942, 26 part 1

There are 3 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Correspondence, 1937–38 (contains correspondence relating to Menzies's appointment to the Privy Council) MS 4936, Box 426, Folder 12

Correspondence, 1938 (contains correspondence regarding Berlin and Germany) MS 4936, Box 579, Folder 579

British and Irish Legal Information Institute

[THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECISIONS, 1809–2020]

See series description at page 34.

Arthur Ernest Tindall Payne (Appeal No. 49 of 1935) versus the Deputy Federal Commissioner of Taxation [Australia], 23 June 1936 1936 UKPC 45

Frederick Alexander James (Appeal No. 3 of 1936) versus Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales and others [Australia], 17 July 1936 1936 UKPC 52

Pig Iron Bob, 1938–39

In 1937, Japan had invaded Nanking, China. The Australian Council of Trade Unions called for a boycott of Japanese goods and an embargo on the export of iron to Japan in response to Japan's aggression. Trade unions and many workers argued that the pig iron would be used in bombs and munitions in the invasion of China, and possibly in some future war with Australia.

In November 1938, waterside workers at Port Kembla, New South Wales, refused to load pig iron onto the vessel *Dalfram* which was bound for Japan. As the dispute dragged on, Menzies threatened the workers with the *Transport Workers Act 1928*. The Act required all waterfront workers to hold federal licences, or 'dog collars' as they were derisively known, to work. The Act allowed the Commonwealth government, by regulation, to effectively control who worked on the docks.

On 21 January 1939, after 10 weeks and 2 days on strike, the waterside workers at Port Kembla decided to load the pig iron 'under protest' (Mallory 1999).

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50 A461

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 33.

Export to Japan of materials suitable for war purposes – policy, 1937–38

A461, Q351/1/4 part 1

Export to Japan of materials suitable for war purposes – policy, 1939

A461, Q351/1/4 part 2

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Pig iron deputation (regarding the refusal by Port Kembla waterside workers to load pig iron for Japan), 1938–39

A432, 1938/1301

Pig iron to Japan, 1938

A432, 1943/1124

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42

A981

Recorded by: 1927–42 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

Canberra 151.32 metres

This series covers a wide range of topics involving the department. Some files deal with postwar reparations, and diplomatic issues.

China-Japan – developments in Australia – pig iron exports, 1938–39

A981, CHIN 118

National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938

In July 1938, the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act came into effect. The Act provided for insurance for employees, and the wives, children, widows and orphans of employees.

While the legislation had been enacted, the government was slow to put it into effect due to concerns over the cost, coupled with the need for greater defence expenditure.

In March 1939, Prime Minister Joseph Lyons announced that while initial estimates had put the cost at about £2 million per year, revised estimates had put the cost at £3 million per year. The government decided to abandon it and replace it with an undefined national family health insurance scheme.

In protest at the government's actions, Menzies resigned as Attorney-General on 14 March 1939 ('Mr. Menzies resignation' 1939:1). Prime Minister Lyons wrote to Menzies expressing his regret but commending him for his principles.

National Archives of Australia

PERSONAL PAPERS OF MR HC GREEN, 1912–38

CP35/1

Recorded by: 1912–38 Harold Charles Green OBE (CP 277)

Canberra 1.44 metres

This series comprises a collection of correspondence, reports, statistics, draft Acts and printed matter dealing generally with statistical and insurance matters. The papers include a good deal of material on the organisation of the censuses, including handbooks for officials.

Copies and drafts of Bills for the National Health and Pensions Insurance Act, 1938

CP35/1, Bundle 7/1

ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901–

A1559

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)
Canberra 44.05 metres

This series consists of a master set of signed Acts of Parliament. These are the legal instruments that bring the statute law into effect. The Acts are signed by the Clerk of the House and the governor-general or monarch.

An Act to impose liability upon employees to make contributions in respect of insurance against certain contingencies affecting employees, and the wives, children, widows and orphans of employees [National Health and Pensions Insurance (Employees' Contributions) Act 1938], 1938

A1559, 1938/27

BILL FILES (AMENDED PRINTERS' PROOFS), 1901–2006

A2863

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970–2006 Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)
Canberra 476.22 metres

This series comprises manuscript drafts, and proof and final copies (with manuscript amendments) of Bills as at their first and subsequent readings, and related correspondence.

National Health and Pensions Insurance (Employees' Contributions) Act 1938

A2863, 1938/26

National Health and Pensions Insurance (Employees' Contributions) Act 1938

A2863, 1938/27

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Correspondence, 1939 (contains documents relating to Menzies' resignation)

MS 4936, Box 579, Folder 6

Prime Minister, 1939–41

Menzies's absence from the ministry was short lived, as Lyons died on 7 April 1939. The leader of the Country Party, Earle Page, acted as caretaker Prime Minister for the next 18 days. On 18 April, Menzies was elected leader of the United Australia Party to replace Lyons. He suffered an immediate ferocious attack in parliament from Page, who had favoured the recall to parliament of former Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce. Page accused Menzies of disloyalty to Lyons and the government and suggested he had been a coward for choosing not to serve overseas during the First World War, although he did serve in the Melbourne Volunteer Rifles. Menzies said his first loyalty was always to the people of his electorate and maintained that he had family reasons for not serving overseas. Refusing to work with Menzies, Page took the Country Party out of the coalition with the United Australia Party (Australian House of Representatives 1939).

Menzies was sworn in as Prime Minister on 26 April and served in the role for just over 2 years. He and his wife moved into the Prime Ministers' Lodge in Canberra in May 1939 and remained there until August 1941. Menzies used to walk from the Lodge to his office at Parliament House. Robert Warren, a gardener at the Lodge, later recounted that the Prime Minister developed a taste for apples grown in the Lodge's garden and would eat them on the way to work ('Was gardener to six prime ministers' 1954:4).

Outbreak of the Second World War, 1939

Menzies's greatest test would occur just 5 months later. In a radio broadcast on 3 September 1939, Menzies told Australians that following Great Britain's declaration of war against Germany, Australia was also at war with Germany:

Fellow Australians, it is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that, in consequence of the persistence of Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her, and that, as a result, Australia is also at war. No harder task can fall to the lot of a democratic leader than to make such an announcement. Great Britain and France, with the cooperation of the British Dominions, have struggled to avoid this tragedy. They have, as I firmly believe, been patient; they have kept the door of negotiation open; they have given no cause for aggression. But in the result their efforts have failed and we are, therefore, as a great family of nations, involved in a struggle which we must at all costs win, and which we believe in our hearts we will win.

Menzies formed a War Cabinet on 15 September and oversaw the introduction of a range of legislative measures to put the country on a war footing.

As a portent of future events, the Communist Party was outlawed in 1940. The ban was lifted in 1942.

On 28 October 1940, the Advisory War Council was established comprising members from the government and the opposition, including future prime minister John Curtin. Its principal function was to advise the government with respect to matters relating to Australia's defence and the prosecution of the war.

National Archives of Australia

WAR CABINET AGENDA FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1939–46 **A2671**

Recorded by: 1939–46 War Cabinet Secretariat (CA 1468)
Canberra 16.38 metres

These files contain agendum papers, minutes, related correspondence and subsequent action. The agenda were put forward by the defence departments and support departments. They cover issues such as the deployment of Australian troops, the movement of the Japanese in the Pacific, expenditure, censorship, equipment for the troops, administration of the Services and prosecution of the war.

MENZIES AND FADDEN MINISTRIES. FOLDERS OF MINUTES AND SUBMISSIONS (NOT COMPLETE), 1939–41 **A2697**

Recorded by: 1939–41 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 2.52 metres

This series consists of agenda papers and draft and prepared minutes of Cabinet meetings. They cover matters handled by the non-defence departments.

OATHS, CORRESPONDENCE AND GAZETTE NOTICES RELATING TO APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTRIES, 1901– **A5447**

Recorded by: 1901– Federal Executive Council (CA 2)
Canberra 0.54 metres

This series documents actions taken in connection with the appointment of prime ministers, ministers and executive councillors. These include drafting *Gazette* notices and administration of oaths of office.

20th Commonwealth ministry: first Menzies ministry – 26 April 1939 to 14 March 1940, 1939–40 **A5447, 36**

This file includes the Governor-General's notification that Menzies had accepted the position of Prime Minister, the sworn and signed oaths of office of Menzies and his ministers, gazette notices and correspondence. It also includes the establishment of departments and the War Cabinet.

ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901– **A1559**

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

An Act relating to the supply of munitions and the survey, registration and development of the resources of Australia and for other purposes [Supply and Development Act 1939], 1939 **A1559, 1939/6**

An Act relating to the registration of aliens [Aliens Registration Act 1939], 1939 **A1559, 1939/12**

An Act to provide for the taking of censuses for the purpose of national registration, for the establishment of a national register, and for other purposes [National Registration Act 1939], 1939

A1559, 1939/11

BILL FILES (AMENDED PRINTERS' PROOFS), 1901–2006

A2863

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970–2006 Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

National Registration Act, 1938–39

A2863, 1939/11

Supply and Development Bill (No. 3) 1939 (No. 534) Act No. 71 of 1939, 1939

A2863, 1939/71

THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71

A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)
Canberra 219.54 metres

This series contains records collected by Frederick Shedden during his career with the Department of Defence. It also contains material collated after his retirement when researching and writing a book (unpublished at the time of his death in 1971) on the history of Australian defence policy from 1901 to 1945.

Cables between Menzies and Neville Chamberlain regarding the declaration of war, 4–5 September 1939, 1939

A5954, 581/1

Advisory War Council minutes (original set) volume 1. Meetings 29 Oct 1940 to 14 Feb 1941. Minute No. 1 to No. 149B

A5954, 812/1

Department of Supply and Development – Bill for an Act, 1939

A5954, 1094/5

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'E' (ELECTION) PREFIX, 1901–

A406

Recorded by: 1901–16 Department of Home Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 8)
1916–18 Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
1918–73 Chief Electoral Office (CA 558)
1973–84 Australian Electoral Office, Central Office (CA 1732)
1984– Australian Electoral Commission, Central Office (CA 3854)
Canberra 161.59 metres

This series consists of correspondence relating to: arrangements for elections and referendums; posters and advertising; security of contents of ballot boxes; polling booth arrangements; postal voting; registration of political parties and candidates; and Aboriginal and migrant education.

Aliens Registration Act 1939, 1939–40

A406, E1939/480

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL OFFICE –
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BY 1952**

A467

Recorded by: By 1952 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
Canberra 34.16 metres

This series was compiled by 1952 for the information of departmental officials including the Attorney-General. The series includes material dated from 1905 onwards and covers subject areas relating to investigations or issues of ongoing legal or constitutional significance. Files cover correspondence, transcripts of commissions of inquiry, various publications, newspaper cuttings and pamphlets.

National Registration Act – protests, communistic opposition, 1939

A467, SF42/64

PERSONAL PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES AS PRIME MINISTER, 1939 CP450/8

Recorded by: 1939 Prime Minister's Department – Prime Minister (CA 12)
1939 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series essentially relates to the calling up of university staff for military service during the war.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Declaration of war, 3 September 1939

MS 4936, Box 251, Folder 5

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

The National Film and Sound Archive holds film and sound collections from both government and private producers and broadcasters. The collection includes films, television and radio programs, videos, audio tapes, records, compact discs, phonograph cylinders and wire recordings.

Declaration of war speech by the Rt Hon RG Menzies, 3 September 1939 (audio) 188388

Canberra air disaster, 1940

On 13 August 1940, the Menzies government was dealt a major blow – a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Lockheed Hudson flying from Melbourne crashed into a small hill to the east of Canberra's airport. All 10 passengers and crew died. They included James Fairbairn, Minister for Air and Civil Aviation; Geoffrey Street, Minister for the Army and Repatriation; Henry Gullett, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research; Sir Cyril (Brudenell) White, Chief of the General Staff; Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Thornthwaite, White's staff officer; and Richard Elford, Fairbairn's private secretary.

Four RAAF crew also died: Flight-Lieutenant Richard Hitchcock, Pilot Officer Richard Wiesener, Corporal John Palmer and Aircraftman Charles Crosdale.

Fairbairn Airbase, the eastern part of the airport, was subsequently named after James Fairbairn in February 1941. Menzies presided over the dedication of a memorial cairn at the crash site in August 1960 ('Wreaths laid' 1960:3).

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Air Force court of inquiry to investigate the accident near Canberra on 13 August 1940, 1939–40 A432, 1940/729

Coronial inquiry – aircraft accident near Canberra on 13 August 1940, 1940–41 A432, 1940/764

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'MO' (MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS) PREFIX, 1936–45 A6079

Recorded by: 1936–45 Crown Solicitor's Office (from 1948 Crown Solicitor's Division) (CA 554)

Canberra 0.36 metres

The files in this series deal with miscellaneous legal matters, such as small claims, opinions of counsel, agreements between the Commonwealth and others, legal aid and National Security Regulations.

Inquest into the deaths of Hon GA Street, Hon JV Fairbairn, Sir Henry Gullett, Sir Brudenell White, Colonel F Thornthwaite, RE Elford, RE Hitchcock, RF Wiesener, JF Palmer, CJ Crosdale, 1940 A6079, MO625

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50 A461

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 18)

1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 33.

Inquiry into the Canberra air disaster (RAAF Lockheed), 1940 A461, AN314/1/1

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'P' (POLICE) PREFIX, 1927–63 A1378

Recorded by: 1927–43 Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)

1943–63 Australian Capital Territory Police Force [I] (CA 665)

Canberra 24.57 metres

This series consists of subject files, personal dossiers and dossiers for organisations. The files cover a wide range of police activities, including investigation of criminal offences, traffic accidents and traffic breaches.

Aeroplane crash at Canberra on 13 August 1940, 1940–41

A1378, P8903

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'L' (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1945–71

A1200

Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)
1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra (CA 219)
Canberra 101.32 metres

This series comprises black and white photographic negatives and prints taken by government photographers to capture Australian society and to promote Australia overseas. The subjects covered by this series are diverse and include the Australian Government's postwar initiatives such as the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme and developments in industry, including engineering, mining, manufacturing, farming, forestry, agriculture, fisheries and food production.

The memorial cairn to the 1940 air disaster, 1960

A1200, L36018

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1915–77

M1129

Recorded by: 1915–77 The Rt Hon Richard Gardiner Casey KG, GCMG, PC, CH, DSO, MC (CP 24)
Canberra 0.72 metres
Melbourne 8.65 metres

This series consists of files of private correspondence maintained by Richard Casey with persons in both the political and private sector across a range of political and social interests. The records include typed and handwritten notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, telegrams and press releases, extracts of books and reports.

White, Sir Cyril Brudenell Bingham, 1915–74

M1129, WHITE/C B

This file includes correspondence with Murray Tyrell relating to the 1940 air disaster in which Sir Cyril White died.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Speech in the House of Representatives, 14 August 1940

MS 4936, Box 252, Folder 6

General election, 1940

Following the death of 3 ministers in the air disaster, Menzies realised that 3 separate by-elections would be required. Instead, he decided to call a general election, which was held on 21 September 1940, with the central issue being the prosecution of the war.

The government won 36 seats but was 2 seats short of a majority. Menzies was able to form a minority government with the support of 2 independents, Arthur Coles and Alexander Wilson.

Visit to Great Britain, 1941

In early 1941, Menzies decided to visit Great Britain one more time. At first reluctant to do so, he was persuaded by his ministers of the need to discuss the progress of the war in Europe with British officials and, more importantly, to raise the Australian Government's concerns with the lack of preparedness in Singapore's defences.

Pattie Menzies was opposed to the visit, fearing for the Prime Minister's safety and the possibility of unrest among his political colleagues. Menzies decided to go anyway and, on 23 January 1941, his colleagues hosted a farewell dinner in his honour. Menzies kept his copy of the menu from that dinner and had his guests sign it. Curiously, one of those attending the dinner was Earle Page, who had roundly criticised the Prime Minister in parliament in April 1939.

The Prime Minister flew out of Sydney the next day. As with his first visit to Great Britain in 1935, Menzies maintained a series of diaries. One of the guests to farewell him was John Leckie, his father-in-law. Menzies later wrote in his diary: 'Glad JL is there because whole business is distressing to Pat who has vast courage but knows that for once in my life I am off on a chancy undertaking' (Menzies 1941a:1). On the way to Great Britain, he stopped in the Middle East to visit and congratulate Australian troops in the region.

Menzies was away from Australia for 4 months. He had numerous meetings with Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and regularly attended meetings of the War Cabinet. In March 1941, Pattie Menzies cabled, urging him to return as soon as possible. Menzies replied that he was involved in important matters and could not return for a few weeks at least. On the way home, Menzies visited the United States and Canada, and he arrived back in Australia in May 1941. Although his visit was hailed as a success, Menzies was unaware that disapproval had been building at home. There was a lack of unity among some of his colleagues, and he could no longer rely on the support of the 2 independents. Menzies tried to form a joint government with John Curtin's Labor Party, but that was rejected.

On 28 August 1941, Menzies resigned as Prime Minister, being replaced by Arthur Fadden. He sent a cable to Churchill informing him of his actions. He wrote that 'you will find the new Australian Government identical with my own in point of spirit, policy and action' (Menzies 1941b). He then set about writing a narrative of the events leading up to his resignation which would be available for future reference. Thomas Blamey, commanding Australian troops in the Middle East, later wrote to Menzies expressing his regret at the Prime Minister's departure.

Fadden found the same difficulties that had beset Menzies. With the government in paralysis, the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, met with independents Coles and Wilson. He sought an assurance from them that, if a commission was given to Labor leader John Curtin, they would continue to support him. The 2 men gave that assurance and, on 7 October 1941, John Curtin became Prime Minister.

National Archives of Australia

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, C.1936–46

CP450/9

Recorded by: c.1936–46 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office –
Attorney-General (CA 5)

c.1936–46 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series consists of a small number of papers maintained by Menzies for reference purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, 1934–BY 1946

CP450/10

Recorded by: 1934–39 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office –
Attorney-General (CA 5)

1934– by 1946 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC
(CP 54)

1939 Prime Minister's Department – Prime Minister (CA 12)
Canberra 0.90 metres

This series comprises assorted publications, reports, circulars, a small quantity of correspondence and other miscellaneous papers.

CABLES TO AND FROM THE PRIME MINISTER (ROBERT MENZIES) AND HIS PARTY DURING THEIR VISIT TO ENGLAND, 1941

CP290/9

Recorded by: 1941 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 0.18 metres

This series consists of cables sent to and from Menzies during his visit to England in 1941. The visit was to discuss the defence of Singapore, trade and war production.

MASTER SHEETS (CARBON STENCILS) OF CABLES RECEIVED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER (ROBERT MENZIES), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'M' PREFIX, 1941

AA1979/333

Recorded by: 1941 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1941 The Rt Hon Sir Robert Gordon Menzies PC, KT, CH, QC (CP 54)

Canberra 0.45 metres

This series comprises carbon stencils of the cables sent by Menzies from London in the 2-month period 4 March to 3 May 1941. They are mainly addressed to the acting Prime Minister (Arthur William Fadden).

**MASTER SHEETS OF TOP SECRET INWARDS AND OUTWARDS CABLES,
FOR PRIME MINISTER, 1941–45**

A12728

Recorded by: 1941–43 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1943–45 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series consists of 2 volumes of highly classified cables sent between Winston Churchill and various Australian prime ministers, including Robert Menzies and John Curtin. Both volumes have been digitised and can be viewed online on RecordSearch.

**MENZIES AND FADDEN MINISTRIES – FOLDERS OF CABINET MINUTES
AND SUBMISSIONS, 1939–41**

A2697

This series consists of agenda papers, draft minutes and prepared minutes of Cabinet meetings. The papers are arranged by meeting date. Agenda numbers are assigned from cards. The microfilm of this series has been digitised and can be viewed online on RecordSearch (see A2697, Roll 1 to Roll 5).

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Commissions as Prime Minister, and other ministries, 1934–40	MS 4936, Folio Box 1
Farewell dinner, Sydney, 23 January 1941	MS 4936, Box 429, Folder 24
Diaries, A–C, 24 January 1941 to 24 May 1941	MS 4936, Box 397
Photographs – meeting troops in the Middle East, 1941	MS 4936, Box 341
Cables between Robert and Pattie Menzies, March 1941	MS 4936, Box 579, Folder 10
Papers regarding visit to the USA and Canada, 1941	MS 4936, Box 584, folders 47–51
Personal cables between the prime ministers of Great Britain and Australia, June–September 1941 (contains the cable from Menzies to Churchill, 29 August 1941)	MS 4936, Box 581, Folder 20
Resignation as Prime Minister, 1 September 1941	MS 4936, Box 583, Folder 44
Correspondence, 1939 (contains the letter from Thomas Blamey, 15 October 1941)	MS 4936, Box 579, Folder 4

References

Australian House of Representatives (1939) *Debates*, HR159: 14–18.

Latham J (1934) John Latham to Robert Menzies, 19 September, Papers of Sir John Latham, MS 1009, Series 53, Box 93, Folder 1, folios 96–99, National Library of Australia.

Lyons J (1936) Joseph Lyons to Robert Menzies, 26 April, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 579, Folder 10, National Library of Australia.

Mallory G (1999) 'The 1938 Dalfram pig-iron dispute and wharfies leader, Ted Roach', *The Hummer* (Australian Society for the Study of Labour History) 3(2), labourhistory.org.au/hummer/vol-3-no-2/dalfram-pig-iron, accessed 31 May 2020.

Menzies RG (1935a) Entry for 21 March, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 397, Diary A, National Library of Australia.

— (1935b) Entry for 8 September, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 397, Diary E, National Library of Australia.

— (1941a) Entry for 24 January, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 397, Diary A, National Library of Australia.

— (1941b) Robert Menzies to Winston Churchill, 29 August, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 581, Folder 20, National Library of Australia.

'Mr. Menzies resignation from Lyons government' (1939) *The Canberra Times*, 15 March.

'Was gardener to six prime ministers' (1954) *The Canberra Times*, 31 July.

'Wreaths laid to mark scene of air tragedy' (1960) *The Canberra Times*, 13 August.

4 The forgotten people, 1941–49

Following his resignation, the Menzies family vacated The Lodge in Canberra and moved back to Melbourne. Robert Menzies would commute between Melbourne and Canberra when parliament was in session. He would also continue with his legal practice.

Between 1933 and 1944, American President Franklin D Roosevelt undertook a series of radio broadcasts known as ‘fireside chats’. It was during these broadcasts that Roosevelt could inform the nation of the government’s actions in dealing with issues of the day, including the Great Depression, and the New Deal. Following his passage into opposition, Menzies began a series of similar broadcasts in November 1941 by which he could espouse his views on a range of political matters. The essays covered an extensive range of national political issues, from problem drinking, to compulsory unionism, to taxation policy.

One of these broadcasts stood out from all the others. It was a broadcast given on 22 May 1942 entitled ‘The forgotten people’ (Menzies 1942). In this particular broadcast, Menzies appealed to the forgotten middle class, who neither ran big businesses nor were members of labour unions. Menzies specifically named ‘salary earners, shopkeepers, skilled artisans, professional men and women, farmers’ and the like. He went on to say that ‘They are envied by those whose benefits are largely obtained by taxing them ... They are not rich enough to have individual power ... and they are taken for granted by each political party’ (Switzer 2017). The values espoused in this talk would later serve as the basis for the Liberal Party’s establishment in 1944.

A general election held on 21 August 1943 reinforced Menzies’s view of the need for internal political change. The Labor Party under John Curtin had a landslide win, while the United Australia Party/Country Party Coalition was decimated. Labor won 49 seats in the House of Representatives, while the opposition won only 23 seats.

Following the 1943 electoral defeat, Menzies was elected leader of the United Australia Party on 22 September 1943. The coalition with the Country Party was dissolved. Menzies wasted no time in publicly declaring his plans for the future with the creation of a single non-Labor party (‘U.A.P. hopes and aims’ 1943:11). He accused the Labor Party of choosing socialism as the star by which to steer its course.

Formation of the Liberal Party of Australia, 1944

Menzies wrote to those organisations ‘opposed to Socialism and believing in Democracy’ inviting them to attend a conference in Canberra on 13–16 October 1944 (Williams 1967:17). Representatives from 18 organisations attended the conference. Attendees included those wanting to achieve unity of action and who were opposed to socialism and the restriction of personal freedoms. In many cases, they were Menzies’s forgotten people – those mainstream Australians whose goals, needs and aspirations they felt were being ignored by the Labor government.

The Canberra conference agreed to establish 2 committees, one to draw up a resolution on a name and political objectives, and the other to prepare a resolution outlining the proposed organisation and the steps to create it.

The name ‘Liberal Party of Australia’ was chosen due to its association with progressive 19th-century free enterprise and social equality (Liberal Party of Australia n.d.).

A second conference was held at Albury on 14–16 December 1944. Menzies wanted the second conference to be held in a regional area to ensure that there was no perception of his new movement being relevant to metropolitan areas only. At this conference, there was formal agreement of a constitution and the machinery by which the new organisation would operate.

Reflecting Menzies's own philosophy, a noteworthy feature of the party formed at Albury was the place it accorded to women. From the outset, Menzies envisioned a 'joint and equal partnership' between men and women in the operation of the Liberal Party. At Albury, he said that 'women are unquestionably destined to exercise more and more influence upon practical politics in Australia'. Of the Liberal Party, Menzies said that 'now we have an organisation in which all distinctions are gone', where men and women worked equally for the one party (Furse-Roberts 2019).

On 21 February 1945, Menzies informed the House of Representatives of the Liberal Party's establishment. He said that:

I have to announce that, in consequence of the formation of the Liberal party of Australia, those who sit with me in this House desire to be known in future as members of the Liberal party (Australian House of Representatives 1945).

National Archives of Australia

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS MAINTAINED BY EILEEN LENIHAN, 1935–90

M3130

Recorded by: 1935–90 Eileen Gertrude Lenihan OBE (CP 562)
Canberra 0.43 metres

This series consists of 2 photograph albums maintained by Eileen Lenihan, who was private secretary to Robert Menzies during 1939–51.

Photograph of delegates attending the Albury conference, 1944

M3130, 121

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

The forgotten people, 22 May 1942

MS 4936, Box 252, Folder 12

Broadcasts, 1943

MS 4936, Box 584, Folder 53

Broadcasts, 1943

MS 4936, Box 585, folders 54–6

Liberal Party, 1939–72

MS 4936, boxes 410–20

Liberal Party, delegates to the Canberra conference, 1944

MS 4936, Box 573, Folder 1

Albury conference, 14 December 1944

MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 14

**Speech at the conclusion of the Albury conference,
16 December 1944**

MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 14

Foundation of the Liberal Party, 18 February 1945

MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 14

**RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT,
C.1945–90**

MS 5000

Recorded by: c.1945–90 Liberal Party of Australia
Canberra 625.05 metres

This series comprises correspondence, press statements, agenda minutes,
polls, subject files, press cuttings, Hansard reports and printed material.

Albury conference, 1944

MS 5000, Box 1248

Referendum on postwar reconstruction and democratic rights referendum, 1944

In 1944, John Curtin's Labor government began introducing a series of new legislation and constitutional referendums intended to provide the government with more comprehensive powers in postwar Australia.

To pave the way, the government called for a Constitutional Convention, which was held in Canberra between 24 November and 2 December 1942. In all, 24 delegates attended the convention, with representatives from both houses of parliament, and state governments. During the convention, a drafting committee was appointed to prepare a Bill that would give the government control over 14 nominated powers that it felt would be needed in postwar Australia. These powers included: rehabilitation of former servicemen, national health, family allowances, employment and unemployment, ability to legislate for First Nations peoples, corporations, foreign investment, trust laws, monopolies, air transport, uniformity of railway gauges, marketing of commodities, manufacturing (production) and sales of goods, and national infrastructure. This authority would last for 5 years after the war had ceased.

Negotiations then stalled, so in 1944 the government called for a referendum – sometimes referred to as the 'Fourteen Powers' referendum – to decide the matter. It was vehemently resisted by Menzies's opposition, which argued that the acquisition of additional powers was unnecessary as most of the 14 powers were covered by existing legislation. The referendum was held on 19 August 1944. Voters were asked a single question: 'Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled "Constitution Alteration (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights) 1944"?' The referendum was defeated; South Australia and Western Australia were the only states to support it.

National Archives of Australia

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL OFFICE –
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, BY 1952**

A467

By 1952 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 42.

**[Constitutional alterations] Copies of opinions Constitutional
Convention, 1942–43**

A467, SF44/77

RECORDS OF THE ECONOMIC CONSULTANT (RECONSTRUCTION), 1940–45 CP6/1

Recorded by: 1940–45 Sir Douglas Berry Copland KBE, CMG (CP 167)
Canberra 0.90 metres

This series contains the records of the Economic Consultant to the Prime Minister and contains correspondence and reference material for postwar consideration.

Reconstruction Australia, Constitutional Convention, 1942–43 CP6/1, 9

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Constitution Alteration (Post-War Reconstruction and Democratic Rights), opinion regarding use of consolidated revenue for referendum, 1944 A432, 1955/4406

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (CLASS 400), 1918–60 A2910

Recorded by: 1918–60 Australian High Commission, United Kingdom [London] (CA 241)
Canberra 70.17 metres

These records comprise correspondence between the High Commissioner and the Australian Government and cover a range of issues, including trade and supply.

Commonwealth referendum 1944 – correspondence, 1944 A2910, 433/1/106 part 1

There are 9 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71 A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)

See series description on page 41.

Constitutional referendum August 1944. Results and press commentary, 1944–45 A5954, 596/3

SPECIMEN FORMS AND PRINTED MATERIAL USED BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE, 1913–73 A8910

Recorded by: 1913–16 Department of Home Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 8)
1916–18 Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
1918–73 Chief Electoral Office (CA 558)
Canberra 0.36 metres

This series contains samples of the various forms and publications used and issued by the Chief Electoral Office.

**Amendment of Constitution. Federal referendum held on 19 August 1944.
The case for and against, 1944**

A8910, 4

SPECIAL NEWS COVERAGES, 1936–46

SP286/16

Recorded by: 1936–46 Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)
Sydney 0.18 metres

This series documents several special news coverages organised by the ABC. The files effectively chart the history of a number of major news events occurring from 1936 to 1946, such as the abdication of Edward VIII, the federal elections in 1940, 1943 and 1946, the war situation in Singapore, the 1944 referendum and the death of Prime Minister John Curtin.

ABC Constitutional Convention reviews, 1942–43

SP286/16, 4

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1939–46

SP112/1

Recorded by: 1939–46 Department of Information, Central Office – Press Division
(CA 34)
Sydney 13.68 metres

This series mainly relates to the supply of photographs to various authorities and newspapers; the functions of the division which included the photographic coverage of all major newsworthy events and the censorship of the photographs.

**Constitutional Convention, Canberra, 24 November 1942
(exhibition of Department of Information photographs), 1942–43**

SP112/1, 92/1/2

Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 1944

In 1944, the government attempted to legislate for the provision of free pharmaceuticals, particularly penicillin, through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act. The legislation received royal assent on 5 April 1944. Benefits were available only on the presentation of a prescription written by a registered medical practitioner on an official government form, to a Commonwealth-approved pharmacist.

However, the Australian Branch of the British Medical Association challenged the Act in the High Court, arguing that the government's move was the precursor to socialised medicine, and expressing its concern that the legislation was in effect providing a form of civil conscription. The court subsequently declared the Act unconstitutional because the Commonwealth did not have the power, according to the Constitution, to provide funding for the provision of medicines.

Referendum on Social Services, 1946

To counter the High Court's finding, the government introduced a referendum to amend the Constitution. The referendum received bipartisan support, primarily because it was intended

to enshrine the existence of a power that was already in use, with a number of other financial benefits already available. Menzies had further agreed to support the referendum if, following its success, an amendment was made to the Constitution (section 51) to ensure there was no form of civil conscription.

The referendum was held on 28 September 1946. Voters were asked a single question: 'Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled "Constitution Alteration (Social Services) 1946"?' The referendum passed in all 6 states.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 1947

A new Pharmaceutical Benefits Act was subsequently passed in 1947. There was further resistance by the medical profession, with another challenge to the High Court, which again found it unconstitutional. The government tried to implement the scheme with voluntary participation, but few doctors would cooperate.

Ironically, despite Menzies's general dislike for the pharmaceutical legislation, it would be his own government that would, in 1960, introduce a pharmaceutical benefits scheme of the type envisaged by John Curtin and Ben Chifley (Goddard 2014).

National Archives of Australia

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Bill 1944–45, 1935–44 A432, 1944/66

Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, case to test validity of, 1945–46 A432, 1945/1195

There are also 6 attachments to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Federal Council of the British Medical Association versus the Commonwealth. High Court case to test the validity of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 1949, 1949 A432, 1949/712 part 1

There are 3 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1901–76 A571

Recorded by: 1901–76 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office (CA 11)
Canberra 510 metres

This the main correspondence file series of the agency. It consists of correspondence across a wide range of financial issues.

Pharmaceutical benefits, 1938–45 A571, 1943/1812 part 1

Social services in Australia – pharmaceutical benefits, 1946–47 A571, 1943/1812 part 2

There are another 3 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Bill – development of legislation, 1943–44 A571, 1943/4513

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (FIRST SERIES), 1925–49 A1928

Recorded by: 1925–49 Department of Health, Central Office (CA 17)
Canberra 96.97 metres

This is the main correspondence file series of the agency. It comprises correspondence files dealing with the general administration of the department. The files cover such topics as diseases, quarantine, drugs, epidemics, laboratories, inspections, hygiene and staff matters.

Legal opinion. Validity of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, Hospital Benefits Scheme, Medical Benefits Scheme, 1944 A1928, 626/11

BILL FILES (AMENDED PRINTERS' PROOFS), 1901–2006 A2863

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970–2006 Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)
See series description on page 38.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 1944, 1944 A2863, 1944/11

Pharmaceutical Benefits Bill 1945, 1944–45 A2863, 1945/35

CAUSE BOOK CASE RECORDS (NSW), ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–73 A10072

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Sydney [I] [NSW]
(CA 1314)

See series description on page 32.

The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth versus Federal Council of the British Medical Association in Australia and others, 1949 A10072, 1949/15

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTION AND REFERENDUM MATERIAL, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1944–75 J1401

Recorded by: 1944–73 Commonwealth Electoral Office, Queensland (CA 2020)
1973–75 Australian Electoral Office, Queensland (CA 2021)
Brisbane 0.18 metres

This series contains material relating to cases for and against various referendums, write-ups on the proposed referendum laws, lists of Senate and House of Representative candidates and the party they represent, and a memorandum relating to the scrutiny and counting of votes in a Senate election under the Proportional Representational Provisions of the Commonwealth Act.

Referendum 1946: ‘the case for and against’, 1946

J1401, 2

Referendum 1946: referendums on the proposed laws, 1946

J1401, 3

Banking Act 1947

The Second World War ended with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945. John Curtin did not live to see Japan's surrender, dying on 5 July 1945. At a subsequent meeting of the Labor Caucus, Ben Chifley was elected leader of the party and was sworn in as Prime Minister on 13 July 1945.

Menzies's new political party faced its first major test with a general election held on 28 September 1946. Once again, the Labor Party dominated the result, winning 43 seats in the House of Representatives to the opposition's 26 seats.

Buoyed by its election win, in August 1947 Chifley's government announced its intention to nationalise all private trading banks. This was anathema to Menzies and his newly established political party. Chifley had unwittingly given Menzies and the Liberal Party a key issue which would be fought at the next election. From that time, the Liberals could claim that, by denying customers the bank of their choice, the government was threatening individual liberties. The government's actions also helped to convince Menzies that it was adopting policies advocating a socialist view (Hancock 1994).

The Banking Act passed through parliament in November 1947 and received royal assent on 27 November. It essentially enlarged the activities of the Commonwealth Bank and prohibited the carrying on of banking business in Australia by private banks.

The Act was immediately challenged in the High Court by the private banks in conjunction with several non-Labor Party state governments. An injunction was granted to prevent the Act being implemented. The case against the Act began on 9 February 1948, with judgement being handed down on 11 August 1948. The court found that the Act was invalid. The government appealed to the Privy Council in England, but the appeal was rejected.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Banking Act 1947, Banking Case 1948, 1947–48

A432, 1949/52 part 1

There are 7 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CAUSE BOOK CASE RECORDS (NSW), ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–73 A10072

Recorded by: 1903–73 High Court of Australia, Office of the Registry, Sydney [I] [NSW]
(CA 1314)

See series description on page 32.

**Bank of New South Wales; the Bank of Australasia;
the State of Victoria; the State of South Australia;
the State of Western Australia and others versus the
Commonwealth of Australia and others [regarding
Banking Act 1947], transcript of proceedings volume 1** **A10072, 1947/42 transcript 2/1**

There are 9 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

SUBJECT BUNDLES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–55 **M1506**

Recorded by: 1946–55 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office –
Solicitor-General's Office (CA 5)
1946–55 Sir Kenneth Hamilton Bailey CBE, QC (CP 71)
Canberra 8.52 metres

This series consists of bundles of papers maintained by Kenneth Bailey relating to his career as the Commonwealth Solicitor-General and Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department. The bundles are arranged under subject headings and relate to legal cases in which Bailey was involved – for example, the Banking Case and the Margins Case – and his involvement with the United Nations.

RECORDS OF COMMONWEALTH BANK DEPARTMENTS, 1912–60 **C5730**

Recorded by: 1912–1960 Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Head Office (CA 149)
1960 Reserve Bank of Australia, Head Office, Sydney (CA 1674)
Note: 9,051 files held by the Reserve Bank Archives, Sydney

This series contains records of the Commonwealth Bank that passed to the Reserve Bank in 1960. It covers a wide range of matters that the bank handled, including files relating to the *Banking Act 1947*. The records concerned are Commonwealth records, come under the provisions of the *Archives Act 1983* and are listed on RecordSearch. By agreement between the National Archives and the Reserve Bank, the records are held in the Reserve Bank Archives in Sydney (for access to the files, see rba.gov.au/about-rba/archives).

**Secretary's Department – banking legislation – Banking Act 1947 –
section 3 – implementation plan, 1947** **C5730, 2006/04763**

**Secretary's Department – banking legislation – Banking Act 1947 –
section 53 – nationalisation plans, June 1949** **C5730, 2006/04855**

**Research Department – legislation – Banking Act 1947 – 1949 –
planning for nationalisation, 1947–1949** **C5730, 2006/18988**

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78 **MS 4936**

See series description on page 28.

**Press statement on the socialisation of banking,
17 August 1947** MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 17

**Press statement on banking, proposed government
legislation, 18 August 1947** MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 17

**Socialised banking, instrument of tyranny,
25 August 1947** MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 17

**RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT,
C.1945–90** MS 5000

See series description on page 51.

Banking Act, 1946–47 MS 5000, Box 1251

British and Irish Legal Information Institute

[THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL DECISIONS, 1809–2020]

See series description page 34.

**Commonwealth of Australia and others (Appeal No. 55 of 1948)
versus Bank of New South Wales (Consolidated Appeals) [Australia],
21 October 1949** 1949 UKPC 37

Referendum on prices, 1948

In 1948, the Chifley government proposed a referendum to maintain control over rents and prices. The government argued the measures were necessary to keep prices down. Menzies was convinced more than ever that socialism was at the heart of the referendum and strongly denounced it. The referendum was held on 29 May 1948. Voters were asked a single question: ‘Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled “Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) 1947”?’ The referendum was defeated in all states.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General’s Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) 1947 ‘case for yes’, A432, 1947/1450 1947–48

**RESIDUE OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER
SERIES WITH ‘P’ (PRICES) PREFIX, 1939–49** CP376/6

Recorded by: 1939–49 Department of Trade and Customs, Central Office (CA 10)
Canberra 29.34 metres

This series consists of general correspondence on price controls between the department and business establishments. It includes National Security (Prices) Regulation Schedules, lists of capital and consumer goods, claims on fixed price goods and tables showing increased costs.

Prices control by the Commonwealth as affected by adverse vote of referendum, 1947–51

CP376/6, P1948/2736

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTION AND REFERENDUM MATERIAL, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1944–75

J1401

Recorded by: 1944–73 Commonwealth Electoral Office, Queensland (CA 2020)

1973–75 Australian Electoral Office, Queensland (CA 2021)

See series description on page 55.

Referendum 1948. 'The case for and against' (booklet) – rent and prices, to give the Commonwealth permanent power to control rents and prices, 1948

J1401, 4

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Opening speech for the rents and prices referendum, 20 April 1948

MS 4936, Box 253, Folder 18

RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90

MS 5000

See series description on page 51.

Price control, 1947

MS 5000, boxes 288, 369, 1257

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

Prices and the people, 1948

233839

This is a documentary film made as an argument for the 'yes' vote in the 1948 referendum on price control.

Visit to Great Britain, 1948

In June 1948, Menzies set sail for Great Britain. It was his first visit since 1941 and his first as a private citizen. His visit was self funded, but he hoped to recover the cost by writing a series of articles for later publication. During his visit, he experienced firsthand the austerity measures that had been implemented among the British people since the Second World War.

Menzies also saw the implementation of the Soviet Union's blockade of Berlin and the very real possibility of the beginning of another major war. In the end, conflict was avoided as the former wartime allies instituted an airlift to provide food to the city. The airlift began in June 1948 and lasted until May 1949. The Soviet Union's actions only helped to reinforce Menzies's antipathy towards communism.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Diaries, A–D, 1948

MS 4936, Box 397

The 1949 general election

A general election was due to be held in late 1949. Menzies returned to Australia in January of that year and immediately began a series of talks in most capital cities in which he denounced communism.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Party had already begun a series of radio commercials intended to boost the party's prospects at the election. The commercials took the form of a radio serial under the name 'John Henry Austral'. The commercials were a twice-weekly radio broadcast that promoted the Liberal Party's basic philosophy. They ran for over 18 months and were broadcast on 80 radio stations across Australia.

Each episode, of which there were 200, addressed a major national theme, such as industrial relations, monetary policy and national security, and were explored through people's everyday concerns. Industrial turmoil and industry reform were reduced to questions about job security; rising inflation found expression in a housewife's struggle to make her husband's wages stretch to the week's shopping; while a group of working men aspired to join the middle class through better education (Rayner 2012). Twenty-two of the original recordings still survive and are held by the University of Melbourne Archives.

There were other events, both local and international, that played into Menzies's hands. There was a coal strike which ran from June to August. Menzies was able to make considerable political mileage from the strike and its communist origins. The Chifley government had to use the army to help break the strike. International events also worked to Menzies's advantage. The first was the establishment of a communist government in China, and the second was the announcement by the Soviet Union that it had developed its own atomic bomb.

The election was held on 10 December 1949 and Menzies's Liberal Party won convincingly. Menzies announced his new ministry on 20 December 1949 ('Menzies Cabinet takes over' 1949:1).

National Archives of Australia

SOUND DISCS AND TAPE RECORDINGS, 1936–68

M1118

Recorded by: 1936–68 The Rt Hon Richard Gardiner Casey KG, GCMG, PC, CH, DSO,
MC (CP 24)

Sydney 0.74 metres

This series consists of a collection of tape recordings and record discs collected by Richard Casey over many years and covering a wide variety of subjects. Included are recordings of talks and speeches made by Casey in New York at the United Nations General Assembly, in London on the 'responsibilities of Empire' and in Australia on electoral matters and at official receptions.

Matilda waltzes on – John Henry Austral, 1949

M1118, 1342445

The story of Waltzing Matilda – John Henry Austral, 1949

M1118, 1342449

LIBERAL PARTY CORRESPONDENCE HELD BY RICHARD CASEY DURING HIS TERM AS FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–51

M1147

Recorded by: 1946–51 The Rt Hon Richard Gardiner Casey KG, GCMG, PC, CH, DSO,
MC (CP 24)

Melbourne 1.44 metres

This series contains correspondence relating to a number of matters, primarily involving election campaigns.

Liberal Party of Australia – Federal Secretariat – Research Section [pharmaceutical benefits, housing, communism and so forth], 1946–49 M1147, 5 part 3

Liberal Party of Australia – John Henry Austral series, 1947–49 M1147, 12E

This collection includes extensive correspondence with S Rubensohn, the Hansen-Rubensohn Company.

[Liberal Party of Australia] – broadcasts [includes transcripts of broadcasts with 3DB, Orange Broadcasting Station, Australian Broadcasting Commission etc], 1947–49 M1147, 12H part 1

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1913–89**M3299**

Recorded by: 1913–89 The Rt Hon Richard Gardiner Casey KG, GCMG, PC, CH, DSO,
MC (CP 24)

Melbourne 3.25 metres

This series contains correspondence maintained by Richard Casey, most of which deals with electoral matters.

John Henry Austral series – Waltzing Matilda, 1951–55**M3299, 89**

Casey provided a special introduction to the 'Waltzing Matilda' feature that was transmitted in the General Overseas Service of Radio Australia. This file includes correspondence with RJF Boyer, Chairman, Australian Broadcasting Commission.

[Correspondence relating to Labor Party; communism; socialism; Liberal Party; Country Party – set up of funding Federal Liberal Party – Trustees], 1948

M3299, 122**National Library of Australia****PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78****MS 4936**

See series description on page 28.

First broadcast as Prime Minister, 1949

MS 4936, Box 254, Folder 22**RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90****MS 5000**

See series description on page 51.

John Henry Austral, 1948–49

MS 5000, boxes 1247–8**University of Melbourne Archives**

The University of Melbourne Archives holds a collection of gramophone records containing 22 of the 200 episodes in the John Henry Austral series of radio programs devised by Sim Rubensohn for the Liberal Party's 1949 election campaign. The catalogue entry can be located online at archives.unimelb.edu.au.

John Henry Austral digital records, 1948–49

1989.0137

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5 The Menzies government and international issues, 1949–66

Attempt to outlaw communism, 1950–51

With the end of the Second World War in 1945, communism began to spread across both Europe and Asia. Menzies was vehemently opposed to the doctrine. Indeed, he became concerned when Ben Chifley's government attempted to nationalise Australia's banks with the Banking Act of 1947. He was convinced that communism had spread into Australian trade unions and may even have infiltrated the Labor Party.

In 1948, Menzies's newly established Liberal Party created an anti-communist committee to develop strategies for dealing with the doctrine when elected to government. As part of his platform for the 1949 general election, Menzies had committed a future government to dissolution of the Communist Party, and reintroduction of national service. With his party's electoral success in December 1949, Menzies moved quickly to prepare and introduce the Communist Party Dissolution Bill to parliament in April 1950. The Bill also provided for the dissolution of other communist organisations, and disqualified communists from holding public office.

The Bill passed on 19 October 1950. There was an immediate challenge to the High Court by the Communist Party and a number of trade unions. The court began hearing the appeal on 14 November 1950 and, on 19 March 1951, it delivered its judgement that the legislation was unlawful.

The government then changed tack and decided to amend the Constitution to allow for the banning of communists, and on 23 August 1951 announced a referendum, to let the people decide. The referendum took place on 22 September. The question that voters were asked to decide was: 'Do you approve of the proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution entitled "Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism) 1951"?' It was defeated, with Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania voting 'yes', while New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia voted 'no'.

Although Menzies's legislation and referendum to outlaw communism failed, he did have one success. The *Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1951* provided for the use of secret ballots in trade union elections. Menzies was convinced that some unions were breeding grounds for communist activities.

National Archives of Australia

ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901–

A1559

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

An Act to provide for the dissolution of the Australian Communist Party and of other communist organisations, to disqualify communists from holding certain offices and for purposes connected therewith [Communist Party Dissolution Act 1950], 1950

A1559, 1950/16

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Questions in parliament regarding communism, communists, the Communist Party, and the activities of communists, 1947–50

A432, 1949/408

Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism) Bill 1951, 1951

A432, 1951/999

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50

A461

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 33.

Communism, general, 1939–50

A461, G327/1/4 part 1

There are 3 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Communism, individual cases, 1940

A461, I327/1/4 part 1

Communism, individual cases, 1950

A461, I327/1/4 part 2

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55

A462

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 52.39 metres

This is the main correspondence file series of the agency. It consists of correspondence of interest to the Prime Minister. Issues dealt with include Cabinet committees, communism, trade, royal visits and northern development.

Communism – referendum to alter the Constitution September 1951

A462, 211/1/12

FOURTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATED DECISIONS, 1949–51

A4639

Recorded by: 1949–51 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Canberra 1.62 metres

This series consists of Cabinet submissions with supporting papers, and some notes of decisions, mainly in the form of memorandums to ministers from the secretary to Cabinet. It covers the period 20 December 1949 to 30 March 1951. All items from this series are entered on RecordSearch.

Legislation against communism, 1950	A4639, 61
Legislation against communism, 1950	A4639, 61A

THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71 **A5954**

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
 1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
 1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
 1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)

See series description on page 41.

Press file, Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism, 1951) Referendum, 22 September 1951. Statements by members of the government parties, 1951 **A5954, 2129/1**

Press file, Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism, 1951) Referendum, 22 September 1951. Miscellaneous statements, 1951 **A5954, 2129/3**

Press file, Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism, 1951) Referendum, 22 September 1951. Opposition statements, 1951 **A5954, 2129/4**

Press file, Constitution Alteration (Powers to deal with Communists and Communism, 1951) Referendum, 22 September 1951. Results of referendum, 1951 **A5954, 2129/6**

TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY DISSOLUTION CASE, 1950–51 **A6094**

Recorded by: 1950–51 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
 Canberra 0.18 metres

This series consists of the records relating to the Communist Party dissolution case heard in the High Court of Australia in 1950–51. The records include newspaper clippings concerning the case, court transcripts, submissions by the parties involved, the statements of case, the judgements and the reasons behind these judgements, and observations made on the judgements, including a summary of the justices' findings.

Newspaper clippings and reported court transcript of the Communist Party dissolution case, 1950–51 **A6094, 1**

Case stated in the High Court of Australia, 1950 **A6094, 3**

Communist Party dissolution case. Submissions of parties, 1951 **A6094, 2**

The Australian Communist Party and others versus the Commonwealth of Australia on others and 7 other cases. Reasons for judgements, 1951 **A6094, 4**

Australian Communist Party case. Observations on the judgements, 1951 **A6094, 5**

SUBJECT FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES (CLASSIFIED) 1946–57**M1509**

Recorded by: 1946–57 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office –
Solicitor-General's Office (CA 5)
1946–57 Sir Kenneth Hamilton Bailey CBE, QC (CP 71)
Canberra 1.08 metres

This series consists of subject files that were held separately from the main subject file series (M1505) because of security considerations. They cover a range of topics, including the Communist Party Dissolution Act, security risks in the public service, and the establishment of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO).

Communism, report on, 1951**M1509, 12****CORRESPONDENCE ON COMMON LAW MATTERS (SL SERIES), 1947–53****SP186/1**

Recorded by: 1947–53 Crown Solicitor's Office, New South Wales Branch (CA 884)
Sydney 35.71 metres

This series covers court cases in which the Deputy Crown Solicitor appeared on behalf of the Crown but numerous other types of activity are also included; for example, records relating to an inquiry into compensation claims of ex-prisoners of war.

**Communist Party Dissolution Act – Australian Communist Party
and others versus the Commonwealth of Australia –
High Court transcripts sets 1 and 2 (part only), 1950****SP186/1, SL57839 part 1**

There are 10 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

National Library of Australia**PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78****MS 4936**

See series description on page 28.

(Robert Menzies) Communist Party Dissolution Bill, 1941–53**MS 4936, boxes 436–7****(Robert Menzies) Communist Party Referendum Bill, 1951****MS 4936, Box 526****Robert Menzies, Communist Party Dissolution Bill,
statement, 27 April 1950****MS 4936, Box 254, Folder 24****Robert Menzies Communist Party Dissolution Bill,
1950–51****MS 4936, Box 255, folders 28–30****Robert Menzies, Communist Party, 1950****MS 4936, boxes 436–7****RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT,
C.1945–90****MS 5000**

See series description page 51.

Committee against communism, 1948 MS 5000, boxes 15, 22, 82, 281, 283, 1234, 1235

(Liberal Party) referendum, 1951 MS 5000, boxes 397–8

**Liberal Party, Communist Party,
1948–66** MS 5000, boxes 15, 22, 82, 281, 283, 293, 397, 398

The Korean War, 1950–53

While debate raged over the Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the rights of freedom of speech, attention was now drawn to the outbreak of the Korean War.

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 when communist North Korea, with the support of the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea. Cabinet discussed the matter on 27 June and decided that the invasion was just one phase of Russian aggression, with other countries, including Malaya, also being subject to attack at some future stage ('Cabinet decisions' 1950, NAA: A4638, SET 1).

The United Nations called for a command force to repel the invaders, and eventually 21 countries, including Australia, joined. Australia would ultimately contribute over 17,000 defence personnel (army, navy and air force) to the war effort. The war lasted for 3 years before an armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. By the end of hostilities, Australia had suffered more than 1,500 casualties, including 339 deaths (Dennis et al. 1995:336).

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55 A462

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 65.

**Korean campaign – technical term for Korean hostilities –
'war' or 'police action', 1951–52** A462, 443/1/15

Korean war – general representations, 1950–53 A462, 443/3/1 part 1

Korean war – general representations, 1952–54 A462, 443/3/1 part 2

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)

1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

Canberra 3,458.46 metres

This is the main correspondence file series of the agency. It covers a wide range of issues, including international treaties, conventions and agreements, honours and awards, peace-keeping forces and United Nations agencies.

Korean War – future of Korea, 1950–53 **A1838, 3123/1 part 1**

There are 30 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Korean War – telegrams and statements, 1950 **A1838, 3123/5 part 1**

There are 16 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Korean War – North Korean administration in South Korea, 1950–61 **A1838, 3123/5/3**

Korean War – prisoners of war, 1950–52 **A1838, 3123/5/7 part 1**

There are 5 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Korean War – Security Council discussions, 1950–52 **A1838, 3123/6 part 1**

Korean War – Australian policy statements, 1950 **A1838, 3123/7/3/1 part 1**

Korean War – Australian policy statements, 1950–57 **A1838, 3123/7/3/1 part 2**

Korean War – peace overtures, 1950–51 **A1838, 3123/8 part 1**

There are 16 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (SECOND SYSTEM)
(TOKYO), 1949–54**

A5104

Recorded by: 1949–54 Australian Embassy, Japan, Tokyo (CA 2972)

Canberra 7.74 metres

This series consists of correspondence between the Department of External Affairs and the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. Many earlier files were top-numbered into it from the previous series.

Korea – participation of Australian forces in the Korean War, 1950–54 **A5104, 7/22/10/4**

The Malayan Emergency, 1950–60

The Malayan Emergency began in 1948. It was in that year that the Federation of Malaya was created, which comprised the 9 Malay states and the British Straits Settlements of Penang and Malacca. The Communist Party of Malaya was committed to the independence of the country and began a campaign of guerilla insurgency. The unrest was particularly disturbing to Menzies who believed that if Malaya fell under communist rule, Soviet forces could use the territory to launch attacks on Australia.

An organisation known as ANZAM (Australia, New Zealand and Malaya) was established to deal with the threat. Each provided military resources. Australia sent ground troops, aircraft and warships, starting in 1950. In 1957, the Royal Australian Air Force acquired the British base Butterworth in northern Malaya. It was home to fighter and bomber jets. The base still exists but is now managed by the Royal Malaysian Air Force. The ANZAM forces managed to overcome the guerillas and the emergency was declared over in 1960.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956–

A463

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
Canberra 966.83 metres

This series deals with general and policy matters. Subjects reflect the coordinating function of the department, including political, social, cultural, economic, environmental, industrial and defence matters. Other aspects include the administration of the Commonwealth Government, immigration, honours, international conferences and diplomatic relations with other countries, as well as the management of Official Establishments, including the Prime Minister's residences.

Malayan end of emergency celebrations, 1960

A463, 1960/5129

DEFENCE COMMITTEE AGENDA, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1932–

A5799

Recorded by: 1932–97 Defence Committee [II] (CA 289)
Canberra 23.04 metres

This series consists of Defence Committee agenda files, which contain matters considered by the Defence Committee (the primary committee for advising the Minister for Defence on defence policy) and recorded in Defence Committee minutes.

Malayan Defence Treaty, employment of Commonwealth forces on emergency operations in Malaya after the grant of independence, 1956

A5799, 217/1956

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE [RAAF] CEREMONIAL, SPECIAL EVENT AND HISTORICAL VIDEO FOOTAGE, 1924–2001

C5424

Recorded by: 1924–2001 RAAF Museum (CA 6071)
Canberra 0.19 metres

This series consists of video tapes and audio tapes created and maintained by the RAAF for training, operational and historical purposes.

Museum compile, the Malayan Emergency, 1950–58

C5424, 1037222

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (CLASSIFIED 301), 1935–58

A816

Recorded by: 1935–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
1942–58 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)
Canberra 95.67 metres

This is the main correspondence file series of the agency. It records all security classified matters dealt with by the Department of Defence. This includes a large proportion of information-gathering and the information itself, policy matters and technical information about such things as armaments, manpower and deployment.

Plans for the defence of sea communications in the ANZAM region, 1950–54 A816, 14/301/418

The future of ANZAM, 1952–53 A816, 14/301/533

ANZAM planning for the defence of Malaya – discussion on the army order of battle, 1955 A816, 14/301/659

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL ‘C’ (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957– A1209

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

This series comprises classified files relating to general and policy matters handled by the Prime Minister’s Department. The subject matter varies widely and includes departmental and domestic matters relating to foreign affairs. It reflects the functions of the department in the political, cultural, economic, environmental, industrial and defence fields. A number of files have been top-numbered from other series. Contents of about 900 of the 33,000 files in the series pre-date 1956.

The future of ANZAM, 1957–60 A1209, 1957/5455

The establishment of ANZAM. Policy 1949–52, 1946–63 A1209, 1957/5679

ANZAM planning for the defence of Malaya, 1955 A1209, 1957/5981

The Colombo Plan, 1950

The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia was born out of a Commonwealth Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), in January 1950. At this meeting, a plan was established to provide a framework within which international cooperation efforts could be promoted to raise the standards of people in the region. It was intended to assist member states of South-East Asia to battle communist movements in their countries.

In its early years, the Colombo Plan’s assistance from developed to developing countries comprised both the transfer of physical capital and technology and a strong component of skills development. The plan still exists today, but is now known as the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55 A462

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 65.

South-East Asia – Colombo Plan – participation of the United States of America, 1950–51 A462, 587/4

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'B' (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) PREFIX, 1950–61 **A694**

Recorded by: 1950–61 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)
Canberra 15.12 metres

This series documents the industrial and manufacturing development function of the department.

**British Commonwealth Consultative Committee –
Colombo Plan, 1951**

A694, B278 part 2

There are 14 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

**FOURTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND
ASSOCIATED DECISIONS, 1949–51** **A4639**

Recorded by: 1949–51 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 65.

Meeting of British Commonwealth foreign ministers, Colombo, 1950 **A4639, 37**

**Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and
South-East Asia, 1950** **A4639, 37A**

**FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS
(FIRST SYSTEM), 1951–54** **A4905**

Recorded by: 1951–54 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

This series consists of submissions considered by the Menzies ministry of 1951 to 1954. The submissions cover a wide range of subjects and address many of the significant events or issues of the time, such as Australia's involvement in the Korean War, atomic testing, immigration policy and industry assistance schemes as well as ongoing matters such as budgets, taxation and changes to legislation.

**Australian Government's contribution to the Colombo Plan –
decision 15, 1951** **A4905, 21**

**FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS
(SECOND SYSTEM), 1954–55** **A4906**

Recorded by: 1954–55 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 10.99 metres

The fifth Menzies ministry held term from 11 May 1951 until 11 January 1956. This series contains submission papers that were prepared by ministers and their departments for consideration by Cabinet and Cabinet committees during the second half of the fifth ministry, from July 1954 until January 1956. Attached to each submission is a memorandum or a decision paper.

Colombo Plan exhibition – decision 304, 1955

A4906, 270

Australian participation in the Colombo Plan – decision 483, 1955–83

A4906, 409

**COLOMBO PLAN, RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE,
1950–71**

A10617

Recorded by: 1950–71 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 1.98 metres

The first meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee, held in Sydney in May 1950, recommended creation of the Colombo Plan and Bureau. The second meeting, held in London in September 1950 to consider the recommendations, issued a report which might be said to constitute the Charter of the Colombo Plan. It was originally planned to run for 6 years, but was extended 3 times, each for 5 years, until 1971. All items in custody in this series are listed on RecordSearch.

Colombo Plan, British Commonwealth Consultative Committee

[second meeting, Sydney] – main meeting – proceedings part 1, 1950 A10617, 1950/5

COLOMBO PLAN, ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 1952–65 A10618

1952–65 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 0.18 metres

This series consists of annual reports prepared by the Colombo Plan's Consultative Committee. All records in custody are listed on RecordSearch.

**11th annual report of the Consultative Committee, presented
at Melbourne, 1962**

A10618, 11th report

The ANZUS Treaty, 1951

Australia and New Zealand both feared possible hostilities from China and were concerned about future Japanese aggression. They lobbied the United States for a defence pact to ensure they were safe from any future aggression. The United States ultimately agreed, partly in response to Australia's provision of troops to fight in the Korean War, and partly because the United States wanted Japan to remain an economically strong and politically stable partner.

The Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America (ANZUS Treaty) was signed in San Francisco on 1 September 1951 and took effect on 29 April 1952. Percy Spender, Australia's Ambassador to the United States, signed on behalf of Australia. Under the terms of the treaty, the 3 nations maintain a consultative relationship with each other and strive to ensure their collective security in the Pacific region.

The *Security Treaty (Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America) Act 1952* provided legislative support for Australia's involvement with the ANZUS Treaty.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957–

A1209

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
Canberra 1,251.82 metres
See series description on page 71.

ANZUS–United Kingdom association and relationship, 1952–53 A1209, 1957/4252

ANZUS council meeting – Honolulu [Hawaii] August 1952 – first meeting, 1952 A1209, 1957/5667

ANZUS military representatives – September 1952 – first meeting – policy, 1952 A1209, 1957/5668

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89

A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)
1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)
See series description on page 68.

ANZUS Treaty, text and interpretation, 1950–66 A1838, 270/1 part 1

ANZUS Treaty, text and interpretation, 1966– A1838, 270/1 part 2

Security treaty – ANZUS pact – membership – proposals for inclusion of United Kingdom as observer, 1951–52 A1838, 532/13/1/1A

Tripartite security pact, ANZUS, 1950–51 A1838, TS686/1 part 1

There are 5 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1957–74

A1945

Recorded by: 1957–74 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)
Canberra 102.78 metres

This correspondence file series documents the policy and administration of the Department of Defence, including the following areas: defence policy, joint service matters, finance, supply, production programs and capacity, disposition and organisation of, and higher appointments to, the defence forces, weapons and equipment, defence research and development.

United States obligations under ANZUS, 1963–69 A1945, 16/2/2

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (FIRST SYSTEM)
(SINGAPORE), 1946–57**

A4968

Recorded by: 1946–56 Australian Commission, Malaya/(from 1954) Commissioner for
South-East Asia (Singapore) (CA 2950)
1956–57 Australian Commission, Singapore, Brunei, Sarawak and North
Borneo (CA 2951)
Canberra 2.07 metres

This series consists of correspondence between the Department of External Affairs and the Australian Commission in Singapore relating to the protection of Australia's interests in South-East Asia.

Pacific security (ANZUS), 1948–52

A4968, 25/17/1

**SECRET/TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES
(SECOND SYSTEM) (WASHINGTON), 1952–53**

A5461

Recorded by: 1952–53 Australian Embassy, Washington (CA 1817)
Canberra 3.78 metres

This series consists of highly classified correspondence between the Department of External Affairs and the Australian Embassy in Washington.

ANZUS Council – first meeting, 1952

A5461, 1/4/2A part 1

There are 3 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71

A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)

See series description on page 41.

**Texts of (a) Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the
United States of America, (b) ANZUS military representatives – terms of
reference, (c) ANZUS military representatives – planning tasks, 1951–52**

A5954, 1340/12

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'EATS'
(EAST ASIA TOP SECRET) PREFIX, 1950–52**

A6768

1950–52 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 0.72 metres

This series consists of highly classified correspondence relating to Australia's interests in South-East Asia.

Pacific Pact, ANZUS Treaty, 1951

A6768, EATS 77 part 1

There are 5 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

TREATIES COLLECTION, 1948–

A13307

Recorded by: 1948– Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 76.16 metres

This series comprises treaties (and associated documentation) negotiated between Australia and other states and/or international organisations. The associated documentation includes a variety of instruments, such as accessions, full powers, ratifications, exchanges of notes, and letters and withdrawals.

Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America [ANZUS] – date and place of signing: San Francisco, 1 September 1951 – date of entry into force for Australia: 29 April 1952, 1951

A13307, 50/1

National Library of Australia

RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90

MS 5000

See series description on page 51.

Liberal Party, Pacific Pact, 1951–56

MS 5000, Box 1255

British nuclear tests in Australia, 1952–63

While attempts to ban the Communist Party were still under way, Menzies was approached by the British government in September 1950, first by cable and then by telephone call from British Prime Minister Clement Atlee.

Atlee told Menzies that the British had been developing their own atomic bomb and would soon be in a position to test it. He asked if the Australian Government would agree in principle to allowing them to test it in Australian territory some time in 1952 (Atlee 1950, NAA: A6455, RC800 1950). Menzies did not refer the matter to Cabinet, and did not inform the Australian public about the pending tests until 18 February 1952 ('U.K. atomic weapon in Australian test soon' 1952:1). The *Defence (Special Undertakings) Act 1952* facilitated the tests by providing the necessary security measures, and preventing interference by anyone who might have been opposed.

The tests involving both atomic detonations of nuclear devices, and other lesser trials, were carried out between 1952 and 1963. The first atomic test took place at Montebello Islands (Western Australia) on 3 October 1952, the last at Maralinga (South Australia) on 9 October 1957. In all, 12 detonations ('major trials') took place between 1952 and 1957. There were 3 detonations at Montebello Islands between 1952 and 1956, 2 at Emu Field (South Australia) in 1953, and 7 at Maralinga between 1956 and 1957 (Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency n.d.).

Concerns grew about safety standards observed during the conduct of the nuclear tests, especially with regard to measures taken to protect people from exposure to ionising radiation, and the disposal of radioactive substances and toxic materials. In July 1984, the government

responded by establishing a Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia to inquire into these aspects of the tests. The royal commission began in October 1984, held hearings in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and London, and presented its report on 5 December 1985.

It should be noted that many original records created by government agencies in the 1950s during the time of the atomic tests were requisitioned by the royal commission and incorporated into its own recordkeeping system (as NAA series A6456).

National Archives of Australia

FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS (FIRST SYSTEM), 1951–54

A4905

Recorded by: 1951–54 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 9.45 metres

See series description on page 72.

Atomic weapon test – security – decision 431, 1952

A4905, 272

Atomic energy – arrangement with the United Kingdom – decision 933, 1954

A4905, 620

There are a number of series recorded by the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia (CA 3993) held by the National Archives. All items for these series have been listed on RecordSearch and most have been digitised and are available online. The series include, for example:

TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS, 1984–85

A6448

STATEMENTS RECEIVED FROM UNITED KINGDOM WITNESSES, 1985

A6449

STATEMENTS RECEIVED BY AUSTRALIAN WITNESSES, 1984–85

A6450

EXHIBITS TENDERED BEFORE THE ROYAL COMMISSION, 1984–85

A6455

**ORIGINAL AGENCY RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION,
'R' (RECORD) SERIES, 1984–85 (CONTENTS: 1952–1985)**

A6456

PHOTOGRAPHS RELATING TO ATOMIC TESTS, 1985

A6457

MAPS OF ATOMIC TEST SITES, 1985

A6458

FINAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION, 1985

A6460

Other material held relating to the royal commission includes:

**[MARALINGA LITIGATION MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
AND ENERGY, BRITISH ATOMIC TESTING ADMINISTRATION FILES, 1990–2001**

A13064

Recorded by: 1990–98 Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Central Office
(CA 5990)

1998–2001 Department of Industry, Science and Resources,
Central Office (CA 8617)

Canberra 64.62 metres

This series deals with issues involving the clean-up and maintenance of the sites used for the atomic tests. It contains project reports, health reviews, compensation claims and visits to test sites. Content dates from 1946 to 2002.

**Operation Totem contaminated aircraft decontamination
procedures – aircraft and personnel, 1954–84**

A13064, DPIE84/002062

The Petrovs and the Royal Commission on Espionage, 1954

On 13 April 1954, Menzies told the House of Representatives that Vladimir Petrov, an official with the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Canberra, had defected and sought political asylum in Australia. Petrov had brought with him documents that indicated that Soviet Union spies were operating in Australia. Petrov's wife, Evdokia, also defected a few days later. Both Vladimir and Evdokia were ultimately granted asylum in Australia.

Menzies further informed the House that Cabinet had approved the establishment of a royal commission to investigate claims of spying in Australia.

The Royal Commission on Espionage was formally established on 3 May 1954, and it was asked to investigate instances of espionage within Australia, and to determine the veracity of documents surrendered by Petrov. The royal commission's report was submitted in September 1955. Its principal findings were that the Petrov documents were legitimate, and that the Soviet Embassy in Canberra had been used for espionage.

Documents H and J

Among the documents shown to the commission were 2 key documents labelled 'H' and 'J'. Document H was written by Labor leader 'Doc' Evatt's secretary of staff, Fergan O'Sullivan. It consisted of biographical accounts of members of the 1952 press gallery, and was given to the Soviets by O'Sullivan under the pretence of helping them plant pro-Soviet articles in the press. In fact, the document was used to identify potential agents.

Document J was written by prominent Australian communist Rupert Lockwood. Lockwood considered the Soviet Union an ally against the alleged rising fascism, and Japan and the United States' attempts to imperialise Australia. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) believed the documents were simply propaganda.

Documents H and J were restricted from public access for many years but were finally released in September 1984 under the accelerated release provisions of the Archives Act 1983.

Vladimir Petrov died on 24 June 1991, and Evdokia Petrov on 19 July 2002.

National Archives of Australia

FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET DECISIONS (FIRST SYSTEM), 1951–54 A4909

Recorded by: 1951–54 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 1.26 metres

This series documents Cabinet's response to submissions on major issues affecting the governing of Australia.

Vladimir Petrov, Third Secretary, Soviet Embassy, 1954 A4909, 992

Petrov case, 1954 A4909, 1004

Petrov case, 1954 A4909, 1021

CABINET NOTEBOOKS, 1950–96 A11099

Recorded by: 1950–68 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
1968–71 Department of the Cabinet Office (CA 1285)
1971–96 Cabinet Office (CA 1472)
Canberra 42.75 metres

This series consists of notebooks created by the Cabinet Secretariat, containing handwritten notes of discussions and decisions made at Cabinet meetings, meetings of Cabinet committees, and occasionally other Cabinet-level meetings, such as budget discussions.

Cabinet notebook. Notetaker AS Brown. Notes of meetings 12 February 1954 to 27 April 1954, 1954 A11099, 1/18

The Petrov case was discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 13 April 1954; see pages 46–50 of the digitised file.

LETTERS TO VLADIMIR AND EVDOKIA PETROV FROM PRIME MINISTER MENZIES, 1954 A12994

Recorded by: 1954 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series consists of 2 letters, one to Vladimir Petrov, and one to his wife, Evdokia Petrov, granting them permanent residency in Australia.

EXHIBITS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1954–55 A6201

Recorded by: 1954–55 Royal Commission on Espionage (CA 1882)
Canberra 6.85 metres

This series consists of exhibits and documents marked for identification numbered 1–521 and tendered before the royal commission charged with examining matters concerned with Petrov's defection. All items in this series are listed on RecordSearch.

Exhibit 5 – document in Russian and English signed by Vladimir Petrov, seeking political asylum, with typescript carbon copy, 1954 **A6201, 5**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHA-NUMERIC SERIES WITH ‘RCE’ (ROYAL COMMISSION ON ESPIONAGE) PREFIX, 1954–57 **A6213**

Recorded by: 1954–57 Royal Commission on Espionage (CA 1882)
Canberra 6.10 metres

This is the principal record series used by the royal commission to document its day-to-day activities. Its diverse contents range from ordinary correspondence relating to everyday administrative matters, policy files, transcripts of ‘in-camera’ proceedings, extracts from Hansard, newspaper cuttings and drafts of a proposed publication of the ‘Moscow Papers’.

Parliamentary debates: final report – material for Prime Minister’s speech, 1955 **A6213, RCE/G/7**

Exhibits: index to exhibits (alphabetical), 1955 **A6213, RCE/J/4**

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION (SIGNED ORIGINAL), 1955 **A6216**

Recorded by: 1955 Royal Commission on Espionage (CA 1882)
Canberra 0.18 metres

This series is the final report of the royal commission.

Report of the Royal Commission on Espionage, 1955 **A6216, 1**

This report was signed by the commissioners on 22 August 1955. Original signatures appear on page 358 of the digitised file.

BINDER OF PRINTED COPIES OF ROYAL COMMISSION OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF IN-CAMERA PROCEEDINGS, 1955 **A6223**

Recorded by: 1955 Royal Commission on Espionage (CA 1882)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series consists of the transcripts of proceedings held in camera between 20 July 1954 and 10 March 1955.

Official transcript of proceedings taken in camera, 1954–55 **A6223, 1**

VOLUMES OF NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS RELATING TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION, 1954–56 **A6226**

Recorded by: 1954–56 Royal Commission on Espionage (CA 1882)
Canberra 0.54 metres

The Royal Commission Secretariat collected various types of press reports about the commission’s activities. Besides the newspaper cuttings in this series (A6226), series A6225 contains feature articles written by Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov, Geoffrey Hoare and Dr Michael and Patricia Bialoguski for serialisation in Australian newspapers. Other newspaper cuttings, copies of the communist newspaper *Tribune* and binders of radio news and

commentary items can be found in series A6213. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) also maintained a series of newspaper cuttings about the royal commission (A6282).

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Mrs Petrov, draft of speech to the House of Representatives, not dated

MS 4936, Box 259, Folder 56

Vladimir Petrov, statement to the House of Representatives, 13 April 1954

MS 4936, Box 259, Folder 57

Royal Commission on Espionage, second reading speech, 14 April 1954

MS 4936, Box 259, Folder 57

RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90

MS 5000

See series description on page 51.

Royal commission, espionage, 1955

MS 5000, Box 125

SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization), 1954

The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) took effect on 8 September 1954. Apart from Australia, other signatories to the treaty included France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, United Kingdom and the United States. SEATO was an alliance aiming to contain communist aggression within the free territories of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, or South-East Asia in general.

The treaty did not extend as far as an absolute mutual defence commitment. Instead it provided for consultations in case of aggression against a signatory or protocol state before any combined actions were initiated. The lack of an agreement that would have compelled a combined military response to aggression significantly weakened SEATO as a military alliance. It was, however, used as legal basis for United States involvement in South Vietnam. The SEATO treaty expired on 30 June 1977.

National Archives of Australia

THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71

A5954

Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)

See series description on page 41.

Proposals for the establishment of a South-East Asian defence organisation, 1954

A5954, 1426/2

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55

A462

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 65.

SEATO – economic policy, 1955

A462, 439/1/45 part 1

There are 4 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (CLASSIFIED 301), 1935–58

A816

Recorded by: 1935–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)

1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)

1942–58 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)

See series description on page 70.

Proposed establishment of SEATO – report on defence aspects, 1954

A816, 11/301/938

SEATO – security policy and procedures, 1955–56

A816, 11/301/1014

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957–

A1209

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 71.

SEATO agreement – ratification, 1954–55

A1209, 1957/4218

SEATO draft treaty negotiations, 1954

A1209, 1957/5705 part 1

SEATO draft treaty negotiations, 1954

A1209, 1957/5705 part 2

The Suez Canal crisis, 1956

On 26 July 1956, Egyptian President Gamal Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company, which regulated the passage of shipping through the canal. The revenues to be gained by this action would be used to fund construction of the Aswan High Dam. Nasser's actions brought immediate condemnation from Britain and France. On 2 September 1956, Menzies led an international delegation to Cairo in an effort to persuade Nasser to enter into discussions with Britain and France. The visit was a failure.

Despite strong pressure from the United States, both Britain and France sent troops to Egypt, as did Israel. Israeli troops attacked Egypt on 29 October, followed shortly by both British and French troops. In retaliation, Nasser sank more than 40 vessels that were in the canal. Under the weight of international condemnation, Israeli forces and Anglo-French troops had all withdrawn by the end of the year.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– **A432**

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Suez Canal crisis, 1956 **A432, 1956/3264**

PRIME MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1950–66 **A6706**

Recorded by: 1950–66 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 0.99 metres

This series consists of letters, either originals or copies, between Australian prime ministers (Menzies and Holt) and other heads of government. They were held in the office of the departmental secretary for potential use in the writing of memoirs.

Correspondence between Australian Prime Minister Menzies and other heads of governments – Suez Canal, 1956–57 **A6706, 64**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957– **A1209**

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 71.

Suez Canal dispute – Australian defence contribution, c.1956–57 **A1209, 1957/4032**

Appointment of Prime Minister Menzies as Chairman Suez Canal Committee, c.1956–57 **A1209, 1957/4055**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 **A1838**

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)

1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

See series description on page 68.

- Egypt – nationalisation of the Suez Canal, 1956** **A1838, 163/4/7/3/3 part 4**
- Egypt – nationalisation of the Suez Canal, 1956–57** **A1838, TS163/4/7/3/3**
- DEFENCE COMMITTEE AGENDA, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1932–** **A5799**
 Recorded by: 1932–97 Defence Committee [II] (CA 289)
 See series description on page 70.
- Suez Canal situation, 1956** **A5799, 139/1956**
- Suez Canal, 1956** **A5799, 145/1956**
- Suez Canal – question of Australian contribution to an international United Nations security force, 1956** **A5799, 192/1956**
- CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASSIFIED SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1920–68** **A2908**
 Recorded by: 1920–68 Australian High Commission, United Kingdom [London] (CA 241)
 Canberra 27.36 metres
 This series consists of classified correspondence between the Australian Government and diplomatic representatives in the United Kingdom.
- Suez Canal, 1956** **A2908, S170 part 1**
- SECRET/TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM) WASHINGTON, 1954–57** **A5462**
 Recorded by: 1954–57 Australian Embassy, Washington (CA 1817)
 Canberra 11.25 metres
 This series consists of highly classified correspondence between the Australian Government and diplomatic representatives in the United States.
- Suez Canal, 1956** **A5462, 118/2/4 part 1**
 There are 9 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.
- THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION, 1937–71** **A5954**
 Recorded by: 1937–71 Sir Frederick Geoffrey Shedden KCMG, OBE (CP 320)
 1937–39 Department of Defence [II], (Central Administration) (CA 19)
 1939–42 Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)
 1942–71 Department of Defence [III], Central Office (CA 46)
 See series description on page 41.
- Suez Canal – statement by the Prime Minister in the House of Representatives, 25 September 1956, 1956** **A5954, 1411/9**

**RG CASEY, MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE
NUMBER SERIES, 1956–60**

A10302

Recorded by: 1956–60 The Rt Hon Richard Gardner Casey KG, GCMG, PC, CH, DSO,
MC (CP 24)
1956–60 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
Canberra 9.27 metres

This series consists of correspondence maintained by Richard Casey during his term as Minister for External Affairs.

Overseas trip – Suez conference, London, 1956

A10302, 1956/1493

Suez, 1956

A10302, 1958/708

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Robert Menzies, Suez Canal, 1956

MS 4936, Box 262, folders 78–81

Robert Menzies, Suez material, 1956

MS 4936, boxes 423–4

Robert Menzies, papers concerning the Suez Canal, 1956

MS 4936, Box 587, Folder 80

Robert Menzies, Suez, 1956

MS 4936, Box 574

The Vietnam War, 1962–73

On 24 May 1962, Athol Townley (Australia's Minister for Defence) announced that Australia would send a team of 30 advisers to South Vietnam, to support American troops and advisers who were already in the country. The decision marked the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. On 8 June 1963, the number of advisers was increased to 83. On 29 April 1965, Menzies announced that Australia would send an infantry battalion (approximately 800 men) to Vietnam, marking the first deployment of combat troops.

At first, there was general support by the Australian people for the war. As casualties mounted, however, support began to wane. In 1968, when a regiment was due to return home from Vietnam, Prime Minister John Gorton announced that it would not be replaced. By 1970, large-scale moratoriums (peace marches) were being held denouncing the war and Australia's involvement.

In November 1970, the government announced the phased withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam and the last took place in late 1972. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end, when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. A small platoon was left guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) until June 1973.

National service

In April 1951, the government had introduced compulsory military training for all 18-year-old males. The scheme ran from 1951 until it was abolished in 1960, by which time more than 500,000 men had registered and over 225,000 had received military training. All national servicemen served in Australia; none were sent overseas.

As part of Australia's commitment to the Vietnam War, however, the Menzies government reintroduced national service (conscription) on a selective basis in 1964 under the National Service Act of that year. In May 1965, the government introduced new powers that enabled it to send national servicemen to serve overseas. From 1965 to 1972, 15,381 national servicemen served in the Vietnam War, with 200 killed and 1,279 wounded. The National Service Scheme was abolished on 5 December 1972 by the newly elected Whitlam Labor government, as had been promised in its election campaign (Whitlam 1972:12).

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956– **A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Vietnam crisis – general representations, 1964–65 **A463, 1964/3809 part 1**

There are 7 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Vietnam crisis – general representations, 1966 **A463, 1966/2310 part 1**

Vietnam crisis – general representations, 1966 **A463, 1966/2310 part 2**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 **A1838**

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)
1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

See series description on page 68.

South Vietnam – relations with Australia – provision of military instructors, 1962–66 **A1838, 3014/10/15/2**

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES - CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–1967 **A4940**

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 78.12 metres

The files arranged by subject, contain cabinet papers and generally include submissions and supporting papers, circulation details, minutes of decisions, memoranda advising decisions. Cabinet submissions and associated decisions in this series for 1961–66 were copied by the Cabinet

Secretariat to form separate sets to facilitate access to individual documents. They can be found in series A5819 and A5827 and the documents are listed on RecordSearch.

Australian military aid for South Vietnam, 1962–65

A4940, C4643 PART 1

This file includes Cabinet minute 241 of 15 May 1962 recording the Menzies government decision to send a group of army instructors to South Vietnam. The group became known as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. There are 4 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

North West Cape communications base, 1963–68

In pursuing closer links with the United States, in 1963, Menzies's government negotiated with the Americans for them to establish a communications base at North West Cape in Western Australia. The *United States Naval Communication Station Agreement Act 1963* formalised the agreement to establish the station.

The station was commissioned as the US Naval Communication Station North West Cape in 1967 at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Harold Holt and the American Ambassador to Australia. In 1968, the station was officially renamed the Naval Communication Station Harold E Holt, in honour of Holt who had died in December 1967.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

United States naval radio communication station at North West Cape, WA, 1962–63

A432, 1962/162 part 1

There are 12 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89

A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)

1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

See series description on page 68.

United States Naval Communications Station – Agreement, including negotiations, site surveys, parliamentary debate, interpretation, policy matters, 1961–62

A1838, 694/7/12/1 part 2

United States Naval Communications Station – Agreement including interpretation, also policy matters and defence considerations, 1963–68

A1838, 694/7/12/1 part 5

There are 16 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

**Agreement with the USA, statement in the
House of Representatives, 16 May 1963**

MS 4936, Box 276, Folder 181

RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90

MS 5000

See series description on page 51.

North West Cape, 1963

MS 5000, boxes 397–8

Purchase of F111 aircraft, 1963–73

On 24 October 1963, Menzies told parliament that Australia had decided to purchase the F111 bomber as a replacement for its ageing Canberra bombers (Australian House of Representatives 1963). After completing negotiations with the United States supplier, Athol Townley (Minister for Defence) announced that Australia had agreed to buy 24 aircraft at a cost of £56 million ('TFX bomber deal £56m' 1963:1). One of the reasons the government gave in making its choice was the aircraft's large fuel capacity. The government was concerned about the rise of communist insurgents in Indonesia. The long-range capacity of the F111 meant that it could strike targets in Indonesia and return to Australia without having to refuel.

The difficulty for the government, however, was that the aircraft was still in its design phase. As delays and cost increases occurred, the Menzies and subsequent Coalition governments were subjected to continuing criticism. The first F111 aircraft finally entered service in 1973.

National Archives of Australia

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67

A4940

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

**Selection of a strike/reconnaissance aircraft as a replacement for the
Canberras of the RAAF, 1963–69**

A4940, C3852

CABINET FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'C' (CABINET) PREFIX, 1968–72

A5619

Recorded by: 1968–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1971–72 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

Canberra 17.63 metres

This series was created in the Prime Minister's Department after separation of the department and the Cabinet Office in March 1968. The department was supplied by the Department of the Cabinet Office with copies of all current Cabinet documents and, where requested, with photocopies of documents of earlier Liberal governments.

Purchase of F111 aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force, 1963–70 **A5619, C40 part 1**

Purchase of F111 aircraft for RAAF – report of the evaluation team on a strike/reconnaissance aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force – copy no. 15, 1963 **A5619, C40 attachment**

Overseas visits

Robert Menzies was a much-travelled prime minister, both nationally and, in particular, internationally. He regularly attended Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conferences which were held in Great Britain almost every year. When such a conference was not held in 1959, he undertook a round-the-world tour, which included meetings in both the United States and Canada. He met 3 American presidents – Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

Menzies also undertook a number of visits to South-East Asia, including Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. In 1959, he travelled to Indonesia – the first Australian prime minister to make such a visit. Following Indonesia, he travelled to Malaya where he built on the rapport he had already established with that country's Prime Minister, Tunku Abdel Rahman.

As an indication of how highly Menzies was regarded internationally, following his death in May 1978, representatives from many countries attended his state funeral, including Great Britain, New Zealand, the United States, Japan, Canada, the Philippines, Korea and Nauru.

National Archives of Australia

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO INDONESIA, MALAYA AND THE COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS, 1959 **A1775**

Recorded by: 1959 Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra (CA 219)
Canberra 0.73 metres

This is a photographic record of Prime Minister Robert Menzies's visit to Indonesia, Malaya and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 1959.

Photographs – visit to Indonesia, Malaya and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 1959 **A1775, Box 1**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 **A1838**

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)
1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

See series description on page 68.

USA – Robert Menzies's visit, 1952–65

A1838, 250/9/25 part 1

Robert Menzies, official visit to Japan, April 1957, 1957

A1838, 1252/18/13

PERSONAL PAPERS RELATING TO GOVERNMENT CEREMONIAL AND HOSPITALITY, 1952–80

AA1980/735

Recorded by: 1952–80 Sir James Henry Scholtens KCVO (CP 238)
1952–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971–80 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
Canberra 17.37 metres

This series was compiled by James Scholtens during his long career in the Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch of the department. It consists of letters, memos, plans, briefs and guides concerning arrangements such as air travel, accommodation, car seating, invitations, dinner engagements, precedence at table and so forth.

Robert and Pattie Menzies, visit to Japan, Thailand, the Philippines and New Guinea, 1957

AA1980/735, 194

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Overseas visits, 1935–65

MS 4936, boxes 326–40, Folio Box

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Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (n.d.) 'British nuclear weapons testing in Australia', arpansa.gov.au/understanding-radiation/sources-radiation/more-radiation-sources/british-nuclear-weapons-testing, accessed 18 November 2019.

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'TFX bomber deal £56m' (1963) *The Canberra Times*, 11 November.

'U.K. atomic weapon in Australian test soon: interest in U.S.' (1952) *The Canberra Times*, 19 February.

Whitlam G (1972) 'It's time: Australian Labor Party policy speech' (Blacktown Civic Centre, 13 November 1972) [podium version], WhitlamDismissal.com, accessed 21 December 2019.

6 The Menzies government and social issues, 1949–66

Throughout his prime ministership, Menzies began dealing with a number of social and other domestic issues. He had significant successes, particularly when it came to education and health.

National development

Following the 1949 election, the Menzies government decided to abandon the Chifley government's policy of postwar reconstruction, and pursue a policy of national development.

To this end, in March 1950, it established the Department of National Development. The department's principal role was to plan for the supply of basic commodities, promote decentralisation and regional development, and plan for the development of primary and manufacturing industries and the stimulation of housing construction.

Over the next 20 years, the department had a wide range of functions. These included: assessing immediate shortages in basic commodities and planning improvements by increased production or importation; and surveying and planning the development of national resources generally, as well as a particular focus on primary and manufacturing industries and the stimulation of housing and building construction. The department was also responsible for: promoting decentralisation and regional development throughout the Commonwealth and its territories; administering Commonwealth–state housing agreements; and development planning in conjunction with the various states. Where necessary, the department had to coordinate such planning, including investigating national works referred to it by the government. It also worked with Treasury and other interested departments to make arrangements with the respective states and other governmental authorities with regard to the cost and execution of development projects; and controlled funds required for the approved program of development work.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'B' (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) PREFIX, 1950–61

A694

Recorded by: 1950–61 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)

See series description on page 72.

Capital investment from overseas – general – including firms seeking contracting work, 1950–52

A694, B15 part 1

There are 17 parts to this file.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' (MINERAL DEVELOPMENT), 1950-61

A695

Recorded by: 1952-61 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)
Canberra 20.52 metres

This series documents matters relating to development and export of Australian minerals.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES 'E' (RESOURCES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT) PREFIX, 1950-61

A987

Recorded by: 1950-61 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)
Canberra 31.41 metres

This series consists of correspondence files relating to the development of regional resources in Australia. The files cover a wide range of resources to be exploited, including coal, shale oil, minerals and the potential to generate hydro-electricity.

MATERIAL RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS AGENCIES, 1960-70

AA1974/114

Recorded by: 1960-70 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)
Canberra 0.09 metres

This series consists of 4 pamphlets relating to the history of the agency.

Material relating to the administrative history of the Department of National Development and its agencies, 1960-70

AA1974/114, 1

PAPERS RELATING TO THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS AUTHORITY, JOINT COAL BOARD, ECONOMIC POLICY, GENERAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, AND COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENTS, 1953-57

CP608/1

Recorded by: 1953-57 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)
1953-57 The Rt Hon Sir William Henry Spooner KCMG, PC (CP 246)
Canberra 3.09 metres

This series consists of ministerial correspondence, articles, speeches, budget estimates, press statements, minutes and papers, and so forth.

Snowy Mountains hydro-electric project - proclamation, 1953

CP608/1, Bundle 5/9

Development and expansion of Canberra

When the Menzies government was elected to office in December 1949, Canberra consisted of a few disjointed suburbs on either side of the Molonglo River. Major government departments were still based in Melbourne or Sydney, making effective administration from Canberra extremely difficult. Office accommodation for public servants was in short supply. Housing was also limited, with long-term waiting lists caused by a lack of builders and supplies.

Menzies would admit, more than once, that he did not like Canberra at first. Indeed, when announcing his relocation from Victorian politics to the federal arena in July 1934, he said that 'Canberra is not attractive, either personally or professionally' ('Mr. Menzies gives his answer' 1934:7). Nevertheless, the government was determined that the public service, or at least essential elements of it, would move there. Apart from dealing with public servants unwilling to relocate, Menzies was also being harassed by his wife and daughter about the lack of facilities in Canberra. After hearing their complaints, Menzies replied: 'Well, we're stuck with Canberra, whether we like it or not, so we might as well do it properly' (Henderson 2013:82–3). He realised it was necessary to make the city a focal point for national pride and sentiment. 'Once I had converted myself to this faith,' he later wrote, 'I became an apostle' (Menzies 1970:143).

The first step in the city's renaissance took place in late 1954 with the appointment of a Senate Committee on the Development of Canberra. Hearings were held in Canberra and Sydney, hearing 83 witnesses and compiling more than 1,900 pages of witness statements. The committee presented its report on 29 September 1955. It contained 76 recommendations, including the establishment of a single authority for the development and administration of Canberra.

Following a drive around Canberra in late April 1956, Menzies wrote to Allen Fairhall (Minister for the Interior) that he was not very proud of what had happened to Canberra during his period of office. Among other complaints, he wrote that new shops in the Civic Centre were hideous and possessed neither form nor comeliness. Residences at Narrabundah were half-sized cottages resembling a superior chicken farm. The cost of housing, streets and services was increasing as the city was spreading. He asked who was responsible and concluded that 'I will turn a very cold eye on proposals for Canberra expenditure until I am satisfied that the business is being attended to in a businesslike and effective way' (Menzies 1956).

In July 1956, Menzies tasked Ken Herde (a senior official with the Prime Minister's Department) with preparing a paper on the lack of good development in Canberra and potential future problems, and providing solutions. Herde presented his report on 15 July. He too called for the establishment of a single authority to undertake the planning, supervision, coordination, direction and expedition of all construction work in Canberra. He also urged the government to seek advice from someone who had proven themselves in the field of city development, and recommended William Holford, a London-based architect.

Holford was contracted to visit Canberra and write a report on its future development. He spent 2 weeks in Canberra in June 1957. Upon returning to London, Holford met Menzies at the Savoy Hotel on 11 July 1957. A few days later, Menzies sent a telegram to acting Prime Minister Arthur Fadden telling him of his meeting with Holford, and that his views strongly reinforced the notion that what was needed in Canberra was a special and powerful new authority. Menzies concluded by saying that 'I found Holford's opinions impressive and lively' (Menzies 1957, NAA: A4940, C1698).

Legislation to establish the National Capital Development Commission (the name coined by Ken Herde) passed in September 1957. Holford presented his report, *Observations on the future development of Canberra*, on 28 December 1957. Essentially, he made 3 recommendations: the capital should remain a garden city; it should develop a modern system of communication by road and air; and it should eventually become a centre for aspects of Australian culture.

Canberra's development dramatically accelerated from that moment, and the first of many public servant transfers took place in 1959.

In the remaining years of his term as Prime Minister, Menzies presided over the completion of many Canberra projects, including the opening of Department of Defence offices at Russell, Monaro Mall (at that time the largest shopping centre in Australia), Kings Avenue Bridge and Lake Burley Griffin. Following his retirement in January 1966, he also laid the foundation stone for the new National Library of Australia on 31 March 1966.

To honour his direct involvement with Canberra's development, a statue was erected on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin in March 2012.

At a memorial service given in his honour in Canberra on 19 May 1978, it was acknowledged that Menzies had served Canberra well, with the minister conducting the service, Hector Harrison, saying: 'Twenty years ago he founded the National Capital Development Commission which ... gave a needed thrust to the planning of Canberra ... He enthusiastically backed the inauguration of the Australian National University' ('Australians pay last respects' 1978:13).

National Archives of Australia

FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS (FIRST SYSTEM), 1951–54

A4905

Recorded by: 1951–54 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 72.

Transfer of departments to Canberra to occupy the new administrative office building – decision 1035, 1954

A4905, 694

FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS (SECOND SYSTEM), 1954–55

A4906

Recorded by: 1954–55 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 72.

Report on transfer of departments to Canberra to occupy the new administrative office building – decision 87, 1954

A4906, 84

Transfer of departments to Canberra to occupy the new administrative building – decision 499, 1955

A4906, 410

Transfer of Defence group of departments to Canberra – decision 647, 1955

A4906, 550

SIXTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS, 1956–58 **A4926**

Recorded by: 1956–58 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 13.95 metres

This series contains submissions that were prepared for consideration by the inner Cabinet, the full ministry, or a Cabinet committee.

Administrative building, Canberra – decision 556, 1956 **A4926, 382**

Development of Canberra as the seat of government – decision 556, 1956 **A4926, 451**

Occupation of the administrative building, transfer of officers from Melbourne – decision 626, 1957 **A4926, 509**

Proposal for establishment of Canberra Development Commission decision 702(GA), 1957 **A4926, 594**

City of Canberra Development Commission – decision 749(HOC), 1957 **A4926, 631**

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES ‘C’ SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67 **A4940**

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Holford Report on Canberra, 1956–64 **A4940, C1698**

ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901– **A1559**

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General’s Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

An Act to establish a commission for the development of the City of Canberra as the national capital of the Commonwealth [National Capital Development Commission Act 1957], 1957 **A1559, 1957/42**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55 **A462**

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister’s Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 65.

Development of Canberra – transfer of Commonwealth departments to Canberra, 1948–56 **A462, 192/1**

Administration and development of Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory, 1953–55 **A462, 192/16**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES 'E' (RESOURCES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)
PREFIX, 1950-61**

A987

Recorded by: 1950-61 Department of National Development [I], Central Office (CA 56)

See series description on page 92.

Development of Canberra, 1953-55

A987, E929

**PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET LIBRARY MATERIAL, DEWEY DECIMAL NUMBER
SERIES, 1911-62**

A1203

Recorded by: 1911-62 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 3.60 metres

This series consists of various reports, ministerial statements and documents relating to a whole range of matters, including overseas developments and currents affairs, imperial conferences, domestic affairs, foreign affairs, immigration and taxation.

**The Senate - report of the select committee appointed to
inquire into and report upon the development of Canberra,
September 1955, 1955**

A1203, 711/409947/10

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH
OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957-**

A1209

Recorded by: 1957-71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1971- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 71.

National Capital Development Commission establishment, 1957

A1209, 1959/162

**Transfer of departments to Canberra - Co-ordinating and
Steering Committee papers, 1958-62**

A1209, 1961/664 part 1

There are 4 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905-78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Russell Offices opening, 17 November 1960

MS 4936, Box 271, Folder 141

Opening of King's Avenue Bridge, 10 March 1962

MS 4936, Box 274, Folder 163

Opening of Monaro Shopping Mall, 6 March 1963

MS 4936, Box 276, Folder 178

Lake Burley Griffin inauguration, 17 October 1964

MS 4936, Box 281, Folder 212

PAPERS OF WILLIAM MCMAHON, 1949–87**MS 3926**

Recorded by: 1949–87 William McMahon
100 metres

This consignment comprises correspondence, telegrams, minutes, reports, Cabinet papers, press statements, transcripts of television and radio interviews, photographs, conference proceedings and records relating to McMahon's time in parliament.

Canberra Development Commission, 1957–58**MS 3926, Box 154, Folder 51****PAPERS OF KEN HERDE, 1951–2000****MS 9424**

Recorded by: 1951–2000 Kenneth Howard Herde
0.04 metres

This consignment consists of papers created by Ken Herde, a senior official in the Prime Minister's Department.

The development of Canberra, 1956–57**MS 9424, Folder 1****PAPERS OF JOHN ARCHIBALD MCCALLUM, 1920–74****MS 9872**

Recorded by:
1920–74 John Archibald McCallum
3.50 metres

This consignment consists of papers of John McCallum, including correspondence, journals, notebooks, drafts, articles, transcripts, newspaper clippings, diaries and published materials. Many of them relate to McCallum's terms as Senator for New South Wales, 1950–62, and include papers as Chair of 2 committees on Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory.

Senate Committee on the Development of Canberra, 1951–55**MS 9872, boxes 15–17**

Education

In the 1950s, Australia's population was increasing rapidly. Postwar 'baby boomers' and children of migrants were part of the reason. This placed a major strain on the country's education system, particularly schools and higher education institutions. Menzies was forced to deal with these ever-increasing demands. As part of his campaign for the 1963 general election, Menzies promised a substantial increase in Commonwealth support for the education system, including Catholic and other independent schools, and thousands of scholarships to help students complete their schooling.

Higher education

After the war, student numbers at Australian universities were increasing, and universities were struggling financially. In March 1950, Menzies announced that his government would continue with a scheme proposed by Ben Chifley's government to provide scholarships to poorer students who would otherwise be unable to pay university fees.

Following persistent lobbying by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and others, Menzies agreed to establish a Committee on Australian Universities to review university finances. The committee was under the direction of Sir Keith Murray, Chair of the British University Grants Committee. Murray arrived in Australia in June 1957 and the committee toured the country visiting all the universities.

Murray's Report of the Committee on Australian Universities was presented in September 1957 and recommended that £22 million be granted to universities over the next 3 years as an emergency measure. It proposed ways to cope with the projected expansion of student numbers over the next decade, and suggested the creation of a permanent committee to advise on university policy and development. This led to the establishment of the Australian Universities Commission in May 1959. The commission was tasked with advising the Commonwealth on the needs of Australian universities. This included recommending the extent of grants to states for universities, as well as financial assistance to universities established by the Commonwealth. The commission was to study the problems and needs of universities and to advise on any special university matters brought before it.

Among the pressures facing universities was the increasing demand for student places. Following a recommendation from the commission, in August 1961 Menzies established a committee to inquire into the future of higher education in Australia. Sir Leslie Martin, formerly Professor of Physics at the University of Melbourne, was appointed Chair.

The committee presented 3 reports between August 1964 and August 1965. It suggested that Australia could not afford to provide a university education for all those seeking to undertake tertiary studies. Acknowledging the country's need for more technically trained people, the committee proposed the creation of technical colleges that would provide a high level of applied training, focusing on teaching rather than research. With the acceptance of the reports, which shaped the nation's higher education sector until the late 1980s, the college sector also entered into a period of rapid growth.

The support that Menzies gave to higher education, and the reports by Murray and Martin, led to a substantial increase in funding in the ensuing years.

National Archives of Australia

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67

A4940

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [1] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Report of Committee on Tertiary Education – the universities, 1965

A4940, C4136

There are 5 items in this series relating to the committee.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956– **A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Committee on Australian universities – government policy following report, 1957–59 **A463, 1958/416**

Aid by governments to non-state schools – policy, 1965–69 **A463, 1967/3894**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1947–60 **A1361**

Recorded by: 1947–60 Commonwealth Office of Education (CA 590)
Canberra 94.68 metres

This is the principal series created by the Commonwealth Office of Education.

Future of Australian universities – Committee on Australian Universities – policy, 1956–57 **A1361, 14/1/3 part 1**

SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES, 1954–57 **A7691**

Recorded by: 1954–57 Commonwealth Office of Education (CA 590)
Canberra 0.72 metres

This series consists of submissions received by the committee. All items in this series are listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–80 **A3289**

Recorded by: 1959–77 Australian Universities Commission/(from 1974) Universities Commission (CA 1320)
1977–80 Universities Council, Tertiary Education Commission (CA 2519)
Canberra 9.54 metres

This series comprises records of the commission, including administration, policy, sites for new universities, student residences, courses of study and the future of tertiary education in Australia.

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78 **MS 4936**

See series description on page 28.

Australian Universities Commission, statement in the House of Representatives, 28 April 1957 **MS 4936, Box 264, Folder 94**

Health and welfare

The Menzies government, building on the pharmaceutical legislation of the Chifley government in the 1940s, introduced the *National Health Act 1953* to consolidate all medical, hospital, dental, pharmaceutical and pensioner medical services.

Child endowment was a non-means-tested universal allowance introduced by the Menzies government in July 1941. Benefits were expanded in 1942 to include children in government-run institutions and to Aboriginal children in missions. Benefits were again expanded by the Menzies government in 1950 and 1964.

Other social welfare measures initiated by Menzies's government included: extension of the pensioner medical and free medicines service; the Aged Persons Homes assistance scheme; free provision of life-saving drugs; provision of supplementary pensions to dependent pensioners paying rent; increased rates of pension, unemployment and sickness benefits, and rehabilitation allowances; and a substantial system of tax incentives and rewards.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55 **A462**

Recorded by: 1951–55 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 65.

National Health Scheme – sundry representations and suggestions, 1951–55

A462, 702/1/6 part 1

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956– **A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

National Health Scheme – policy, 1953–60

A463, 1956/741

ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901– **A1559**

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

An Act relating to the provision of pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, and of medical and dental services [National Health Act 1953], 1953

A1559, 1953/95

An Act to provide for assistance by the Commonwealth towards the provision of homes for aged persons [Aged Persons Homes Act 1954], 1954

A1559, 1954/81

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1901–76**A571**

Recorded by: 1901–76 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office (CA 11)

See series description on page 54.

National Health Scheme – policy, 1950–57**A571, 1967/6142 part 3****FIFTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET DECISIONS (FIRST SYSTEM), 1951–54****A4909**

Recorded by: 1951–54 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 79.

Cabinet minute – National Health Bill – without submission, 1953**A4909, 682****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50****A461**

Recorded by: 1934–35 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)

1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 33.

Child endowment – policy, 1929–45**A461, H344/1/18 part 2****Child endowment – policy, 1941–46****A461, P351/1/1 part 2**

Australia's First Nations peoples

In 1949, Ben Chifley introduced legislation to ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ex-servicemen should have the right to vote. In 1961, the House of Representatives Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines was established, following which, in May 1962, the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended to enable all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the option to enrol and vote in federal elections. Unlike other Australians, enrolment was not compulsory for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Once enrolled, however, voting was compulsory.

On 14 and 28 August 1963, bark petitions from the Yolngu people of Yirrkala – calling for recognition of their rights to traditional lands – were tabled in the House of Representatives. This led to a House of Representatives inquiry.

In a submission to Cabinet of 22 February 1965, the Attorney-General, Billy Snedden, proposed a referendum that would amend section 51(xxvi) of the Constitution to enable the Commonwealth to make laws about Aboriginal peoples, and repeal section 127 to enable Aboriginal peoples to be counted in the census. Cabinet supported repealing section 127, but rejected changing section 51(xxvi). Later, the Holt government decided to put both questions to a referendum on 27 May 1967, which was passed by all 6 states.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'E' (ELECTION) PREFIX, 1901–

A406

- 1901–16 Department of Home Affairs [I], Central Office (CA 8)
- 1916–18 Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
- 1918–73 Chief Electoral Office (CA 558)
- 1973–84 Australian Electoral Office, Central Office (CA 1732)
- 1984– Australian Electoral Commission, Central Office (CA 3854)

See series description on page 41.

Amending the Commonwealth Electoral Act – Act No. 31 of 1962 – voting rights for Aborigines, 1962

A406, E1962/85

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956–

A463

- Recorded by:
- 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
 - 1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Parliamentary Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines – supply of evidence by the Prime Minister's Department, 1961

A463, 1961/5849

Voting rights for Aborigines, 1960–62

A463, 1966/793

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET LIBRARY MATERIAL, DEWEY DECIMAL NUMBER SERIES, 1911–62

A1203

- Recorded by:
- 1911–62 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

See series description on page 96.

House of Representatives – report from the Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines – report and minutes of proceedings, 1961

A1203, 324/1/AUS

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67

A4940

- Recorded by:
- 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Voting rights for Aborigines – policy, 1961–62

A4940, C3496

Constitutional amendments 1965 –Referendum [relating to electoral (sections 7, 24-27) and Aboriginal matters (sections 51(xxvi) and 127]

A4940, C4257

This file includes Snedden's Cabinet submissions (Nos 841 and 1175) of 22 February and 23 August 1965 and the related decisions.

SEVENTH MENZIES MINISTRY – COPIES OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATED DECISIONS (SECOND SERIES) [1961–63], 1982–83

A5819

Recorded by: 1982–83 Cabinet Office (CA 1472)

Canberra 2.79 metres

This series consists of submissions and decisions of Cabinet. It was created by the Cabinet Office in 1982–83 from copies of original papers held in series A4940.

Voting rights for Aborigines – decision 52, 1962

A5819, volume 2/agendum 38

Voting rights for Aborigines – decision 103(LEG), 1962

A5819, volume 3/agendum 95

INQUIRY INTO GRIEVANCES OF YIRRKALA ABORIGINES, ARNHEM LAND RESERVE, 1920–64

A12813

Recorded by: 1963 House of Representatives Select Committee on Grievances of Yirrkala Aborigines Arnhem Land Reserve (CA 3225)

Canberra 0.18 metres

This series includes the terms of reference, submissions, exhibits and transcripts.

RECORDS OF THE INQUIRY INTO VOTING RIGHTS FOR ABORIGINALS, 1961

A12817

Recorded by: 1961 House of Representatives Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines (CA 3195)

Canberra 0.92 metres

This series contains the correspondence, background and briefing papers, submissions, minutes and transcripts of proceedings, and the report of the committee. All items in this series are listed on RecordSearch and have been digitised.

Introduction of television, 1956

In June 1949, the Chifley government decided that television should be introduced in Australia with a station in every state capital city. The matter was entrusted to the Australian Broadcasting Control Board. In February 1950, Larry Anthony, Postmaster-General in the Menzies government, referred the matter to Cabinet, recommending a similar plan to that adopted by the Chifley government.

There the matter rested until February 1953, when the Menzies government established the Royal Commission on Television. The commission was tasked with investigating the introduction of television in Australia, the scope of the television network, the number of commercial stations that might be established and fees associated with owning a television. One of the incentives associated with the commission's establishment was the Olympic Games, scheduled to begin in Melbourne in late 1956. The commission presented its report in February 1954, recommending the gradual introduction of television stations, beginning with Sydney and Melbourne.

Television was launched in Australia on 16 September 1956 with Channel 9, Sydney, being the first station to broadcast. The *Broadcasting and Television Act 1956* gave the Australian Broadcasting Commission the same powers in television that it already had in radio and made other arrangements for the introduction of television.

National Archives of Australia

FOURTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATED DECISIONS, 1949–51

A4639

Recorded by: 1949–51 Secretary to the Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 65.

Television, 1950

A4639, 51

Records of the Royal Commission on Television (CA 2641) include, for example:

TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON TELEVISION, 1953

A13340

SUMMARIES OF EVIDENCE ON MAJOR ISSUES, 1953

CP357/4

CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO TELEVISION, 1955–73

C1574

Recorded by: 1955–73 Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office – Corporate Affairs (CA 251)

Sydney 11.70 metres

These files deal with policy and administrative matters relating to the introduction of television and the broadcasting of television programs.

Television – policy and administration – transmission – colour television, 1954–66

C1574, TV1/4/7 part 1

TELEVISION AND GENERAL – POLICY AND GENERAL IN REGARDS TO TELEVISION, 1955–70

MP1170/4

Recorded by: 1955–70 Australian Broadcasting Control Board (CA 124)

Melbourne 5.82 metres

This series deals with policy and general matters such as standards, advertising, and children's and religious programs.

Television advertising – policy and procedures, 1955–59

MP1170/4, TA/2/1 part 1

Olympic Games, Melbourne, 1956

In 1949, Australia bid to host the 1956 Olympic Games with Melbourne as the host city. Ben Chifley's government had agreed to provide financial support should the bid be successful. At a meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Rome on 29 April 1949, it was announced that Melbourne had successfully beaten a rival bid from Buenos Aires by one vote ('1956 Olympic Games for Melbourne' 1949:1). Like Chifley before him, Menzies had agreed to support the Melbourne bid and it was subsequently announced that a new stadium costing £2 million would be built in time for the games.

The Olympic Games were opened on 22 November 1956 by the Duke of Edinburgh and closed on 8 December 1956. Although they were officially known as the 'friendly games', an uprising in Hungary against occupation by the Soviet Union and a subsequent Soviet invasion created tensions among athletes and officials.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956– **A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Olympic Games – Commonwealth financial contribution, 1950–59 **A463, 1956/1418 part 1**

There are 2 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Olympic Games – film and television rights, 1955–56 **A463, 1956/1040**

Olympic Games – publicity, 1955–56 **A463, 1956/1247 part 1**

There are 2 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Olympic Games – Melbourne's preparations and program, 1955–56 **A463, 1956/1379**

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67 **A4940**

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Olympic Games – financial assistance policy, 1951–56 **A4940, C423**

Construction of Olympic village – Commonwealth – finance, 1953 **A4940, C682**

Proposal for the issue of an Olympic Games commemorative coin, 1956 **A4940, C1574**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89

A1838

Recorded by: 1948–70 Department of External Affairs [II], Central Office (CA 18)
1970–87 Department of Foreign Affairs, Central Office (CA 1382)
1987–89 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Central Office (CA 5987)

See series description on page 68.

Olympic Games – policy – general, 1954–56

A1838, 1603/1 part 1

Political asylum – Hungarian Olympic team in Melbourne, 1956–58

A1838, 1606/4

RECORDS OF COMMITTEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE 16TH OLYMPIAD, MELBOURNE, 1951–57

AA1967/379

Recorded by: 1951–57 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office (CA 11)
Canberra 0.72 metres

Some of the committees and subcommittees whose records are included in this series are: Finance and General Purpose Committee, Construction Committee, Organisation Committee, Executive Committee, Press and Publicity Sub-committee, Communication and Broadcasting Committee, Technical Committee, Transport Committee, Housing and Catering Committee, Arts Festival Committee and the Winding-up Committee. All items in this series are listed on RecordSearch.

Banking, 1957–60

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the original body corporate, had been established in 1912 to conduct both savings and general banking business. From the 1920s, the Commonwealth Bank carried out central bank as well as trading and savings bank functions.

As part of his platform for the 1949 election, Menzies pledged to reform the banking sector. Hence, in 1957, 2 Bills were brought before parliament. The first was the Reserve Bank Bill which would preserve the Commonwealth Bank of Australia as the Reserve Bank of Australia. The second was the Commonwealth Banks Bill which would create a new institution, carrying on the old name of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, to undertake the commercial and savings banking functions. The Bills finally passed parliament in April 1959 and came into effect in January 1960.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–

A432

Recorded by: 1929– Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

See series description on page 30.

Banking legislation, 1957–59

A432, 1957/1109

There are 6 attachments to this file listed on RecordSearch.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956–**A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Banking legislation – policy, 1953–59**A463, 1956/714****ASSENT COPIES OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, 1901–****A1559**

Recorded by: 1901–70 Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)
1970– Office of Parliamentary Counsel (CA 2965)

See series description on page 38.

An Act to establish a Commonwealth Banking Corporation and to make provision for the conduct of the business of the Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia and the Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia [Commonwealth Banks Act 1959], 1959

A1559, 1959/5**SEVENTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET COMMITTEES (FIRST AND SECOND SERIES), 1958–63****A4943**

Recorded by: 1958–63 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)
Canberra 2.28 metres

This series documents Cabinet and Cabinet committee responses to submissions on major issues affecting the governing of Australia.

Legislation Committee – Cabinet minute – Banking Bills – without submission, 1959

A4943, 106/LEG**National Library of Australia****RECORDS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, C.1945–90****MS 5000**

See series description on page 51.

Banking policy, 1957–72**MS 5000, Box 278****Economics (the Vernon Committee), 1963–65**

For much of Menzies's time as Prime Minister, the Australian economy performed well. Standards of living rose, as did both imports and exports. Yet, there were exceptions. There was a recession in 1952–53 and a credit squeeze in 1960–61. The latter had been partially responsible for the closeness of the 1961 election which Menzies had only just managed to win.

To counter criticism of government actions that were said to have led to the economic problems of 1961, Menzies established a Committee of Economic Enquiry in 1963. It was led by James Vernon, Director of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. Establishing the committee was not a spur-of-the-moment decision. In his first speech to the Commonwealth Parliament in November 1934, Menzies had spoken of the need for an inquiry into the economic and social problems of the day (Australian House of Representatives 1934). The Vernon Committee was asked to study the availability of credit, distribution of the workplace, balance of payments and trends in costs, prices, wages, productivity and standards of living.

The committee's report was presented in May 1965 and tabled in parliament on 21 September 1965. One of its key recommendations was the creation of an Advisory Committee on Economic Growth to provide assistance to the government and the community in making economic decisions. The recommendation was fiercely attacked by Treasury which saw this function as part of its role. Menzies told parliament that the committee had exceeded its brief by offering the government opinions on policy (Martin 1999:531). In the end, the report was essentially ignored.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' PREFIX, 1963–65 **A10114**

Recorded by: 1963–65 Committee of Economic Enquiry (known as the Vernon Committee) (CA 1056)

Canberra 0.54 metres

This series records part of the research and deliberations of the committee. It covers issues such as research on overseas investment, public attitudes to the committee, the pattern of postwar development, the objectives of the committee, and meetings with other organisations and people.

The terms of reference of the committee were each denoted by a letter, and the 'H' prefix for this series appears to refer to term of reference H: 'The pattern of growth and geographical distribution of industry, primary, secondary and tertiary (including the governmental sector)'.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'E' (ECONOMIC) PREFIX, 1963–65 **A1260**

Recorded by: 1963–65 Committee of Economic Enquiry (known as the Vernon Committee) (CA 1056)

Canberra 10.62 metres

This series consists of files dealing with economic matters.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC ENQUIRY, 1963–65 **A10329**

Recorded by: 1963–65 Committee of Economic Enquiry (known as the Vernon Committee) (CA 1056)

Canberra 0.18 metres

This series consists of the final report of the committee.

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES ‘C’ SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67

A4940

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Committee of Economic Enquiry – report, 1965

A4940, C4188

There are 16 files relating to the committee in this series.

Introduction of decimal currency, 1966

As part of its electoral platform for the general election of 1958, Menzies promised that his government would examine the introduction of decimal currency in Australia. Following his electoral success, the Decimal Currency Committee was established in February 1959. Its terms of reference included determining the advantages and disadvantages of converting to a decimal currency system, means for minimising the cost of changing to a new currency, and the denominations by which the currency would be known.

The committee submitted its report to parliament in August 1960. It advocated the adoption of the decimal system based on a 10-shilling unit. The government subsequently sent 2 official observers to South Africa in February 1961 to study the changeover to decimal currency in that country. In April 1963, the government advised the nation that the imperial monetary system of pounds, shillings and pence would be abandoned in favour of a decimal currency system.

The *Currency Act 1963* prepared for the introduction of decimal currency in 1966, and created the Decimal Currency Board to oversight the process. In the wake of this announcement, there were numerous opinions about the new name for the monetary system. Among the many suggestions were the austral, emu, kwid, champ, deci-mate and hughes.

On 5 June 1963, Treasurer Harold Holt told the nation that the new currency would be named the ‘royal’. The name was chosen because it emphasised Australia’s link with the Crown, was dignified with a pleasing sound, could easily be expressed in the plural, and was associated historically with coinage used in England in the 15th century. Holt said he was confident that ‘the public will soon become used to the new name after its novelty has worn off’ (‘Holt announces currency values’ 1963:1). In choosing the name ‘royal’ the government miscalculated badly. There was an outcry and Arthur Calwell, leader of the opposition, announced that a future Labor government would change the name to ‘dollar’. The government soon bowed to public opinion and announced that the currency would be named the ‘dollar’. Decimal currency was introduced on 14 February 1966, less than a month after Menzies had retired.

National Archives of Australia

SIXTH MENZIES MINISTRY – FOLDERS OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS, 1956–58

A4926

Recorded by: 1956–58 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 95.

The Australian coinage – decision 1162, 1957–58

A4926, 986

SEVENTH MENZIES MINISTRY – COPIES OF CABINET SUBMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATED DECISIONS (SECOND SERIES) [1961–63], 1982–83

A5819

Recorded by: 1982–83 Cabinet Office (CA 1472)

See series description on page 103.

There are a few decisions relating to decimal currency, including the following:

Possible introduction of a decimal currency system in Australia – decision 385, 1962 **A5819, volume 6/agendum 243**

Decimal currency – decisions 805(HOC) and 822(HOC), 1963 **A5819, volume 18/agendum 675**

Decimal currency – decision 828, 1963 **A5819, volume 18/agendum 686**

Reaction to ‘royal’ as the name for the major decimal currency unit – decision 943, 1963 **A5819, volume 21/agendum 843**

AGENDA AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE DECIMAL CURRENCY BOARD, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1963–68

A10096

Recorded by: 1963–68 Decimal Currency Board (CA 834)

Canberra 1.44 metres

This series covers meetings about the introduction of decimal currency in Australia, and these records document these discussions.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES RELATING TO THE INTRODUCTION OF DECIMAL CURRENCY, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1963–69

A9864

Recorded by: 1963–69 Decimal Currency Board (CA 834)

Canberra 14.40 metres

These files contain the study of the feasibility of introducing decimal currency to Australia and record its subsequent introduction.

DOCUMENT, DISPLAY AND SAMPLE ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE DECIMAL CURRENCY COMMITTEE AND BOARD, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–69

A10109

Recorded by: 1959–60 Decimal Currency Committee (CA 3928)

1960–63 Department of the Treasury [I], Central Office (CA 11)

1963–69 Decimal Currency Board (CA 834)

Canberra 9.68 metres

This series consists of items in a number of formats which were considered while studying the feasibility and mechanics of introducing decimal currency in Australia. Included are files, published reports, press clippings, coins, annual reports, posters, artwork for the ‘Dollar Bill’ cartoon character, slides, transparencies and photographs for the publicity campaign.

References

- '1956 Olympic Games for Melbourne' (1949) *The Canberra Times*, 30 April.
- Australian House of Representatives (1934) *Debates*, HR145: 166.
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- Menzies RG (1956) Robert Menzies to Allen Fairhall, 28 April, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Series 1, Folder 139, Box 16, National Library of Australia.
- (1957) Robert Menzies to Arthur Fadden, 17 July, NAA: A4940, C1698.
- (1970) *The measure of the years*, Cassell, London.
- 'Mr. Menzies gives his answer' (1934) *The Argus* (Melbourne), 24 July.

7 Life after retirement, 1966–78

On 20 January 1966, Robert Menzies announced his retirement, both as prime minister and as a member of parliament. From 1939 to 1941 and 1949 to 1966 he had served as prime minister for 18-and-a-half years. He was, and still is, Australia's longest serving prime minister. Following the announcement, his colleagues elected Harold Holt as their new leader, and he was sworn in as prime minister on 26 January 1966.

Menzies devoted his retirement years to travel, lectures, writing his memoirs and, perhaps his greatest love, cricket. One of Menzies's first retirement actions was to lay the foundation stone for the new National Library of Australia on 31 March 1966. The inscription on the stone reads: 'The Rt Hon Sir Robert Menzies set this stone on 31st March 1966'. The completed building was officially opened by Prime Minister John Gorton on 15 August 1968. Well before his retirement, Menzies had already begun to receive a number of honours and awards.

Companion of Honour, 1951

On 1 January 1951, Menzies was appointed a Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour ('New Year Honours list' 1951:3). The Order was established by King George V in 1917 as a reward for outstanding achievements and is awarded only to a limited number of persons.

Knight of the Order of the Thistle, 1963

In March 1963, Menzies was made a Knight in the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. The Order of the Thistle was founded in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland and is the oldest order of chivalry in the United Kingdom. Menzies is the only Australian ever appointed to the Order. The formal ceremony installing Menzies as a Knight took place at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh on 1 July 1963, with Menzies receiving his knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II. After the ceremony had concluded, Menzies travelled to Edinburgh University where he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Fellow of the Royal Society, 1965

On 3 June 1965, Menzies was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society. As with many of his awards, he received numerous congratulatory letters.

Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, 1966

In October 1965, it was announced that Menzies would succeed Winston Churchill as the 117th Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle. The Cinque Ports are Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich. All 5 ports lie to the east of the English Channel and were once primarily concerned with British defence. Winchelsea and Rye were later added. Over the centuries since it was first established, the position of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports became entirely ceremonial.

Menzies and his wife, Dame Pattie, travelled to Great Britain to attend Menzies's formal investiture at Dover Castle on 20 July 1966. In his acceptance speech, he said that he regarded the position as one of high honour and of great history (Menzies 1966). He told the audience that both he and Pattie were looking forward to returning each year. He clearly took his role as Warden very seriously and indeed did make a number of return visits in the ensuing years.

University of Virginia, scholar-in-residence, 1966–67

On 4 July 1963, Robert Menzies delivered the Jefferson Oration at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, United States. The oration is named in honour of former American President Thomas Jefferson, and Menzies was the first non-American to deliver it. His chosen topic was 'Australia's industrial arbitration system'.

His presentation was well received, and he was invited to return at some future stage. His retirement gave him the time he needed, and he returned to the University of Virginia, as a scholar-in-residence, in October 1966. From then until January 1967, he gave a series of 7 lectures, which were later published as *Central power in the Australian Commonwealth: an examination of the growth of Commonwealth power in the Australian federation* (Menzies 1968).

Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, 1967–72

In April 1967, Robert Menzies was appointed Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, serving 3 terms until 1972. He took an active interest in university affairs, including appointments to chairs, salary increases for the Vice-Chancellor and student activities. He was also able to contact the government and other agencies when problems arose for the university.

Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship, 1967

The Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship was established in July 1967 at a fundraising dinner attended by Menzies at the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. The scholarship is awarded in partnership with the Harvard Club of Australia and the Australian National University, while the scholarship program is administered by the university. The scholarship provides for postgraduate study in the United States.

America's Cup, 1967

In 1962, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron had challenged the New York Yacht Club for the America's Cup, a competition involving the best of 7 races by 12-metre yachts. The cup had been in American hands for many years. The Australian challenger *Gretel*, under its skipper Jock Sturrock, lost to the American defender *Weatherly* 4 races to one.

In 1966, the Royal Sydney Yacht Club decided to challenge the New York Yacht Club once more. This time, the Australian challenger was named *Dame Pattie*. It was launched in Sydney on 8 September 1966 and both Sir Robert and Dame Pattie were present.

The race was held off Newport, Rhode Island, in September 1967, and again, Sir Robert and Dame Pattie were present. Although *The Canberra Times* was confident that the Australian yacht would give a good performance in a feature entitled 'High hopes for Dame Pattie' (1967:26), *Dame Pattie* lost the series 4 to zero to the American yacht *Intrepid*. With the conclusion of the America's Cup, Menzies and Dame Pattie then travelled to Montreal, Canada, to visit Expo 67.

Memoirs

The first of Menzies's 2 principal memoirs, *Afternoon light: some memories of men and events*, was published in October 1967. It dealt with issues such as the Suez Crisis in 1956, Australia's relationship with the United States, and the revival of liberalism (Menzies 1967).

Menzies's second memoir, *The measure of the years* (Menzies 1970), featured highlights of his long period in office, and included defence, education, health, social services, monetary policy, industrial policy and 'Canberra – the making of a city'.

Reflecting Menzies's passion for cricket, both books included a chapter on the subject.

Knighthood, Order of Australia, 1976

On 7 June 1976, Menzies was awarded a knighthood in the Order of Australia. His citation read: 'For extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in the field of government, 1976'. The award was personally presented to Menzies by Queen Elizabeth II on 17 March 1977 during the centenary cricket match between Australia and England in Melbourne.

Cricket

Retirement gave Menzies a better opportunity to pursue his great love of cricket. When in Britain, he often attended a cricket match, usually involving a test between Australia and England. He introduced the Prime Minister's XI – a game between an Australian team and a team visiting from overseas, played at Manuka Oval in Canberra. The first game took place on 27 October 1951 between Australia and the West Indies. The match was drawn.

All things Scottish

Robert Menzies was immensely proud of his Scottish heritage. His grandfather, also named Robert Menzies, had arrived in Australia in 1855. Before the formal Knight of the Thistle ceremony in 1963, Menzies visited the region from which his grandfather had emigrated to Australia.

Menzies joined the Melbourne Scots in February 1929. He was vice-president from 1939 to 1949, and president from 1949 until his death in May 1978. On 10 June 1966, society members honoured him with a dinner. The menu included 'Jeparit bree' and 'Cinque Ports haddie' (haddock) (Melbourne Scots 1966).

Ming the Merciless

Throughout his career, Menzies earned a number of nicknames, such as Pig Iron Bob. Some were flattering, others less so. One of the better-known nicknames was Ming, or Ming the Merciless. The name Ming originated in the Scottish pronunciation of Menzies's surname, Ming-ees, which Menzies preferred to its usual pronunciation. In addition, the nickname was a reference to the villain 'Ming the Merciless', who appeared in the science fiction *Flash Gordon* comic strips from the 1930s onwards.

Precisely when the nickname originated is not clear, but it was certainly in use by April 1949. On 14 April 1949, WR Rolph and Sons Pty Ltd hosted a dinner for Menzies at the Brisbane Hotel in Launceston, Tasmania. The printed dinner invitation stated: 'Hail Ming the Merciless' (WR Rolph and Sons 1949).

Menzies clearly relished the name and actually used it himself. In a speech he gave at the opening of the Robert Gordon Menzies School of Humanities at Monash University on 24 August 1963, he noted that some ungodly people at the university were already calling the new building 'Ming's Wing' (Menzies 1963).

National Archives of Australia

MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67 **A4940**

Recorded by: 1958–67 Secretary to Cabinet/Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

See series description on page 86.

Sir Robert Menzies – appointment as Warden of the Cinque Ports, 1966 **A4940, C4394**

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES (POSITIVES), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'K' (COLOUR) PREFIX, 1947–71 **A1500**

Recorded by: 1947–50 Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)

1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra (CA 219)

Canberra 13.64 metres

This series comprises colour transparencies taken by government photographers to capture Australian society and to promote Australia overseas. It depicts a diverse range of subjects and includes individuals and scenic views of county and city life.

Walmer Castle Dover, exterior with Sir Robert and Dame Pattie Menzies, 1966 **A1500, K15770**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1960– **A3211**

Recorded by: 1960– Australian High Commission, United Kingdom [London] (CA 241)
Canberra 154.90 metres

These records deal with all aspects of the High Commissioner's Office, including visits, United Kingdom policy, relations with other countries, international organisations and conferences, appointments, representations and classified correspondence.

Invitations to the installation of Robert Menzies KT, CH, QC as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, 1966 **A3211, 1966/1912**

FILM PRODUCTIONS (CAMERA ORIGINALS, MASTERS AND SAFETY MASTERS), FILMS AND VIDEOS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1984–2011 **C809**

Recorded by: 1984–2008 Film Australia (CA 1669)
2008–11 Screen Australia (CA 9196)
Canberra 0.95 metres
Sydney 4.59 metres

This series consists of films produced by Film Australia and earlier Commonwealth agencies. Content dates from 1928.

Installation of Sir Robert Menzies as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, 1966 **C809, 1247478**

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'L' (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1945–71 **A1200**

Recorded by: 1945–50 Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)
1950–71 Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra (CA 219)

See series description on page 44.

Cinque Ports flag for Sir Robert Menzies, 1966 **A1200, L52725**

EXPO 67, MONTREAL: PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS AND COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES, 1966–67 **AA1982/206**

Recorded by: 1966–67 Australian Exhibit Organisation, Expo 67 (Montreal, Canada),
Montreal Office (CA 963)
Canberra 1.2 metres

This series consists of photographs, largely black and white, negatives, colour negatives and transparencies. The images depict Australia's involvement in Expo 67, held in Montreal.

Photographs of Sir Robert and Dame Pattie Menzies's visit to the Australian pavilion at Expo 67, Montreal, 1967 **AA1982/206, 20**

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

Congratulations on knighthood, 1963	MS 4936, boxes 246–50, 350
Jefferson Oration, 4 July 1963	MS 4936, Box 276, Folder 184; Box 576
Fellow of the Royal Society, 1965–67	MS 4936, Box 501, Folder 10; see also folder at rear of Box 378
Warden of the Cinque Ports, 1965–71	MS 4936, boxes 484–8
Cinque Ports (2 speeches), 20 July 1966	MS 4936, Box 284, Folder 233
Cinque Ports, 1967	MS 4936, boxes 352, 517
Addresses given at the University of Virginia, 1966–67	MS 4936, boxes 556–7, folders 20–2
Resignation from parliament, 1966	MS 4936, Box 517 (part)
Speech given at his resignation, 20 January 1966	MS 4936, Box 284, Folder 232
Opening of the Robert Menzies Building, University of New South Wales, 7 September 1966	MS 4936, Box 284, Folder 223
Silver bowl, Mayor of the Borough and Cinque Port of Sandwich, 1967	MS 4936, Box 552
Installation as Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, 1 April 1967	MS 4936, Box 284, Folder 233
Chancellor of Melbourne University, miscellaneous correspondence, 1963–76	MS 4936, Box 501, folders 8–9
Chancellor of Melbourne University, miscellaneous correspondence, 1966–70	MS 4936, Box 500, Folder 7
America's Cup, 1967	MS 4936, Box 545, Folder 10
Cricket matters, 1930–68	MS 4936, boxes 441–2
All things Scottish	MS 4936, boxes 517, 566
Congratulations on knighthood, 1976	MS 4936, Box 250 (part), folders 30–1

University of Melbourne Archives

Tape recordings of lectures given at the University of Virginia, USA, 1966–69

1975.0052

This set of tapes consists of the 6 lectures delivered by Sir Robert Menzies on a variety of subjects at the University of Virginia, United States.

Death, 1978

In September 1968, Menzies was in London, staying at the residence of his daughter, Heather, and her husband, Peter Henderson. He suffered a mild stroke and took some time to convalesce. On 30 November 1971, he suffered a more severe stroke which left him with partial paralysis. He was still well enough to receive his last honour, the Knight Division of the Order of Australia, from Queen Elizabeth II in March 1977.

Robert Gordon Menzies died of a heart attack at his Melbourne home on 15 May 1978. He was 83 years old. He was awarded a state funeral held at the Scots' Church, Collins Street, Melbourne, on 19 May 1978. His body was later cremated. Sir Robert's ashes were interred in the Prime Ministers' Memorial Garden, Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton North. Memorial services were also held at Westminster Abbey in London on 17 July 1978, and at Rye, one of the Cinque Ports for which Menzies was Lord Warden, on 19 July 1978. Dame Pattie attended both services.

In an article entitled 'He was the Queen's Australian, an Empire man' (1978:2), *The Canberra Times* paid tribute to Menzies and his many achievements.

National Archives of Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956–

A463

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 70.

Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies – state funeral Melbourne, 19 May 1978 – working papers, 1978

A463, 1978/1277 part 1

There are 4 parts to this file listed on RecordSearch.

Visit by overseas representatives to state funeral of Sir Robert Menzies – the Philippines, 1978

A463, 1978/1301

Visit by overseas representatives to state funeral of Sir Robert Menzies – New Zealand, 1978

A463, 1978/1306

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1960–

A3211

1960– Australian High Commission, United Kingdom [London] (CA 241)

See series description on page 117.

Death of Sir Robert Menzies and memorial service in London, 1978

A3211, 1978/1572 part 1

Death of Sir Robert Menzies and memorial service in London, 1978

A3211, 1978/1572 part 2

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957–

A1209

Recorded by: 1957–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 71.

Death of Sir Robert Menzies – condolence messages from overseas dignitaries, 1978

A1209, 1978/673 part 1

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

State funeral, order of service, Robert Gordon Menzies, 1978

MS 4936, Box 428, Folder 21

Robert Menzies death, 1978

MS 4936, folios 28–30, Box 558; Folio 30a, Folio Box; folders 31–44, Box 559; folios 45–6, Folio Box

Awards, monuments and memorials

Throughout his life, and long after his death, Menzies received numerous honours and awards.

- 1950 Menzies was awarded the Legion of Merit (Chief Commander) by United States President Harry Truman for 'exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services 1941–1944 and December 1949 – July 1950'.
- 1951 1 January, Menzies was appointed Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour.
- 1954 A portrait painting entitled *Rt Hon. R G Menzies, PC, CH, QC, MP* by Ivor Hele won the Archibald Prize.
- 1958 Menzies was appointed Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.
- 1960 4 April, a portrait of Menzies by William Dargie was on the front cover of *Time* magazine.
- 1963 3 March, Queen Elizabeth II opened the RG Menzies Building (Menzies Library) at the Australian National University.
- 1963 1 July, Menzies was installed as a Knight of the Order of the Thistle, the appointment being made in recognition of his Scottish heritage.
- 1963 4 July, Menzies gave the Jefferson Oration at the University of Virginia, United States, the first non-American to do so.
- 1963 24 August, the first stage of the Robert Gordon Menzies School of Humanities at Monash University was opened, known as 'Ming's Wing'.

- 1965 Menzies was named as the 117th Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle, the ceremony taking place at Dover Castle on 20 July 1966.
- 1966 7 September, the Robert Menzies Building at the University of New South Wales was officially opened.
- 1966 18 September, a 70-foot (21.3-metre) spire was unveiled at Jeparit, Menzies's birthplace.
- 1967 Menzies was appointed Chancellor of the University of Melbourne; he held the position for the next 5 years.
- 1967 5 July, the Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship was established to provide for postgraduate study in the United States.
- 1973 Menzies was awarded Japan's Order of the Rising Sun.
- 1976 7 June, Menzies was appointed a Knight of the Order of Australia; the award was personally presented by Queen Elizabeth II on 17 March 1977.
- 1980 The Robert Menzies Collection at the University of Melbourne was established.
- 1984 The Australian Electoral Commission proclaimed the Division of Menzies (in Victoria) for representation in the House of Representatives.
- 1991 The Menzies Oration on Higher Education was established at the University of Melbourne.
- 1994 The year of the centenary of Menzies's birth, the Menzies Research Centre was created as an independent public-policy think tank associated with the Liberal Party.
- 2009 The R G Menzies Walk, alongside the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, was officially opened by the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce.
- 2012 A life-size bronze statue of Menzies was erected on the northern side of R G Menzies Walk.

Other monuments include: Sir Robert Menzies Park in Wahroonga, New South Wales, and the Sir Robert Menzies Reserve in Malvern, Victoria.

Honorary doctorates

Menzies received a number of honorary doctorates from Australian universities including the universities of Sydney, Melbourne, Western Australia, Tasmania, Adelaide, Queensland and New South Wales, as well as international universities, including Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, British Columbia, California, Cambridge, Drury, Edinburgh, Harvard, Leeds, McGill, Malta, Montreal and Quebec.

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—(1966) Acceptance speech, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, 20 March, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 284, Folder 253, National Library of Australia.

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'New Year Honours list' (1951) *The Canberra Times*, 1 January.

WR Rolph and Sons Pty Ltd (1949) Invitation to Robert Menzies for dinner on 14 April, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 429, Folder 24, National Library of Australia.

8 Pattie Maie Menzies

Pattie Maie Leckie was born in Alexandra, Victoria, on 2 March 1899. She was the daughter of John William Leckie and May Beatrix Leckie, nee Johnston. She was educated at Presbyterian Ladies' College at East Melbourne, and Fintona Girls' School at Camberwell. Although not personally interested in politics, she was involved with politics at an early stage, with her father serving as the member of parliament for the federal seat of Indi. She often attended political rallies with her father.

Pattie and Robert Menzies's wedding on 27 September 1920 was reported in Pattie's home-town newspaper, the *Alexandra and Yea Standard*. As was customary with rural newspapers, the paper waxed lyrical about the bride and what she wore. The paper wrote:

The graceful bride, who was given away by her father, wore a beautiful gown of ivory satin, made with pannier draperies, held with clusters of exquisite hand made silver flowers, and a softly folded corsage with georgette sleeves ('Alexandra & Yea Standard' 1920:2).

As was expected of women at that time, Pattie raised her children and provided support for her husband while he pursued his legal career. Having lost a child herself, in the 1930s Pattie began to pursue a range of charitable works with the Royal Children's Hospital and the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She fully supported Menzies's move into federal politics and his relocation to Canberra in 1934.

Pattie travelled to Great Britain with her husband in 1935 and 1938 but did not accompany him on his visit in 1936. She decided that, coming so soon after the first visit, it would not be appropriate, and she needed to stay home and look after their children.

Robert Menzies clearly appreciated his wife's support during these visits, and the enduring effect she had on British officials. Following a visit to the Royal Court on 25 June 1935, Menzies recorded in his diary that, 'Pat looks lovely and would put any bride of 21 into the shade' (Menzies 1935a:257). As the 1935 visit drew to a close, Menzies again recorded in his diary the impact that his wife had had among British audiences. He wrote that 'Pat in particular may claim to have had a real triumph. Her quiet but cheerful friendliness and naturalness have obviously appealed very much to the English taste' (Menzies 1935b:329).

Once Menzies had been chosen as prime minister in 1939, the family relocated to Canberra and moved into the Lodge, where Pattie carried out some minor works, replacing carpets, curtains and soft furnishings.

She did not accompany Menzies on his visit to Great Britain in 1941, and indeed urged him not to go. While she feared the dangers Menzies faced in undertaking such a trip during wartime, she was also concerned about unrest among his political colleagues. Following a farewell dinner with some of his colleagues, the Prime Minister flew out of Sydney the next day, 24 January 1941. One of the guests to farewell him was John Leckie, his father-in-law. Menzies later wrote in his diary: 'Glad JL is there because the whole business is distressing to Pat who has vast courage but knows that for once in my life I am off on a chancy undertaking' (Menzies 1941:1).

In March 1941, Pattie Menzies cabled the Prime Minister urging him to return as soon as possible. She sensed there was unrest among his political colleagues. Menzies replied that he was involved in important matters and could not return for a few weeks at least.

When Menzies lost the prime ministership to Arthur Fadden in August 1941, the family vacated the Lodge and moved back to Melbourne. Pattie continued to care for their family, and resumed her charitable works, mainly with the Women's Hospital, serving on its board of management from 1941 to 1949.

Once Robert Menzies was re-elected prime minister in December 1949, Pattie accompanied him on many of his official visits, both in Australia and overseas. The family moved back to the Lodge in Canberra and remained there for the duration of Menzies's time as prime minister. Pattie continued with her charitable works and, in recognition of her achievements, she was made a Dame of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours list of 1954. Her citation read:

Mrs Pattie Maie Menzies (Canberra) – In recognition of years of incessant and unselfish performance of public duty in hospital work, in visiting and addressing and encouraging many thousands of women in every State of Australia, including very remote areas, also in her distinguished representation of Australia on a number of occasions overseas ('Mrs. Menzies' 1954:1).

The award was warmly received, and numerous congratulatory letters followed. Indeed, *The Canberra Times* referred to a 'flood of congratulations' ('Flood of congratulations' 1954:1). So numerous were the letters that an alphabetical listing, comprising 17 pages, was prepared to enable Dame Pattie to send acknowledgements ('Alphabetical listing' 1954).

Following his success at the May 1954 election, Menzies warmly praised the support he had received from his wife. He said that:

If I were to suddenly disappear overnight like a wraith, I feel sure the people of my electorate would regard Dame Pattie as their member. I would like to thank my wife for her support. No man ever had a more marvellous co-worker ('She'd replace me' 1954:3).

During the 1950s, Dame Pattie used her influence with Menzies to help carry forward 2 vital issues: legislation to provide accommodation for the elderly; and improvements to facilities in Canberra. On the first matter, she expressed concern over the scarcity of accommodation for elderly people. She convinced Menzies of the need for the Commonwealth to provide some financial assistance in the matter. This led to the Aged Persons Homes Act which came into effect in December 1954.

With respect to amenities in Canberra, her daughter, Heather Henderson, much later recounted that Dame Pattie would regale the Prime Minister regularly about Canberra's retarded development and the lack of footpaths and other basic facilities (Henderson 2013). The reference to footpaths, and the difficulty that mothers faced when trying to navigate their prams around Canberra's suburbs, arose following the birth of their first grandchild, Edwina Henderson. Dame Pattie's insistence converted Menzies from being rather uninterested in the nation's capital, to what he would later describe as an 'apostle' for Canberra's development (Menzies 1970:143).

Dame Pattie clearly enjoyed caring for her family. She also delighted at cooking. Her personal papers contain a folder of favourite recipes which include apricot loaf, cheese and gherkin scones, salmon and pickle loaf, and curried crab pancakes ('Recipes' n.d.).

In March 1960, Dame Pattie sailed to Great Britain without her husband. As part of her visit, she travelled to Belfast where, on 16 March, she launched the 45,000-ton liner *Canberra*, the last passenger liner to be built by Harland and Wolff (the same company that had built the *Titanic* many years earlier).

The *Canberra* was not the first major vessel that Dame Pattie had launched. On 1 May 1952, she had launched the warship HMAS *Voyager* at Cockatoo Island in Sydney. Tragically, *Voyager* sank after a collision with the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* off the coast of Jervis Bay, New South Wales, on 10 February 1964, with 82 lives lost.

Upon his retirement from politics in January 1966, Sir Robert spoke fondly of Dame Pattie about whom he said:

Before I 'sign off' I would wish to say how much I have owed, over the years, to my wife, who has made great sacrifices of family life in what both she and I have believed to be the public interest. You have our thanks and good wishes (Menzies 1966).

Following Sir Robert's death in May 1978, Dame Pattie received numerous messages of condolence. She travelled to England to attend memorial services held in his honour in London and Rye in July that year. In the ensuing years, she was widely regarded as the matriarch of the Liberal Party. In 1987, the Dame Pattie Menzies Liberal Foundation was established in her honour and, in 1989, she received the Liberal Party of Australia's outstanding service award. One of Dame Pattie's last functions was to open the recently refurbished Liberal Party premises in Canberra in 1994.

Pattie Maie Menzies died on 30 August 1995 at Woden Hospital (Canberra). She was 96 years old. Following her death, *The Canberra Times* paid tribute to her in an obituary titled, 'A gracious lady goes: an era ends' (1995:15). Dame Pattie was cremated, and her ashes were interred, along with those of Sir Robert, in the Prime Ministers' Memorial Garden, Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton North.

National Archives of Australia

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES AND PRINTS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'L' (LIBRARY) PREFIX, 1945-71

A1200

Recorded by: 1945-50 Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)
1950-71 Australian News and Information Bureau, Canberra (CA 219)

See series description on page 44.

The Prime Minister Mr Robert Menzies and Dame Pattie Menzies with their granddaughter Edwina Henderson at Parliament House in Canberra 1957

A1200, L23701

Dame Pattie Menzies, 1962

A1200, L41838

Sir Robert Menzies and Dame Pattie Menzies outside the Lodge, c.1963

A1200, L53535

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'C' (CLASSIFIED) SUFFIX, 1957-

A1209

Recorded by: 1957-71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description page 71.

New Year Honours 1954 - citations, 1954

A1209, 1968/9412

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956– **A463**

Recorded by: 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971– Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description page 70.

History of the Lodge – Prime Ministers' residence, Canberra, 1932–72 **A463, 1972/990**

Dame Pattie Menzies – overseas visit to the United Kingdom, 1960 **A463, 1960/3293**

**CONDOLENCE MESSAGES RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE
RT HON ROBERT GORDON MENZIES, 1978** **A9257**

Recorded by: 1978 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)
1978 Dame Pattie Maie Menzies GBE (CP 939)
Canberra 0.36 metres

This series mainly consists of condolence messages sent to Dame Pattie Menzies following the death of her husband, former Prime Minister Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, on 15 May 1978. The condolences were conveyed through letters, cards, telegrams and cables, including a small number of cards originally attached to floral wreaths. They were received from various heads of state, members of the royal family, other prominent persons and the general public, both from Australia and overseas.

**Condolence messages – heads of state [received on the death of former
Prime Minister Sir Robert Gordon Menzies: Albania – Western Samoa], 1978** **A9257, 1**

**PERSONAL PAPERS RELATING TO GOVERNMENT CEREMONIAL AND
HOSPITALITY, 1952–80** **AA1980/735**

Recorded by: 1952–80 Sir James Henry Scholtens KCVO (CP 238)
1952–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)
1971–80 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (CA 1401)

See series description on page 90.

**Dame Pattie Menzies visit to London to attend the memorial
service for her late husband Sir Robert Menzies, July 1978 –
arrangements and expenses, 1978** **AA1980/735, 793**

PERSONAL SPEECH NOTES, CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES, 1983–2005 **M4014**

Recorded by: 1983–2005 The Hon Paul John Keating (CP 665)
Sydney 5.58 metres

This series consists of speech notes used by Paul Keating during his political career, and in later life.

Motion of condolence – Dame Pattie Menzies GBE, 1995 **M4014, 707**

National Library of Australia

PAPERS OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES, 1905–78

MS 4936

See series description on page 28.

(Pattie Menzies) Correspondence, including people seeking her assistance with government agencies, engagements attended, and engagements declined, 1954

MS 4936, boxes 368–78, 554 (part), 560–62 (part), 568 (part), Folio Box 2

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—(1970) *The measure of the years*, Cassell Australia, Melbourne.

'Mrs. Menzies, six knights in New Year Honours' (1954) *The Canberra Times*, 1 January.

'Recipes' (n.d.) Personal papers of Pattie Menzies, Papers of Sir Robert Menzies, MS 4936, Box 378, Folder 91, National Library of Australia.

'She'd replace me ... – Menzies' (1954) *The Argus* (Melbourne), 3 July 1954.

Appendixes

Appendix 1 **Timeline**

20 Dec 1894	Robert Gordon Menzies is born at Jeparit, Victoria.
1913–16	Menzies studies law at the University of Melbourne, graduates with first class honours.
27 Sep 1920	Menzies marries Pattie Maie Leckie at Kew, Victoria; they have 3 children: Kenneth Leckie (born 14 January 1922), Robert Ian (born 12 October 1923) and Margery Heather (born 3 August 1928). A fourth child stillborn.
6 Oct 1928	Menzies enters Victorian state politics as a member of the Legislative Council, East Yarra province.
30 Nov 1929	Menzies is elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly as the Member for Nunawading.
May 1932	Menzies is appointed Victorian Attorney-General and Minister for Railways following the state election.
Feb–May 1934	Menzies is acting Premier of Victoria following Premier Stanley Argyle's ill health.
15 Sep 1934	Menzies is elected to the Commonwealth Parliament as Member for Kooyong; later appointed Attorney-General and Minister for Industry.
Feb–Sep 1935	Menzies makes his first visit to England, a 'journey to Mecca'.
5 Jul 1938	The <i>National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938</i> receives royal assent; the Act provides for insurance for employees, and the wives, children, widows, and orphans of employees.
Nov 1938	Waterside workers at Port Kembla (New South Wales) refuse to load pig iron onto a ship bound for Japan; as Attorney-General, Menzies opposes the union's actions, earning him the nickname 'Pig Iron Bob'.
14 Mar 1939	Menzies resigns as Attorney-General over the government's failure to fully implement the <i>National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938</i> .
7 Apr 1939	Prime Minister Joseph Lyons dies.
18 Apr 1939	Menzies is elected Prime Minister following the death of Joseph Lyons.
3 Sep 1939	'My melancholy duty': Menzies informs the nation that following Great Britain's declaration of war with Germany, Australia is also at war.
9 Sep 1939	The National Security Act is implemented to make provision for the safety and defence of Australia during the war.

13 Aug 1940	The Canberra air disaster: a Royal Australian Air Force plane crashes on approach to Canberra; all 10 people aboard the aircraft die, including 3 Cabinet ministers and the Chief of the General Staff.
21 Sep 1940	Menzies's government wins the election.
28 Oct 1940	Advisory War Council is established, comprising members from the government and the opposition; its principal function is to advise the government with respect to matters relating to the defence of the Commonwealth or the prosecution of the war.
24 Jan 1941	Menzies leaves for London and spends 4 months meeting with British government members, businessmen and other officials.
7 Apr 1941	The Child Endowment Act comes into effect; the Act provides for the payment of an endowment of 5 shillings for each child.
28 Aug 1941	Menzies resigns as Prime Minister, replaced by Arthur Fadden.
7 Oct 1941	Labor leader John Curtin is commissioned as Prime Minister by Governor-General Lord Gowrie.
22 May 1942	Menzies continues a series of radio talks begun in November 1941 with a talk entitled 'The forgotten people'; the values espoused in this talk would later serve as the basis for the Liberal Party's establishment in 1944.
21 Aug 1943	The Labor Party wins the general election.
Oct 1944	Menzies calls 2 conferences (Canberra, 13–16 October, and Albury, 14–16 December), to be attended by those wanting to achieve unity of action and who are opposed to socialism and the restriction of personal freedoms; the result is the formation of the Liberal Party of Australia in December 1944.
5 Jul 1945	Prime Minister John Curtin dies, replaced by Ben Chifley.
28 Sep 1946	The Labor Party wins the general election.
Nov 1947	Seeking to nationalise Australian banks, the Chifley government passes the Banking Act. The High Court declares the Act invalid in August 1948, and an appeal by the government to the Privy Council in 1949 fails.
7 Feb 1947	Legislation to establish the Australian National University comes into effect.
10 Dec 1949	The Liberal Party is elected to government; Robert Menzies becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
16 Mar 1950	The Department of National Development is established, replacing the Department of Post-War Reconstruction.
27 Apr 1950	The Communist Party Dissolution Bill is introduced into parliament; it passes on 19 October 1950.
June 1950	Child endowment benefits are expanded.

- 25 Jun 1950** The Korean War begins; an armistice is signed on 27 July 1953.
- Nov 1950** In order to deal with the perceived threat of international communism, compulsory military training is introduced for all men aged 18 years.
- 14 Nov 1950** An appeal to the High Court against the Communist Party Dissolution Act begins; on 19 March 1951 the court rules the Act invalid.
- 1 July 1951** The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia takes effect.
- 1 Sep 1951** The ANZUS Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America is signed in San Francisco.
- 22 Sep 1951** A referendum in support of the Communist Party Dissolution Act is defeated.
- 27 Oct 1951** The first Prime Minister's XI cricket match is held in Canberra between Australia and the West Indies; the match is drawn.
- 3 Oct 1952** The first British nuclear bomb is detonated at Montebello Islands (Western Australia); in all there would be 12 atomic detonations, the last taking place at Maralinga (South Australia) on 9 October 1957.
- 11 Feb 1953** The Royal Commission on Television is established to investigate and report on the introduction of television in Australia.
- 3 Feb – 1 Apr 1954** Queen Elizabeth II makes her first visit to Australia.
- 13 Apr 1954** Menzies informs parliament that Vladimir Petrov from the Soviet Union embassy has defected to Australia; Petrov's wife, Evdokia, would later defect to Australia.
- 3 May 1954** Following the Petrov's defection, a Royal Commission on Espionage is established; its report is presented to parliament in September 1955.
- 8 Sep 1954** SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) is signed in Manila, as part of the United States doctrine of creating anti-communist defence treaties; the treaties and agreements are intended to create alliances to contain communist powers.
- 4 Nov 1954** New South Wales Senator John McCallum calls for a Senate Select Committee to investigate the development of Canberra. The committee's report is presented on 29 September 1955 and contains 76 recommendations, including the establishment of a single authority for the development and administration of Canberra.
- 26 Jul 1956** Egypt nationalises the Suez Canal, Israeli forces invade Egypt on 29 October followed by British and French forces; a ceasefire is brokered, and the invading forces withdraw.
- 16 Sep 1956** Television is launched in Australia with Channel 9, Sydney, being the first station to broadcast.
- 22 Nov 1956** The Olympic Games in Melbourne begin; they conclude on 8 December.

Sept 1957	Legislation to establish the National Capital Development Commission is passed; it becomes fully operational in March 1958.
7 May 1959	The Australian Universities Commission is established to advise the government on university matters.
14 Jan 1960	The Reserve Bank of Australia is established as the nation's central bank and banknote-issuing authority.
1 Mar 1960	The Menzies government implements changes to the pre-existing pharmaceutical benefits scheme by expanding the range of drugs available to the general public and introducing a patient contribution of 5 shillings.
Dec 1960	The Australian National University and the Canberra University College (the latter established in 1929) amalgamate.
18 Apr 1961	The House of Representatives Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines is appointed. It recommends that the Commonwealth Electoral Act be amended to allow First Nations peoples to have the right to enrol and vote at federal elections; the changes take effect on 18 June 1962.
10 Mar 1962	Menzies officially opens Kings Avenue Bridge in Canberra.
May 1962	The Minister for Defence announces that Australia will send a team of military advisers to South Vietnam to support American troops and advisers. The decision marks the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.
Jul 1962	The government decides to provide financial assistance (state aid) to non-government schools.
1963	Menzies's government begins negotiations with the United States for the establishment of a United States communications base at North West Cape (Western Australia). The base is commissioned on 16 September 1967.
17 Feb 1963	Menzies's government establishes the Committee of Economic Enquiry. The committee's report is tabled in parliament on 21 September 1965; Menzies rejects its proposal to establish an advisory council on economic growth.
6 Mar 1963	Menzies opens Monaro Mall the nation's first fully enclosed shopping centre, in Canberra.
1 Jul 1963	Menzies is installed as a Knight of the Order of the Thistle.
Oct 1963	The government agrees to purchase 2 squadrons of F111 fighter jets from the United States; they would not arrive for a decade.
30 Nov 1963	Menzies wins his seventh, and last, election.
Jan 1964	The child endowment scheme is expanded.
10 Feb 1964	HMAS <i>Voyager</i> sinks after colliding with the aircraft carrier HMAS <i>Melbourne</i> off the coast of Jervis Bay; 82 personnel die.

Apr 1964	The government agrees to commit military forces to Malaysia and Borneo to counter communist insurgents.
17 Oct 1964	Menzies officially opens Lake Burley Griffin.
10 Nov 1964	National service (conscription) is reintroduced; both regular army personnel and conscripted personnel will be sent to Vietnam.
22 Feb 1965	The Royal Australian Mint in Canberra is opened by Prince Phillip.
Jun 1965	Menzies is appointed as a Fellow of the Royal Society.
Oct 1965	Menzies is appointed 117th Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle; a formal investiture takes place on 20 July 1966.
26 Jan 1966	Menzies retires as Prime Minister, succeeded by Harold Holt.
14 Feb 1966	Decimal currency is introduced to Australia.
31 Mar 1966	Menzies lays the foundation stone for the new National Library of Australia.
Apr 1967	Robert Menzies is appointed Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. He would hold the position until 1972.
5 Jul 1967	The Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship is established to provide funding for postgraduate research in the United States.
Nov 1970	The withdrawal of Australian military forces from Vietnam begins, the last troops leave in December 1972 (except for a platoon guarding the Australian embassy until June 1973); 521 soldiers had died during the war and over 3,000 had been wounded.
15 May 1978	Robert Menzies dies at his home in Melbourne.
19 May 1978	A state funeral for Robert Menzies is held at the Scots' Church, Melbourne.
30 Aug 1995	Pattie Menzies dies in Canberra.

Appendix 2 Who's who

Anthony, Hubert Lawrence (Larry) (1897–1957) (CP 1027)

Country Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1937–57 (Richmond).

Minister for Transport (1941), Postmaster-General (1949–56), Minister for Civil Aviation (1951–54).

Beale, Oliver Howard (1898–1983) (CP 257)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1946–58 (Parramatta).

Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (1947–49), Minister for Information (1949–50), Minister for Transport (1949–50), Minister for Supply (1950–58), Minister for Defence Production (1956–58), Australian Ambassador to the United States (1958–64).

Brown, Allen Stanley (1911–99)

Secretary of the Department of Post-War Reconstruction (1949), Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department (1949–59), Australian Ambassador to Japan (1965–70).

Bruce, Stanley Melbourne (1883–1967) (CP 23)

Nationalist Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1918–29 (Flinders).

Treasurer (1921–23), Prime Minister (1923–29), Minister for Health (1927–28), Minister for Trade and Customs (1928), Assistant Treasurer (1932), Honorary Minister and Australian Minister in London (1932–33), Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (1933–45).

Bunting, Edward John (1918–95) (CP 91)

Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department (1959–68), Secretary of the Department of the Cabinet Office (1968–75), Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (1971–75), Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (1975–77).

Calwell, Arthur Augustus (1896–1973) (CP 82)

Labor Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1940–72 (Melbourne).

Minister for Information (1943–49), Minister for Immigration (1945–49), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (1960–67).

Casey, Richard Gardiner (Dick) (1890–1976) (CP 24)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1931–40 (Corio), 1949–60 (La Trobe).

Treasurer (1935–39), Minister for Supply and Development (1939–40), Australian Ambassador to the United States (1940–42), Minister for Supply and Development (1949–50), Minister for Works and Housing (1949–50), Minister for National Development (1950–51), Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (1950–60), Minister for External

Territories (1951), Minister for External Affairs (1951–60), Member of the House of Lords (1960–1976), Governor-General (1965–69).

Chifley, Joseph Benedict (Ben) (1885–1951) (CP 268)

Labor Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1928–31, 1940–51 (Macquarie).

Minister for Defence (1931–32), Treasurer (1941–49), Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (1942–45), Prime Minister (1945–49), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (1945–51).

Coles, Arthur (1892–1982)

Independent Member of the House of Representatives, 1940–46 (Henty).

Lord Mayor of Melbourne (1938–40), Chairman of the Commonwealth Rationing Commission (1942–50), War Damage Commission (1942–48), British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines (1946–50) and the Australian National Airlines Commission (1946–50).

Curtin, John Joseph Ambrose (1885–1945) (CP 258)

Labor Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1928–31, 1934–45 (Fremantle).

Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (1929–31), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (1935–45), Prime Minister (1941–45), Minister for Defence Coordination (1941–42), Minister for Defence (1942–45).

Evatt, Herbert Vere ('Doc') (1894–1965) (CP 7)

Labor Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1940–58 (Barton), 1958–60 (Hunter).

Justice of the High Court (1929–40), Attorney-General (1941–49), Minister for External Affairs (1941–49), President of the United Nations General Assembly (1948–49), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, 1951–60.

Fadden, Arthur William (1894–1973) (CP 714)

Country Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1936–49 (Darling Downs), 1949–58 (McPherson).

Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Country Party (1940–58), Treasurer (1940–41), Minister for Air (1940–41), Minister for Civil Aviation (1940–41), Prime Minister (1941), Treasurer (1949–58).

Fairbairn, James Valentine (1897–1940)

United Australia Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1933–40 (Flinders).

Minister for Air (1939–40), Minister for Civil Aviation (1939–40), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1939–40).

Fairhall, Allen (1909–2006) (CP 37)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1949–69 (Paterson).

Minister for the Interior (1956–58), Minister for Works (1956–58), Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (1959–61), Minister for Supply (1961–66), Minister for Defence (1966–69).

Fraser, John Malcolm (1930–2015) (CP 51)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1955–83 (Wannon).

Minister for the Army (1966–68), Minister for Education and Science (1968–69), Minister for Defence (1969–71), Minister for Education and Science (1971–72), Prime Minister (1975–83).

Gullett, Henry Somer (1878–1940) (CP 530)

United Australia Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1925–40 (Henty).

Minister for Trade and Customs (1928–39), Minister for External Affairs (1939–40), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1940), Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research and Minister assisting in the Information portfolio (1940).

Harrison, Eric John (1892–1974) (CP 648)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1931–56 (Wentworth).

Minister for the Interior (1934), Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (1937), Minister for Repatriation (1939–40), Postmaster-General (1940), Minister for Trade and Customs (1940–41), Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (1943–46), Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (1949–50), Minister for Defence (1949–50), Minister for the Interior (1950–51), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1951–56), Minister for Defence Production (1951–56), Minister for the Navy (1955–56), Minister for the Army (1955–56), Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (1956–64).

Holt, Harold Edward (1908–67) (CP 27)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1935–49 (Fawkner), 1949–67 (Higgins).

Minister without portfolio assisting the Minister for Supply and Development (1939–40), Minister without portfolio assisting the Minister for Trade and Customs (1940), Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research (1940–41), Minister for Labour and National Service (1940–41, 1949–58), Minister for Immigration (1949–56), Treasurer (1958–66), Prime Minister (1966–67).

Hughes, William Morris (Billy) (1862–1952) (CP 290)

Labor Party (to 1916)/National Labor Party (1916–17)/Nationalist Party (1917–29)/Australian Party (1929–31)/United Australia Party (1931–44)/Liberal Party (1944–52) Member of the House of Representatives, 1901–17 (West Sydney), 1917–22 (Bendigo), 1922–49 (North Sydney), 1949–52 (Bradfield).

Minister for External Affairs (1904), Attorney-General (1908–23), Prime Minister (1915–23), Minister for Trade and Customs (1916), Minister for External Affairs (1921–23), Minister for Health (1934–35), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1934–35), Minister for Repatriation

(1935–37), Minister for Health (1936–37), Minister for External Affairs (1937–39), Minister in charge of Territories (1937–38), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1937–38), Minister for Industry (1938–40), Attorney-General (1939–41), Minister for the Navy (1940–41).

Lyons, Enid Muriel (1897–1981) (CP 928)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1943–51 (Darwin).

Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1949–51), Commissioner, Australian Broadcasting Commission (1951–62).

Lyons, Joseph Aloysius (1879–1939) (CP 254)

Labor Party/United Australia Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1929–39 (Wilmot).

Postmaster-General (1929–31), Minister for Works and Railways (1929–31), Prime Minister (1931–39), Treasurer (1932–35), Minister for Commerce (1932–35).

McCallum, John Archibald (1892–1973) (CP 353)

Liberal Party Senator for New South Wales, 1949–61.

Chairman of the Senate Select Committee into the Development of Canberra (1954–55), Chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory (1956–61).

MacDonald, Allan Nicoll (1892–1978)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Senator for Western Australia, 1934–46.

Minister without portfolio assisting the Minister for Commerce (1937–38), Minister assisting the Treasurer (1938–39).

McEwen, John (1900–80) (CP 47)

Country Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1934–37 (Echuca), 1937–49 (Indi), 1949–71 (Murray).

Minister for the Interior (1937–39), Minister for External Affairs (1940), Minister for Civil Aviation and Air (1940–41), Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (1949–56), Minister for Trade (1956–63), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Country Party (1958–71), Minister for Trade and Industry (1963–71), Prime Minister (1967–68).

McLeay, George (1892–1955) (CP 206)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Senator for South Australia, 1935–47, 1949–55.

Minister for Commerce (1939–40), Minister for Trade and Customs (1940), Minister for Repatriation (1940–41), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1940–41), Minister for Shipping and Fuel (1949–50), Minister for Fuel, Shipping and Transport (1950–51), Minister for Shipping and Transport (1951–55).

McMahon, William (Billy) (1908–88) (CP 41)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1949–82 (Lowe).

Minister for the Navy, Minister for Air (1951–54), Minister for Social Services (1954–56), Minister for Primary Industry (1956–58), Minister for Labour and National Service (1958–66), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1964–66), Treasurer (1966–69), Minister for External Affairs (1969–70), Minister for Foreign Affairs (1970–71), Prime Minister (1971–72).

Menzies, Pattie Maie (nee Leckie) (1899–1995) (CP 939)

Menzies, Robert Gordon (1894–1978) (CP 54)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1934–66 (Kooyong).

Attorney-General (1934–39), Minister for Industry (1934–39), Prime Minister (1939–41), Treasurer (1939–40), Minister for Trade and Customs (1940), Minister for Information (1940), Minister for Munitions (1940), Minister for Defence Co-ordination (1941), Prime Minister (1949–66), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1951), Minister for External Affairs (1960–61), Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (1961–62).

Opperman, Hubert Ferdinand (1904–96)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1949–67 (Corio).

Minister for Shipping and Transport (1960–63), Minister for Immigration (1963–66), Australian High Commissioner to Malta (1967–72).

Page, Earle Christmas Grafton (1880–1961) (CP 715)

Country Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1919–61 (Cowper).

Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Country Party (1921–39), Treasurer (1923–29), Minister for Commerce (1934–39), Minister for Health (1937–38), Prime Minister (1939), Minister for Commerce (1940–41), Minister for Health (1949–56).

Snedden, Billy Mackie (1926–87) (CP 77)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1955–83 (Bruce).

Attorney-General (1964–66), Minister for Immigration (1966–69), Minister for Labour and National Service (1969–71), Treasurer (1971–72), Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Liberal Party (1972–75), Speaker of the House of Representatives (1976–83).

Spender, Percy Claude (1897–1985) (CP 692)

United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1937–51 (Warringah).

Treasurer (1940), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1940), Minister for the Army (1940–41), Minister for External Affairs (1949–51), Minister for External Territories (1949–51), Australian Ambassador to the United States (1951–58).

Spooner, William Henry (1897–1966) (CP 246)

Liberal Party Senator for New South Wales, 1949–65.

Minister for Social Services (1949–51), Minister for National Development (1951–64), Minister in charge of War Service Homes Division (1951–63), Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (1958–64).

Street, Geoffrey Austin (1894–1940)

United Australia Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1934–40 (Corangamite).

Minister for Defence (1938–40), Minister for the Army (1939–40), Minister for Repatriation (1940).

Townley, Athol Gordon (1905–63)

Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1949–63 (Denison).

Minister for Social Services (1951–54), Minister for Air (1954–56), Minister for Immigration (1956–58), Minister for Supply (1958), Minister for Defence (1958–63).

White, Thomas Walter (1888–1957) (CP 145)

Nationalist Party/United Australia Party/Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1929–51 (Balaclava).

Minister for Trade and Customs (1933–38), Minister for Air (1949–51), Minister for Civil Aviation (1949–51), Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (1951–56).

Whitlam, Edward Gough (1916–2014) (CP 99)

Labor Party Member of the House of Representatives, 1952–78 (Werriwa).

Leader of the Australian Parliamentary Labor Party (1960–77), Prime Minister 1972–75.

Wilson, Alexander (1889–1954)

Independent Member of the House of Representatives (Wimmera), 1937–45, Administrator of Norfolk Island, 1946–52.

Appendix 3 Other institutions holding Menzies-related material

Australia

National Library of Australia

The National Library of Australia holds Menzies's personal papers in collection MS 4936. The library's extensive manuscripts and oral history collections include papers of and/or interviews with many colleagues who served as ministers in Menzies's governments and other contemporaries. These include federal and state Liberal parliamentarians and party members, senior public servants, prominent business people, academics, journalists, authors and his long-term private secretary.

Manuscript records of the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party of Australia are also held. The National Library also holds a considerable number of photographs of Sir Robert and Dame Pattie Menzies. The catalogue is available at nla.gov.au/collections.

Many United Kingdom records relating to Australia (including the Holford papers relating to the development of Canberra) have been microfilmed as part of the Australian Joint Copying Project and are available in major Australian libraries.

Australian National University Archives and Noel Butlin Archives Centre

The collections of the Australian National University (ANU) Archives, which relate to the history of the university, and the closely associated Noel Butlin Archives Centre collection of business and trade union records, can be searched in a single database at archives.anu.edu.au.

The Noel Butlin Archives Centre holds records of the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia, including those of the South Coast/Port Kembla Branch, which contain material relating to the *Dalfram* dispute of 1938–39.

ANU Archives holdings include the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* research file relating to historian Allan Martin's biography of Sir Robert Menzies. The ANU publication *Prime ministers at the Australian National University: an archival guide* can be accessed online at press.anu.edu.au.

Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial holds records relating to Menzies, including photographs and films. Additionally, private records collections of Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey and Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead contain correspondence with Menzies.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's collection of transcripts from the prime ministers of Australia includes many of Menzies's individual speeches, press releases and other transcript items dating from 1940. The originals are held in PDF format and can be searched online at pmtranscripts.pmc.gov.au.

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

The Museum of Australian Democracy website includes a database of material related to all Australian prime ministers, which includes articles, speeches, transcripts, correspondence, photographs and objects. All such records, including those in the Old Parliament House Political and Parliamentary Oral History Project, can be accessed online at primeministers.moadoph.gov.au/prime-ministers.

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

The National Film and Sound Archive holds film, newsreel, recorded sound and radio recordings relevant to Sir Robert Menzies, including material in the Film Australia Collection recorded by the Department of Information and its successors. Relevant items can be located online at nfsa.gov.au.

The Robert Menzies Collection: A Living Library

In 2013, the University of Melbourne Library established the Robert Menzies Collection: A Living Library. This has enhanced the collection originally established in 1980. The Living Library establishes connections between books, authors, writers, events and organisations, and has close links to many of Menzies's interests, books and club memberships.

The library was published by the eScholarship Resource Centre, University of Melbourne, and can be accessed at: menziescollection.esrc.unimelb.edu.au.

Other Australian collections

Records and ephemera relating to Robert Menzies can be found in the collections of the following Australian collecting institutions:

- John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- Parliament of Victoria
- Powerhouse Museum
- State Library of New South Wales
- State Library Victoria
- University of Melbourne Archives
- University of Melbourne Library
- Wesley College Archives, Victoria

Overseas

Churchill Archives Centre

The Churchill Archives Centre, located on the campus of Churchill College, Cambridge, holds many records relevant to Robert Menzies at chu.cam.ac.uk/churchill_papers. Digitised records can be viewed online at churchillarchive.com.

National Archives and Records Administration (United States of America)

Records relating to Robert Menzies in United States government institutions are held by the National Archives and Records Administration which provides an online catalogue at archives.gov/research/arc.

Records relating to Menzies can also be found in the collections of various United States presidents, including Franklin D Roosevelt, Harry S Truman, Dwight D Eisenhower, John F Kennedy, Lyndon B Johnson, Richard Nixon and Gerald R Ford.

The National Archives (United Kingdom)

The United Kingdom National Archives contains extensive documentation of British government and departmental exchanges with Menzies and key ministers of his government. Files of interest were maintained by many departments, including the Dominions Office and Commonwealth Relations Office, Foreign Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Office and War Cabinet, Colonial Office, Treasury, Ministry of Defence and Lord Chancellor's Office.

The database holding descriptions of records held by the National Archives and more than 2,500 archives across the country, many of which are digitised, can be searched online at discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Other overseas collections

Information relating to Robert Menzies can also be found in the collections of the following overseas collecting institutions:

- Bodleian Library, Oxford
- British and Irish Legal Information Institute
- British Library
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Archives of Scotland.

Appendix 4 Select bibliography

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