



JOHN JOSEPH CURTIN PC

BORN: 1885 DIED: 1945 (IN OFFICE)
POLITICAL PARTY: AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
TERM AS PRIME MINISTER: 1941–1945

Curtin first entered Federal Parliament in 1928, but lost his seat in the 1931 election, returning in 1934. He became leader of the Australian Labor Party in 1935, and during this time he was appointed Chairman of the all-party Advisory War Council, member of the War Cabinet. John Curtin became Prime Minister and Minister for Defence in 1941, and was widely respected for his leadership during the traumatic years of WW2. He died in office in 1945, just six weeks before Victory in the Pacific.

JOHN CURTIN AND THE NFSA COLLECTION

The NFSA collection is rich in both recorded sound and moving image records concerning Curtin, both prior to becoming PM and especially during the war years.

Recorded sound records include election and party policy speeches from 1930s and 1940s on a variety of issues including health, malnutrition, the birth rate and falling population rates, economic conditions, employment, provision of proper shelter and adequate nutrition.

War time speeches include announcement of the mobilization of resources required for the defence of Australia, austerity, the first speech by and Australian PM made to the people of North America sending encouragement and support from the people of Australia following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Moving image records are vast and include the announcement that Australia is at war with Japan, cinema advertisements for Victory, Liberty and Austerity War Loans, encouraging citizens to give more funds, the fall of Singapore and the bombing of Darwin.

Curtin traveled to Canada, America and England to attend the Premiers Wartime Conference in London, 1944. These trips are well covered, including some rare colour footage shot in Canada. Other significant national events include the arrival of General Macarthur, Commander of Allied forces in the Pacific, opening of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra the visit of Mrs Roosevelt.

Curtin's death and state funeral are well documented.

John Curtin's life from childhood, family life - through to his great Australian wartime leadership is the subject of many documentaries and these can also be found in the NFSA collection.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

TITLE	MEDIUM	TITLE NO.
Hellfire Jack	Television	6973
Memoirs: John Curtin	Television	
Announcement that Australia is at war with Japan made by John Curtin, Prime Minister	Recorded Sound	677049
Austerity Talk by John Curtin	Recorded Sound	574621
Mister Prime Minister: John Curtin	Moving Image	16587
A Great Australian Passes	Moving Image	28607

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTERS

Australian Prime Ministers Centre www.apmc.oph.gov.au
National Archives of Australia www.primeministers.naa.gov.au
Prime Minister of Australia www.pm.gov.au
Australian Dictionary of Biography www.adb.online.anu.edu.au

JOHN JOSEPH CURTIN CONTINUED

SEARCHING THE COLLECTION

Go to www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/searchthecollection

Search for Curtin records using the sequence **Name: "John Curtin"**

Other interesting key words

Pacific	Cinema	Freedom of the City	Malnutrition
Cottlesloe	Advertisements	of London	Unemployment
Blamey	War Loan	Liberty Loan	Speeches
Churchill	Austerity	Labor Party	
	WW2	Election	

Image: John Curtin, c. 1941. National Library of Australia

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Australian Prime Ministers Centre www.apmc.oph.gov.au
National Archives of Australia www.primeministers.naa.gov.au
Prime Minister of Australia www.pm.gov.au
Australian Dictionary of Biography www.adb.online.anu.edu.au