

THE CHEER-OH GIRLS

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES
See last page for citation, copyright and last updated details.

(1916-1928) Formed in Mosman, Sydney by Mrs Bennett White (aka Meta Hayter) as a means of raising funds for patriotic appeals, the Cheer-Oh Girls was an amateur concert party comprising around seven to ten women. Its debut was given at Mosman Town Hall on 10 November 1916. White remained with the troupe throughout its lifetime, as did Dorrie Ward and Edith Dickenson. The Cheer-Oh Girls retained its connection with Mosman (many of the artists lived there) while undertaking numerous engagements and tours throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales. The troupe was also heard on radio at various times between 1925 and 1928. [Molly Raynor](#) (1921-26) later carved out a successful career as stage and film actress in Australia and Britain.

Known performers were: Edith Angel (1925), Amy Bice (1916-17), Marjorie Cheffins (1916-17), Kathleen Daniel (1916-17), Edith Dickinson (1916-26), Beatrice Edmunds (1917-19), Gertrude Edmunds (1917-19), Irene Edmunds (1918-19), Edna Fenner (1921-22), Gwladys Fimister (1917-18), Bobbie Garrard (1925), Grace Harris (1925), Gladys Mitchell (1916-17), Mrs Victor Morse (1916-17), Miss Jack Neil (1916-17), Molly Raynor (1921-26), Nan Reay (1916-17), Violet Roberts (1919-22), Madge Roberts (1922), Rene Ross (1921-22), Nell Sedgeley (1919), Sadie Tilburn (1920-22), Joan Walford (1916-17), Dorrie Ward (1916-22), Mrs Bennett White (1916-22), Una Wilson (1921-25), Thora Wood (1916-22). * Years given are a guide only. The exact periods are still to be confirmed.

- Several other similarly-named all-female troupes are known to have been active during the war years. One, also known as Tighe's Hill Cheer-Oh Girls was based in Newcastle ca. 1919. The *Dominion* (Wellington, New Zealand) records that another Cheer-Oh Girls was presenting entertainments in that city ca. 1917 (15 Nov. 1917, 2). Mrs Bennett White also established another Cheer-Oh Girls concert party in 1940.



Top row: Joan Warford, Thora Wood. Second row: Amy Bice, J. O'Neill, Gladys Mitchell, Beatrice Edmunds, Dorrie Ward. Bottom row: Eileen Neill, Edith Dickinson, Gladys Fiminster, Gertrude Edmunds. Centre: Meta Hayter (Mrs. Bennett-White).

Mosman Library (Sydney)

<http://mosman1914-1918.net/project/blog/doing-their-share?commented=1>

Further Reference:

Byrne, Mary Lou. "[Doing Their Share](#)." *Doing Our Bit: Mosman 1914-1918*. Mosman Library (Sydney). 19 July 2012. [sighted 13/01/2015]
"[Beatrice Jauncey](#)." *Honest History*. [sighted 13/01/2015]

Miscellaneous Notes (Personnel):

Edith Dickinson: pianist/accompanist/violinist/monologist. Also known as Edith Palmer (her married name), Edith Dickinson was murdered along with her sister-in-law, father-in-law, and housekeeper at her home in Rockdale, Sydney in 1928. The killer was her nephew, a returned soldier-turned dairy farmer from Nimbin (NSW). Several newspapers refer to him as a religious fanatic. See below for further details and links.

Gwladys Fimister: singer. Her given name is sometimes spelled Gladys.

Nan Reay: singer (possibly Ann Reay).

Molly Raynor: character sketches.

Madge Roberts: dancer.

Sadie Tilburn: comedy singer.

Joan Walford: violinist (possibly Jean Walford).

Mrs Bennett White: aka Meta Hayter. Troupe manager, director and male impersonator.

Una Wilson: ragtime singer.

► See also: [Molly Raynor](#) • [The Merrymakers](#) (aka Mosman Merrymakers)

1916

Sydney

<p>Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) (about) ◀ Wednesday 8 November 1916 ▶ ◀ Page 5</p> <p>A party of Mosman girls, with professional assistance, have been formed into a Pierrette company, called the "Cheer Oh, Girls," under the direction of Mrs. Bennett-White. Mr. W. B. Beattie and Mrs. W. J. Brown have written an opening chorus for the first performance, which will take place next Friday, at the Mosman Town Hall. A strong committee has been formed to forward arrangements. Mrs. Alec Thompson is hon. treasurer, and the Misses Creaghe and Logan are hon. secretaries. The "Cheer, Oh, Girls," who include Misses Dorrie Ward, Amy Bice, J. Neill, Nan Reay, K. Daniel, Gladys Mitchell, Joan Walford, Margery Cheffins, Thora Wood, and Mrs. Victor Morse, intend to give a series of entertainments to help returned soldiers.</p> <p>http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1347594</p>	<p>Judging by the crowded house and the excellent variety entertainment given by the Cheer Oh! Girls in the Mosman Town Hall on Friday evening, the success of the bright company who have banded themselves together to provide comforts for the soldiers is well assured. The stage was arranged in a setting of black and white, and the girls wore black and white Pierrot costumes, with tricorne hats and large tulle ruffles. The Mosman V.A.D.'s acted as ushers, and a number of girls in white frocks with pink and white spotted aprons and caps sold sweets and flowers. A large black and white striped box of home-made sweets, made by the Cheer Oh! Girls was auctioned again and again, and was eventually presented to the company, the members of whom are Mrs. Bennett-White (stage manager), Mrs. Victor Morse, the Misses Dorrie Ward, Amy Bice, Nan Reay, Kathleen Daniel, Jack Neil, Joan Walford, Gladys Mitchell, Thora Wood, and Margery Cheffins. The hon. treasurer was Mrs. Alex. Thomson, and the hon. secretaries Misses F. Creaghe and Logan.</p> <p><i>Sunday Times</i> (Sydney) 12 Nov. 1916, 5. http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/13269374</p>
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The Cheer-Oh Girls.

On Tuesday, February 20th, the "Cheer-Oh's" gave a most successful entertainment for the Manly Red Cross at the Victoria Hall. There was a full house, and the audience was delighted with the programme; every item was recalled. Those taking part were: Misses Dorrie Ward, Gwladys Fimister, Nan Reay, Jack Neill, Amy Rice, Thora Wood, Gladys Mitchell, Joan Walford, Edith Dickerson, Mrs. Victor Morse, and Mrs. Bennett White.

Mirror of Australia (Sydney) 3 Mar. 1917, 11.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10856037>

"The Cheer-Oh Girls."

I hear that "The Cheer-Oh Girls" have got together about £500 for various patriotic funds since they came into existence, less than six months ago. I think this is a fine record, and it reflects credit on the girls, and is a proof that their performances are good ones. On Friday of last week they gave a performance for the Mining Corps, at the Railway Institute. There was a full house. On Thursday of this week they gave a show at St. James' Hall. A feature of the second act was a fine Spanish scene with Spanish dances. Petersham Town Hall will see them tonight, while during the early part of next month they will tour portion of the South Coast with the object of assisting the Red Cross funds. Manly War Chest claims their services on May 15th.

Mirror of Australia (Sydney) 28 Apr. 1917, 9.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10856169>

Newcastle (NSW)

CHEER-OH GIRLS' CONCERT.

The manner in which seats are being reserved at Palling's for the forthcoming Cheer-oh-Girls' concert in the Central Hall gives indication that the event will be a big success. This company of "all-girl" entertainers is being brought to Newcastle by the Newcastle branch of the Red Cross Society for the purpose of raising funds to aid local sick and wounded soldiers. The proceeds will be handed to the Amelioration Committee for that purpose. The cause is a deserving one, and for that reason alone should be sufficient to ensure a packed house when this company appears next Tuesday night. The Cheer-ohs constitute one of the most talented companies that has ever left Sydney. Miss Dorrie Ward is a popular Sydney songstress; Miss Edith Pickerton, the pianist, was accompanist to Mr. Peter Dawson, the celebrated baseo, on his recent tour through Australia. Two of the girls of the company, lately returned from Hawaii, there learnt to play the Hawaiian instrument, the ukelele. This act is now a feature of the Cheer-ohs' show. There is also a monologist among the party, as well as two "rag" singers, a sombrette, a whistler, an elocutionist, and others of equally varied talents. The whole is given under the guise of a bright and tuneful revue. Tickets can be had at Palling's, or from members of the Red Cross Society, or Mr. Gordon Conrad (Strand Theatre), who has been appointed honorary secretary of the concert committee.

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW) 20 June 1917, 8.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10134972>

"Cheer-oh" Girls Revue

The merry musical revue given by that charming, chic, vimful, and joyous company of patriotic entertainers, "the celebrated 'Cheer-oh' Girls of Mosman" (to quote the handbill), in connection with the objective of the recent Flower Show, held in the Penrith Showground pavilion on Saturday evening last, was undoubtedly one of the most unique, brilliant, and artistic entertainments ever enjoyed by a Penrith audience. The concert, in short, was a superlatively delightful musical treat of the lighter and brighter order, and one is tempted in reviewing the function to repeat in a similar spirit of appreciation the alliterative lines of an enthralled critic on a like concert given by a patriotic company somewhere on the Western front, viz.:-

"The singing singers
With vocal voices most vociferous
In sweet vociferation, out-vociferised
Sweetest sound itself,"

and we fully agreed with the observation of one of the audience: "If Mosman had no other claim to celebrity, the honour of its being the hometown of the 'Cheer-oh' Girls would be sufficient credentials to its gaining the true insignia of fame."

The "Cheer-ohs" are obviously a "big cogwheel," so to speak, in our patriotic musical machinery, and the Penrith Soldiers' Comforts Club was lucky in obtaining their ("Cheer-ohs'") acceptance of the invitation to assist, per their merry revue, the club's objective on the occasion, and we can affirm with the endorsement of the unanimous feeling of the audience of over 1000 persons which crowded the locale of the concert on Saturday night last, that their re-appearance in Penrith will be looked for with the happy expectancy in which children and grown-ups alike hail the advent of the Christmas pudding, or the breaking-up of the drought, or the discovery of a mammoth goldfield, or other supremely glorious event.

From the opening chorus in which the "Cheer-ohs" made their debut before a Penrith assemblage, garbed prettily in what an irreverent spectator described as "magpie" costume, the merry visitors kept the audience in a state of rapt hilarity. In her "Songs at the Piano" Miss Edith Dickerson proved herself an artist of fine calibre, and a similar verdict was "returned" by vociferous consent of the audience on the like performance of Miss Amy Bice, both young ladies being cultured exponents of a phase of music effort which requires no small application of art, ability and aptitude to successfully perform. Mrs. Bennett-White, stage manager, and (if we may coin an applicable term of our own) "musical chaperone" of the "Cheer-ohs," held the enthralled attention of the gathering in her splendid comedy sketches, and under her expansive and humorous aegis everything went off even merrier than the average "marriage-bell," which sometimes precedes divorce, while there was no thought of

"divorce" or "incompatibility" between the performers and audience at the "Cheer-oh" concert. Miss Jack Neill, who led her charming confreres in the choruses "Military Girls" (in which Mrs. Bennett-White electrified the house with her champion rattling of the kettle-drum), and "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag," quickly became a close favourite of the audience. Happily, talking of "packing up troubles," it is evident that the "Cheer-ohs" have no hankering after the Kaiser's dolorous art of meeting troubles half-way and creating more in the process. Miss Jean Walford, who played several classic selections on the violin with the mastery and facility of the born virtuoso, plus the grace and witchery of a "Cheer-oh" girl, simply held the audience spellbound during her recitals, and was rewarded with the clamorous applause of everybody, and a lovely bouquet of flowers, patriotically and appreciatively presented by Mr. Roy McGrath, and a further bouquet handed her by a gallant soldier present (viz., Private Shields), who saluted the captivating violiniste with the gallantry and verve of a marshal of the Old Guard.

The amusing musical sketch, "My Little Dutch Doll," daintily portrayed by Misses Gertrude Edmonds and Jack Neill (Miss Dickerson playing an artistic accompaniment) was one of the prettiest gems of the rich concert collection, and the sweet singing of Miss Gwladys Finister in the solo part of "Moonlight Bay" and other items thrilled even the most obtuse musical ear (i.e., "that of our representative."—Ed. "N.T.") in the audience. Another specially pretty number was the singing of a haunting lullaby to the "twanging" of a quaint-looking instrument, christened the "ukulele," by Misses Gertrude and Beatrice Edmonds. The two young ladies looked simply lovely in the Utopian-like costume incidental to the song, but as an amorous lad remarked, "they're nicer than the nicest costume." The "Coon Land Frolic" and another "plantation" item, viz., "It's a Long Way to My Home in Kentucky," in which Miss Thora Wood very brightly rendered the solo part, like the sprightly "All Aboard for Dixie" (Miss G. Edmonds doing the solo), just "perforated" and invested the nocturnal air with harmony. Miss Gladys Mitchell led in the tuneful song, "You Great Big Wonderful Baby," with charming effect. Miss Edith Dickerson gained further laurels by her delightful solo in which she evinced possession of a melodious contralto voice. The musical recital of the martial virtues, etc., of "Private Michael Cassidy, V.C.," in which Mrs. Bennett-White cheerily led, was a glorious "extravagance" of the revue, the tenor of which is a rousing musical appreciation of the heroism of the soldier, and a call for recruits.

Carried away by our enthusiasm regarding the revue, we had almost forgotten to mention there was an interval, half-way through the programme, during which (interval) Mr. C. J. Welch, introduced by the Mayor, auctioned a number of exhibits and non-competitive items, kindly donated by their owners for the augment-

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THE "CHEER-OH" GIRLS.

Talented Amateurs' War Work.

Among the many bright memories of cheerful and unselfish devotion to soldier lads on the part of the women of Australia during the war, none will hold a higher place than the work of the "Cheer-oh Girls' " Patriotic Revue Company. This talented company of amateurs was organised by Mrs. Bennett White, in November, 1916, for patriotic objects, and their performances are so appreciated by the public, that frequent calls are made on them in aid of all manner of patriotic work. Following is the programme so far mapped out for the next two months:—

March: 18th, 19th and 46th Battalions, at St. James' Hall; 19th, welcome home to soldiers, at Granville; 22nd, entertaining soldiers, at gymkana, Mensie Park Camp; 16th, Women's Battleplane Fund, at Crow's Nest.

April: 8th, Methodist Hall, Liverpool, at Repertory Theatre; 9th, Red Cross, at Manly; 12th, Red Cross, at Ashfield; 15th, 19d and 54th Battalions, at Killara; 17th, Voluntary Workers' Cafe, at Repertory Theatre; 18th, Bexley Red Cross, at Rockdale; 20th, 30th Battalion, at Repertory Theatre; 22nd, entertaining soldiers, at Liverpool.

Mrs. Bennett White is an excellent stage manager and elocutionist, and the company comprises Miss Dorrie Ward, Miss Edith Dickerson, Miss Gladys Finister, Misses Gertrude and Beatrice Edmonds, Miss Joan Walford, Mrs. Victor Morse, Miss Amy Bice, and the Misses Jack Neill and Thora Wood.

CHEER-OH GIRLS' NEW REVUE

The Cheer-Oh Girls celebrated their second anniversary before a crowded house last night at the Repertory Theatre by producing their new revue, appropriately entitled "Chirrupa." Mrs. Bennett White, besides directing the new show to success, kept the audience amused with her clever character impersonation of a penniless dude, as "Burlington Bertie;" and another smart contribution was Miss Amy Bice's musical illustrations at the piano of various incidents in a humorously sensational story. Special efforts had been devoted to the Red Indian scene, showing the bonnie girl (in costume) in their forest camp. The scene occasioned excuse for the charming chorus "Navaho" and two songs, "Will o' the Wisp" and "Dream Boat," by Miss Gladys Finister and Miss Dorrie Ward, respectively. The latter headed the girls in "The Blue Dragons," and appeared as Jeanne d'Arc in shining armour at the climax of a martial song by Miss Gertrude Edwards. The latter sang, as a French poule, "Somewhere in France is the Lily," during which England, Scotland, Ireland, and the dominions rallied to the dashing soldier's side. Mrs. Victor Morse (whistling), Misses Violet Roberts, Beatrice and Irene Edmonds, Ann Reay, Thora Wood, and Edith Dickerson assisted to secure an enthusiastic reception for the new revue.

Sydney Morning Herald 7 Dec. 1918, 14.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1258265>

◀ *Evening News* (Sydney) 16 Mar. 1918, 4.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/12364545>



..The Cheer-Oh Girls..

Miss Edith Dickerson, Miss Dorrie Ward, Mrs. Bennett White, Miss Beatrice Edmonds, Miss Jack Neill,
Miss Joan Walford, Mrs. Morse, Miss Amy Bice,
Miss Gertrude Edmonds, Miss Thora Wood.

Sun (Sydney) 31 Mar 1918, 5

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE STATE GOVERNOR
AND LADY DAVIDSON.
ST. JAMES'S HALL, 31st MARCH, at 8 p.m.,
AN ENTERTAINMENT,
by the CHEER OH GIRLS,
Under the Direction of Mrs. Bennett-White,
in aid of the SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, N.S.W.
ADMISSION, 3/ and 2/. ●
Box Plan and Tickets at Paling's. No Amusement tax.
Hon. Sec., Miss B. WALKER.
Hon. Treas., MISS E. FATON.

Sydney Morning Herald 29 Mar. 1919, 2.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) (about) ◀ Saturday 19 July 1919 ▶ ◀ Page 14

THE CHEER-OH GIRLS.

St. James's Hall, gaily decorated for Peace Day with flags, and with streamers of red, white, and blue ribbons radiating from the roof-centre, was the scene of a bright entertainment by the Cheer-oh Girls last night in aid of the United Imperial Navy and Army Veterans' Association, N.S.W., Distress Funds. A group of veterans in uniform, wearing their medals and decorations, enhanced the interest of the evening, which opened with a Peace tableau. Herein Miss Nance Reay stood with outstretched arms of welcome, and her brows bound with laurel, while Britannia (Miss Dorrie Ward) was seated at her feet in repose after great deeds done, and the results of victorious achievements gathered safely in. The Cheer-ohs, in red and grey, with scarlet caps and Pierrette muffs, figured as a handsome, well-grown bevy of girls in their support of Miss E. Dickerson, their pianist, turned singer in the narration of quaint successes by Padere-wski. Graceful dancing during Miss Gertrude Edmonds' pretty song, "If You Look in Her Eyes," led to another encore; and Miss Dorrie Ward warbled about the merry "Maytime" to such good purpose that a third extra followed. The tuneful mezzo then introduced "A Welcome Home to Digger Bill and Sailor Jack" with a swinging choral refrain, and Private Keith Wright allowed the fair singer to grasp him heartily by the hand. Mrs. Bennett White (stage manager) delighted the audience with some of her clever impersonations, including Burlington Bertie and the Italian fruit seller; and Misses Irene and Beatrice Edmonds, Thora Wood, Nell Sedgely, and Violet Roberts, assisted with acceptance during the evening.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1254487>

PATRIOTIC WORKERS

Tighe's Hill Banquet

To show their appreciation for the manner in which the Red Cross, Cheer-oh Girls, and other patriotic workers had studied their interests while on active service, the Tighe's Hill returned soldiers held a banquet in their honor on Thursday evening, in the Empire Picture Theatre. Trumpeter King sounded the "Last Post," in honor of the fallen comrades, and also gave the Royal salute. The toast of the Red Cross Society was proposed by Captain Wells and Pte. McColl. Mrs. Hewison responded. Captain Schadel proposed the toast of "The Cheer-oh Girls," and Pte. Goodwin spoke in support. Miss Mollie Price and Mrs. Harris responded.

In proposing "The Welcome Home Committee," Lieut. Baber said that, to show some tangible form of appreciation for what had been done for them, they had decided to hold a banquet in honor of the Tighe's Hill patriotic bodies. It was good to feel that what they had done to save civilisation was realised by those who were left behind.

The Mayor of Wickham (Alderman Armstrong) and Mr. T. Willmore responded, after Pte. Peterson had supported the toast. The Rev. W. F. James spoke in honor of the fallen.

The programme included a number of vocal and elocutionary items.

Newcastle Sun (NSW) 10 Jan. 1920, 1.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/16026996>

Goulburn (NSW)

Cheer-oh Girls.

GIVE HOSPITAL BENEFIT CONCERT.

The Majestic Theatre was hardly big enough to accommodate the vast audience that attended the Cheer-Oh Girls' concert in aid of the funds of the Goulburn and District Hospital, given on Friday night. Every seat in the theatre was taken and many chairs had to be requisitioned.

Mrs. M. Bennett White organised and stage-managed the entertainment, and the artists taking part were Misses Edith Dickerson, Violet Roberts, Thora Wood, Una Wilson, Margery Warre, Dorrie Ward, and Sadie Tilburn. Miss Dickerson played the accompaniments.

The entertainment was of a very high standard and the items well merited the sustained applause each one created. Encores were demanded at every turn, and sometimes the artist had to return three or four times before the audience was appeased.

Miss Dickerson gave a number of catchy songs at the piano, and she was followed by Miss Violet Roberts in a pleasing comic song. Miss Dickerson repeated her performance in the second part, and throughout the evening rendered valuable service at the piano. Miss Roberts was a great "hit" as the leader in "Since Maggie Dooley learnt the Hooley Hooley," and was ably backed by the chorus. The spirit of this tit-bit rippled throughout the audience, and it was impossible to give them enough. "Hullo Tu Tu" was another great success of Miss Roberts. Duets by Misses Thora Wood and Una Wilson were good, and Miss Margery Warre as an elocutionist is one of the best. If it were possible always to hear recitations given as Miss Warre gives them, elocution would have a much greater vogue than it enjoys at present. She was splendid. Miss Dorrie Ward can always demand attention when she steps on the platform, and her songs on Friday night were of the usual high the song and chorus "Dream Boat." With

Mrs. Bennett White and Miss Una Wilson, class character. Especially pleasing was the same young lady appeared in a burlesque entitled Tally Ho," which greatly pleased the audience. A smile still lingers at the memory of Miss Sadie Tilburn's effort. "Come Out of the Kitchen, Mary Ann" was a masterpiece, and with the aid of the chorus in an "Indian Rag" and "How Yer Goin' to Keep 'em Down on the Farm," she was no less successful. Mrs. Bennett White stands out in male impersonations and character sketches. Her speciality is the dude army officer, and as a contortionist in an obviously futile attempt to wear "an eye-glass, don't cherknow," she aroused much merriment.

The chorus work and costuming were fine, and the dancing splendid.

At the conclusion of the performance the president of the hospital (Mr. A. Macintosh) thanked Mrs. Bennett White and the artists for their efforts on the hospital's behalf. He stated the management's intention of placing Mrs. Bennett White's name on the hospital honour board.

The audience gave a splendid endorsement to the president's remarks.

Mrs. Bennett White briefly responded and incidentally remarked that during three years of the war the Cheer-Oh Girls had collected over £12,000 for the soldiers.

The Cheer-Ohs arrived by the afternoon train. They were received by the president of the hospital, members of the board of management, and some ladies, and driven to the Royal Cafe, where afternoon tea was provided. Mr. Macintosh, speaking on behalf of the board, heartily welcomed the visitors.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post
(NSW) 21 Feb. 1920, 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/9856539>

"SUNSHINE REVUE."

At the Palace Theatre on Thursday afternoon a crowded house greeted the Sunshine Revue organised by Mrs. C. E. Jaques in aid of the Soldiers' Entertainments, when a strong programme presented that lady and her girls, also The Gladiators, Blue Dragons, the Desmond Pierrots, and the Cheer-oh Girls, combinations for the most part of note during the war, as well as J. and N. Tait's "All-Diggers" Company in a scene that was cordially applauded.

Mrs. Jaques headed several spectacular choral numbers. Her picturesque grace gave especial charm to "Singapore," and to a big Oriental scene, "While the Incense is Burning," wherein she figured as the solo-vocalist, attired as an Indian queen in glittering silver and dazzling gems. The music was tinged with Eastern colouring, in which the wood-wind and tom-toms were prominent, with girls waving feathered fans and all the stage aglow. This went capitally, and was evidently appreciated.

The Cheer-oh Girls contributed seven or eight attractive items, including "The Dream-boat," with six American-Indian girls lazily paddling their canoe, whilst Miss Dorrie Ward's sweet voice was heard in the solo theme; and this artist was encored for other songs. Another popular number was the quartette, "Sweet Hawaiian Moonlight," with a melodious ukulele accompaniment by Misses Dickenson, Wood, Mardardy, and Bee Edmonds. Mrs. Bennett White's humorous character-recitals caught on, and solo dances by Joyce Silburn and Edna Saunderson proved effective. Miss Nora Conolly and a group in early Victorian costume joined successfully in "Miss Crinoline"; and there were special numbers by Mr. Jack Cannon (in great form), Mr. Neil McBeath (Scottish humour), Miss Eugenie Moreau, Miss Claire E. Byrne, the Three Forsythas (pupils of Bella Perman), Mr. Moon, and Mr. Morris, Miss Robbie McMillan and Mr. Pat. Levy, and others. Miss Lucy Wise and Mr. George Esrp, M.L.C., were hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively, and the latter thanked Messrs J. and N. Tait for the use of the theatre, and all who had assisted, including Mr. Keers and Mr. Nightingale (conductor and stage manager), whose names had been accidentally omitted. It is probable that something like £150 net will be realised when all returns come in.

"Cheer-Oh" Girls on Renown

Last night the Cheer-Oh Girls presented their musical revue on board the H.M.S. Renown to an appreciative audience of officers and men numbering over 1000.

The programme, from the opening chorus to the concluding "Cheer-Oh Girls' Uproar," was received with thunderous applause and appreciation by the men. To individualize the members of Mrs. Bennett White's well-known team is difficult, but Miss Edith Dickerson at the piano and the vocal items of Misses Dorrie Ward and Sadie Tilburn were features. Instrumental items, both violin and ukulele, and dances made a varied programme, which the ship's company gave conclusive signs of enjoying.

Mr. T. D. Mutch and Mrs. Mutch accompanied the party to the ship as hosts for the Government. The executive officer of the Royal Visit Committee was Mr. J. S. Cormack. The concert party was entertained by Commander Campbell and officers of the ship in the ward room at a supper and little dance after the conclusion of the programme.

Evening News (Sydney) 18 June 1920, 5.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/12339783>

Sydney Morning Herald 15 May 1920, 14.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1249186>

The Cheer Oh! Girls presented the Prince with a souvenir detailing their war work, and Mrs. Burnett White, organiser, has received a congratulatory letter in reply. The Cheer Ohs! gave a special revue on the Renown, and were afterwards entertained at a supper by the officers.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/13265860>

During the week the Cheer Oh Girls, under the direction of Mrs. Bennett White, have given two successful revues at Mosman and Manly. Having cleared the debt on the land for the Soldiers' Club at Mosman, and at Eden Gardens, Manly, they then finished paying the debt on the recreation hall for the soldiers at French's Forest. This untiring band of patriotic workers has to date raised nearly £14,000.

Sydney Morning Herald 9 Oct. 1920, 9.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1247127>

NEAR AND FAR.

Miss Beatrice Edmonds, one of the original Cheer Oh Girls, was married last week to Captain Cripp, of the Flying Corps, and is leaving by the Malwa for England. Her sister, Miss Gertrude Edmonds, also one of the original company, and one of its most versatile members, arrived from New Zealand on Monday last, and is also leaving by the Malwa. On arrival in London she is to marry Mr. Harry Williams, of New Zealand. At Mrs. Bennett White's residence on Thursday she was farewelled by the Cheer Oh Girls, and wished the best of luck by that merry party, which has done so much for all patriotic causes.

Sydney Morning Herald 30 Nov. 1920, 7.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1245874>

CHEER-OH GIRLS AT MANLY.
"The Cheer-Oh Girls," who were to have opened on Wednesday at Paris Gardens, find themselves obliged to open on Thursday at Victoria Hall, Manly. Performances will be given on succeeding Thursdays.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1246048>

The Cheer-oh Girls

will give AN ENTERTAINMENT in the
Temperance Hall, Penrith,
Thursday, 3rd February
in aid of the Penrith Soldiers'
Memorial Fund

The Famous Sydney Entertainers
Programme of New Numbers.

PRICES 3s (including booking at Martin's
store, High-street), 2s and 1s.

MRS. D. HATTERSLEY,
Organisor

THE "CHEER OH GIRLS."

The "Cheer Oh Girls," one of the best known concert parties in the State, celebrated their fifth birthday recently.

The party was formed by Mrs. Bennett White when the concert party came into vogue as one of the best means of raising funds for patriotic appeals. By reason of their entertaining powers the "Cheer Oh's" soon became general favourites, and their concerts drew bumper houses. They appeared throughout the State, and altogether, as the result of several hundred performances, the sum of nearly £20,000 was raised for patriotic and charitable purposes. The party established themselves as firm favourites with the officers and crew of the Renown on the occasion of the battleship's visit to Sydney, but their most successful single effort was a benefit concert to the wife of the late Constable Hush, when, at the Coliseum, North Sydney, the sum of £500 was realised.

The "Cheer Oh's" celebrated their fifth birthday by a concert at Mosman—the majority of the members reside there—when they were tendered a splendid reception. Of the original members there remain four—Mrs. Bennett White and the Misses Dorrie Ward, Dickinson, and Thora Wood. Early this week the company will commence a fortnight's tour of the west, in aid of various hospitals and memorial funds.



Front Row (from left to right): Kneeling, Miss Dorrie Ward; standing, Miss Thora Wood, Miss Violet Roberts, Mrs. Bennett White, Miss Dickinson, Miss Una Wilson; kneeling, Miss Rene Ross.
Back Row: Miss Sadie Tilburn, Miss Edna Fenner, Miss Molly Raynor.

Sydney Morning Herald 5 Dec. 1921, 4.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1241877>

CHEER-OH GIRLS.

This popular Sydney combination will visit Grenfell on Thursday, 15th December, to give an entertainment for the Grenfell Hospital. The company was formed during the war and up to date £20,000 has been raised for patriotic and hospital purposes. There is no need for us to dwell on the great work these girls have done; it is well known amongst our readers. The main thing for us to consider is that they are coming to our town to help our hospital and incidentally to give us an enjoyable entertainment. The company includes Mrs. Bennett White (Stage Manager and Male Impersonator), Misses Dorrie Ward, Molly Raynor, Violet Roberts, Edith Dickerson, Una Wilson, Rene Ross, and Thora Wood. The entertainment will consist of songs, humorous songs, funny stories, ragtime, and choruses; and if you miss it you miss a good thing. Arrangements are in the hands of Mr. H. M. Potts, who assures us he has been trying to get this company along here for the past five years. The visitors will be afterwards entertained at a dance in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall, for which a charge of 2/2 will be made for gentlemen; ladies to provide refreshments.

Grenfell Record and Lachlan District
Advertiser (NSW) 5 Dec. 1921, 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/112986953>

Cheer-Oh Girls.

A CHARMING PERFORMANCE.

THE performance of the Cheer-Oh Girls on Thursday night was charming in every way; charming girls, charming voices, and charming costumes. The items also were wisely selected, and the whole show carried on with a sparkle that left little to be desired. Much had been heard of the Cheer-Oh Girls by reports from city friends and city press reports, and the opportunity to hear the company in Grenfell was eagerly availed of; the box plan was filled and the large hall was practically full. No one was disappointed with the entertainment, and the hospital benefitted considerably, for which the Cheer-Oh Girls deserve the thanks of the community as a whole; coming into the country for charity's sake during the weather we have been experiencing has earned for them further encomium, and their work in this direction is greatly to be admired.

The entertainment was produced under the management of Mrs Bennett White—a very capable manageress—whose speciality as a performer was male impersonations, excellently given. To Miss Edith Dickerson, however, must be handed the rosiest bouquet; acting as a pianist throughout, Miss Dickerson was also set down for three "songs at the piano"; in all she must have sung a dozen, being recalled again and again; her accompaniments were splendidly rendered and added greatly to the performance. The character sketches by Miss Molly Raynor were cleverly given, the restaurant scene being a gem. Miss Dorrie Ward, the vocalist of the company, was also in demand, and gave some delightful items, her songs being necessarily chosen to suit the programme. Miss Violet Roberts' "Lisping Song" at once established her as a favorite, and during the evening she also appeared in songs and choruses with Misses Una

Wilson and Thora Wood, both of whom also gave delightful performances. "A Young Man's fancy" (on Idyll), by Misses Dorrie Ward, Thora Wood, and Rene Ross was a very charming item, in which Miss Dickerson at the piano played an important part. To each member of the company, however, is due the highest praise for the combined excellence of the entertainment.

Mr. Potts is to be congratulated on the part he took as local business manager. We understand he induced the Company to come to Grenfell—for which much thanks.

Mr. Potts is to be congratulated on the part he took as local business manager. We understand he induced the Company to come to Grenfell—for which much thanks.

Messrs Logan, Giles and Hammond were in charge of the lighting effects, and Messrs W. Giles, W. Logan, P. Robinson and George Little attended to doors and box office, and Messrs Drury, C. Howarth and Lesmond to the plan.

The President of the hospital (Mr. W. Rabbits) thanked the Cheer-Oh Girls for the visit in aid of the hospital and the splendid entertainment given.

The gross taking: were £69/6/5, and £82 was netted.

After the performance the girls were entertained at a dance in the Parish Hall. There was a packed house. The music was supplied by Mrs E. O. Allen, Misses Fitby and Crommelin, and Mr. H. Howarth. Mr. Costello was in charge of the dancing floor, whilst Mrs H. J. Fourdrinier and other ladies did good work in supervising the refreshments.

Cheer-oh Girls' Concert

On Tuesday evening Penrith concert-goers were once more favored with a fine entertainment by the clever Cheer-oh Girls in aid of the Penrith Soldiers' Memorial fund. A large audience listened to a varied programme of songs, character sketches, etc., and every item was well received. Mrs. Bennett White was again in charge of the party, and to her and to them much credit is due, both for their bright programme and for their magnanimity in coming to Penrith to help a worthy cause so materially. "These splendid girls," they were aptly described, by Mr. D. McDonald in moving a vote of thanks to them during the evening.

The party comprised Miss Edith Dickinson, whose songs at the piano aroused the risibilities of the audience, and who as pianiste to the concert was not allowed much rest; Miss Dorrie Ward, whose fine gift of song has won her many admirers; Miss Una Wilson, whose "rag" songs with chorus were brightly rendered; Miss Sadie Tilburn, a new-comer to Penrith, whose humorous songs were encored again and again; Miss Molly Raynor, who scored similar honors with her character sketches; and Miss Madge Roberts, a very clever stage dancer; not forgetting Mrs. Bennett White, whose impersonations were, as usual, very well done. The costumes were very appropriate, and added to the attractiveness of the items. The stage was fitted up with a screen for the occasion.

The visiting girls were accommodated for the night by several townsmen, and to these the committee desires to express sincere thanks. The hon. organizer of the concert was Mrs. D. Hattersley, who has kindly carried out this task on several occasions on behalf of the memorial funds.

Nepean Times (Penrith, NSW) 3 June 1922, 2.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10735383>

BURWOOD RETURNED SOLDIERS.

With the object of assisting the Western Suburbs and Concord district sub-branches of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, the "Cheer-oh Girls" gave a smart revue in the No. 2 City Hall, Burwood, last night.

There was a large attendance, which thoroughly appreciated the enjoyable programme presented and contributed to by Mrs. Bennett White, Miss Edith Dickinson, Dorrie Ward, Una Wilson, Rene Ross, Molly Raynor, Madge Roberts, and the girls.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1236834>

Mittagong (NSW)

MITTAGONG.—Following upon an appeal by the Rev. W. R. Bowers, rector of St. Stephen's, the following articles have been donated to beautify the church: Credence table, alms dish, bookstand, linen cloths, hymn board, memorial brass cross, and a holy table.—At a special meeting of the Mittagong Municipal Council the special loan of £1000 for making golf links was unanimously approved.—The sum of approximately £85 will be netted by the sports in aid of the Municipal Sports Ground. Messrs. J. Dunne and J. B. Ryan were honorary secretaries.—The Cheer-oh Girls, from Sydney, gave a successful concert in aid of improvements to Lake Alexandra, in Mittagong.

Sydney Morning Herald 26 Feb. 1923, 10.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1234353>

Sydney Morning Herald 5 May 1923, 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10377334>

Sydney**THE CHEER-OH GIRLS.**

The Cheer-oh Girls will visit Granville for the last time on Wednesday, 9th May, when they will give a first-class performance in the local Town Hall, in aid of St. Mark's Ladies' Sewing Guild. This wonderful company—and, indeed, it is wonderful—which is under the supervision of Mrs. Bennett White, has given valuable service both in times of war and peace. The object of its members, when they started, was to raise £30,000. Up to the present time they have given over 1000 performances, and have raised £25,000. The Company consists of eight talented ladies, with an exceedingly clever pianiste, Miss Edith Dickerson.

Tumut (NSW)**THE CHEER-OH GIRLS**

[(under Vice Regal patronage)

O'BRIEN'S HALL,

Monday & Tuesday, May 21 & 22

Proceeds towards hospital Fund

Acknowledged by every Press for the Excellence, Brightness and Refinement of the varied programme

Don't Forget, Monday and Tuesday Next

Complete change of program on Tuesday night.

POPULAR PRICES : 4s. 2s (plus tax)

Tumut and Adelong Times (NSW) 18 May 1923, 3.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/15852539>

The Cheer-oh Girls

THE TUMUT VISIT.

"THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE TOUR."

Referring to the visit of the Cheer-oh Girls to Tumut, when they played in O'Brien's Hall two nights—very wet ones at that—in aid of the Tumut Hospital, the "Cootamundra Herald" says:—"Tumut was the disappointment of the tour. There was no organisation, no advertising done. Accommodation was not arranged for, and the committee will have to foot a bill at full hotel rates. They were left to their own devices. They received no more recognition than a fourth rate variety show would, and it was most disheartening to play twice for an aggregate of £23. Tumut must be a long way out of civilisation not to have heard of the splendid work of the Cheer-Oh Girls. If they had consulted some of their returned men, they could have got some knowledge of their self-sacrificing efforts. One day an aeroplane will land at Tumut, and we shall hear of the natives taking to the bush in terror!"

['Tis absolutely false to say that no advertising was done for the Cheer-Oh Girls. The advertisements appeared in both local papers, and the proprietors of which devoted liberal space gratis to localise their coming. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. A. W. Beach, of Brungie, to whom Miss White, the manageress of the company, had written to do so; therefore no blame can be attached to the hospital committee if everything was not to the Cheer-Oh Girls' satisfaction in Tumut. There would have been a decidedly better attendance at each entertainment had not the weather been so wretched.—Ed. EXPRESS]

Adelong and Tumut Express and Tumbarumba Post (NSW) 1 June 1923, 4.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10760876>

The Cheer Oh Girls are as much to the fore as when they first began in wartime to raise money for necessary funds. Mrs. Bennett White and her band of merry-makers have taken Furlough House, Narrabeen, as one of their objectives, and towards this end they held an entertainment at Neutral Bay on Monday night when Miss Dorrie Ward and the others were at their best. Furlough House exist for the benefit of A.I.F. wives and children, and for some years a committee has been running it, with the satisfactory result that 3000 mothers and children have been given a holiday at the surf beach.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW) 2 Apr. 1924, 9.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/8853032>

A musical revue was given by the Cheer-O Girls, under the direction of Mrs. Bennett-White, on board the Hood, on Monday night. There was an audience of over 800 officers and sailors. Those who contributed to the programme were Miss Edith Dickerson, Mrs. Bennett-White, Miss Molly Raynor, Miss Nora Mack, Miss Una Wilson, Miss Thora Wood, Miss Elvra Humphress, and Miss Gladys Simpson. After the performance the Cheer-Os were entertained by the officers in the wardroom.

"Near and Far." *Sydney Morning Herald* 21 Apr. 1924, 3.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1227451>

Sunday Times (Sydney, NSW : 1895 - 1930) (about) ◀ Sunday 25 May 1924 ▶ ◀ Page 16 ▾ Go of 24 ▶

The Cheer-oh Girls will stage an entertainment at St. James' Hall on Friday evening in aid of the equipment of the New Hospital for Women and Children at Redfern.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/13784237>

“CHEER-OH GIRLS.”

Under the personal direction of Mrs. Bennett-White, the “Cheer-oh Girls” Comedy Company presented a brilliant revue to a large house at the Town Hall on Monday night. The entertainment was held under the auspices of the North Lidcombe Progress Association.

Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW) 24 Dec. 1924, 2.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10247887>

A REAL TREAT

The Cheer-Oh Girls arrived in Katoomba on Wednesday afternoon. They were met by members of the Ladies' Club and entertained at afternoon tea. In the evening, they gave one of their best entertainments in the Town Hall, proceeds from which will swell the fund for the £100 to be collected by Katoomba for the upkeep of Bodington Home. The Red Cross Society gave this promise, and the Feminist Club came gallantly to the collar to assist in raising the contribution. The Cheer-Ohs and their bright entertainments are well-known on the Mountains. For ten years and more they have cheered us and, every appearance enhances their popularity. In such a galaxy of talent, it is hard to individualise. Every item was a gem, from the gaily-dressed opening chorus to the finale—the Cheer-Oh's Good-night. Mrs. Bennet-White is as clever and entertaining as ever in all her work. At the piano, and with her songs and comicalities, Edith Dickerson is delightful, and in Molly Raynor the band has a story-teller and character-sketch artist fit for

any company. Edith Angel is a contralto of rare attainments; Grace Harris a song and dance fairy; and Una Wilson and Bobbie Garrard, charming personalities rich in talent and attractiveness. Quite apart from their individual merit, the Cheer-Ohs are—as their name implies—the quintessence of happiness before the footlights, and their bright, buoyant bonhomie rarely fails to permeate the audience, lifting it from its drab self to something better and brighter for the time being. Wednesday's concert was one of the best, and the girls received the thanks of all for their good work. After the entertainment, the Cheer-ohs were the guests of the Feminist Club at their quarters in the School of Arts, where supper was served and cordial appreciation expressed for the favor of the visit. On the following day, the Cheer-ohs visited Bodington, bringing song and sunshine to the inmates.

Sydney Morning Herald 19 June 1925, 5.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/12037750>

The Cheer'oh Girls, who never weary in well doing, are adding to their long list of charitable acts of kindness in giving a concert in the Strathfield Town Hall on Wednesday evening, October 7, in aid of the little friendless mites of the Strathfield Home for Children, 119 Albert-road, Strathfield. An extra special programme by these talented artists has been specially prepared for this occasion. Tickets are only 3/, and are on sale at Mr. Charlton's news agency, Flemington; Mr. Prescott's news agency, Homebush; Mr. Thompson's news agency, Broadway, Strathfield; and Mr. Dick's, chemist, boulevard, Strathfield.

BROADCASTERS

Call sign, 2B.L. Wave length, 353 metres.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

EVENING SESSION.

8.0.—Revue tendered by "The Cheer-ohs" to Miss Edith Dickerson. "Hello, Everyone," Edith Dickerson and girls; "Go Along, Mule," the Cheer-ohs; syncopate, Una Wilson and chorus; some stories, Molly Raynor; "Somebody Stole My Gal," Una Wilson and girls; song, Dorrie Ward; sketch at the piano, Kitty Elliott; "Me and the Boy Friend," Molly Raynor and Grace Harris; "Midnight Waltz," Tony Paul and Mabelle St. John; character sketch, Mrs. Bennett White; song, Nora Mack; song at the piano, Edith Dickerson; "A New Kind of Man," Mrs. Bennett White and girls. Interval. "My Little Maori Maiden," Dorrie Ward and girls; "Sleepy Maori Moon," Una Wilson and chorus; duet, "Aren't Men Funny Creatures," Mrs. Bennett White and Edith Dickerson; "Barefoot Days," Grace Harris; character sketch, Nelly Raynor; pianoforte solo, Edith Dickerson; sketch at the piano, Kitty Elliott; "With Courty Grace," Dorrie Ward, Grace Harris and Bobbie Garrard; "Mandalay," Tony Paul and girls; "Spain," Edith Angel; dance, Mabelle St. John; "Southern Rose," Una Wilson and girls; finale. Under the direction of Mrs. Bennett White. Miss Edith Dickerson at the piano. 10.30.—News reports. 11.0.—National Anthem.

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW) 18 Dec. 1925, 4.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/15228053>

BROADCASTING

To-day's Programmes

BROADCASTERS, LTD.

8.13: Cheero Girls (Mrs. Bennett White, Miss Edith Dickerson, Miss Edith Angel, Miss Clarice Morgan, Miss Dorrie Ward, Miss Molly Raynor and Miss Grace Harris). Songs, character sketches, and musical monologues. 9.20: Broadcasters' Trio. 9.30: Cheero Girls. 10.15: Gloom-chasers' Orchestra from Bondi Casino.

2BL, SYDNEY.

8.3.—From the King's Hall, Hunter-street; the Cheero-Girls, under the direction of Mrs. Bennett White. The occasion is the celebration of the eleventh anniversary of this popular concert party. The proceeds of the concert will be given towards providing a Christmas tree and comforts for the patients in the Randwick Military Hospital. Artists: Una Wilson, Rene Ross, Aileen Morse, Clarice Morgan, Molly Raynor, Edith Dickerson, Constance Paradise, Edith Angel, Norah Mack, Margot Fletcher, Yvonne Palmer, Edith Bagnall, Marjorie Bagnall, and Mrs. Bennett White; 9, from the Stadium, a description by Mr. Basil Kirke of the champion boxing contest; 10.20, from the ballroom of the Bondi Casino; dance music by Danny Hogan's Frisco Six.

Cheer-Oh Entertain.

Red dahlias massed a table at the Ambassadors yesterday, at which Mrs. Bennett White and the Cheer-Oh Girls entertained Miss Edith Angel. Included in the party were Mesdames Ellis St. John, Irving-Boyd, Dyson Austen, E. A. Palmer, Claud Palmer, Murry Edwards (Siam), Keith Wright, W. R. Bagnall, and the Misses Edith Angel, Maude Clifford Jones, Clarice Morgan, Margery Bagnall. A charming posy was presented to Miss Angel.

Evening News (Sydney) 7 Jan. 1928, 8.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/13906923>

2 BL BROADCASTERS 349 METRES	
Friday	March 16 Dance Night 8 p.m.
Saturday	17 Irish Night. 8. p.m.
Sunday	18 Newtown Congregational 11 a.m. Rozelle Methodist Mis- sion 4 p.m. Newtown Congre- gational 6.30 p.m. Recital by Clive Carey 9.15 p.m.
Monday	19 Stan Hudson and Jack Mayer entertainers 8.39 p.m.
Tuesday	29: Welsh Male Voice Party 8.20 p.m.
Wednesday	21 Canterbury Band 9.
Thursday	22 Opening Ceremony Radio and Electrical Exhibition 2.45 p.m. Harry Thomas, elo- cutionist from the Radio and Electrical Exhibition Sydney Town Hall 8.29 p.m.
Friday	23 Dance Night 8 p.m.
Saturday	24 Cheer-Oh Girls from the Radio and Electrical Exhibition Sydney Town Hall 8.15 p.m.

National Advocate (Bathurst, NSW) 14 Mar. 1928, 1.

DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND

The popular "Cheer-oh Girls," under Mrs. Bennet White, will give an entertainment in the Victory Hall, Lakemba, next Monday night, at 8 o'clock, in aid of the building fund of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution.

Evening News (Sydney) 9 Apr. 1928, 18.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/115526685>

FAMILY SLAIN

Farmer Goes Mad

ROCKDALE HORROR

SYDNEY, Thursday.

One of the most shocking tragedies which has occurred in Sydney for many years was enacted in an old house at Rockdale to-day. Three women and a man are dead, and another man is in hospital in a critical condition. The victims are:—

Dead: Garnet Robb (40), Miss Jessie Palmer (30), Mrs. Edith Palmer (42), Mrs. Elizabeth Ashley, the housekeeper,

Wounded: Joseph Palmer, father-in-law of Mrs. Palmer, is in hospital in a critical condition.

The scene of the tragedy was an old two-storeyed house named St. Elmo, in Harrow road, Rockdale. The tragedy was discovered by Mrs. Bagnall, the wife of Mr. Bagnall, M.L.A., who called at the house for one of the women members of the family, who was to have accompanied her on an outing. She found Mr. Palmer, who is

cont...

Elizabeth Ashley, another victim, had been housekeeper for the Palmer family for many years. Mrs. Edith Palmer was well-known locally as Miss Dickenson, a member of the "Cheer Oh Girls' Musical Society." She was one of the most popular women in Rockdale, and was always associated with some charitable work.

Joseph Palmer was admitted to hospital with two bullet wounds in the abdomen, while Mrs. Edith Palmer died half an hour after admission. She had two bullet wounds in the chest. Mrs. Ashley and Miss Palmer were dead on admission to the hospital.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW) 2 Nov. 1928, 7.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/9133913>

TRAGEDY.

At Rockdale.

FOUR PERSONS DEAD.

ANOTHER WOUNDED.

Demented Man's Act.

Creeping upon them as they were seated at their kitchen table having lunch yesterday, Garnett Alexander Robb, of Nimbin, shot three persons dead and seriously wounded another. Three of them were his relatives.

Robb afterwards barricaded himself in an upstairs room and committed suicide.

The tragedy, which occurred at a large old-fashioned two-story house in Harrow-road, Rockdale, was not discovered until about two hours later, nobody, apparently, having been alarmed by the reports of the shots.

Robb is said to be a religious maniac, passionately interested in the Christian Science theology. The crime caused a sensation in the district, where the murdered persons were well known and highly respected.

Those concerned in the affair were:—

DEAD.

Nurse Jessie Ada Palmer, 49, single, of St. Elmo, Harrow-road, Rockdale, bullet wound in neck.

Mrs. Edith Phoenix Palmer, 39, same address, two bullet wounds in chest.

Mrs. Edith Astley, 50, a widow, same address, bullet wound in brain.

cont...

Sydney Morning Herald 2 Nov. 1928, 13.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1200242>

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