



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	BLAKE, AUDREY
ACCESSION NO	1996.0060
CATEGORY	Labour, individuals
ACTIVITY	Communists
DATE RANGE	1940-1952
SIZE OF COLLECTION	18 photographs Photographic negative
HISTORICAL NOTE	Audrey and her husband Jack D. Blake were prominent members of the Communist Party of Australia. Both were particularly vocal during the Liberal Party's assault on the CPA and Jack Blake wrote numerous articles and papers on the Cold War. Audrey was the first Secretary of the Eureka Youth League (q.v.) when it was formed during the second world war. The ABC broadcast an interview with Audrey Blake on 29 November, 6 and 13 December 1986. She has written a history of the EYL a copy of which is deposited with University of Melbourne Archives (see Eureka Youth League Collection Accession No. A.1994 .0096.)
DATE OF TRANSFER	9 th Jun 1996
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Negatives of eighteen photographs covering the Eureka Youth League from its inception in the early 1940s (q.v.); 1949 Budapest Youth Carnival for Peace, Australian delegates; Australian Delegates to Berlin Youth Festival 1951; and Australian Youth Carnival For Peace, Sydney, 1952.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	The majority of these photographs were taken by friends of Audrey Blake and given to her. Copyright for most has expired as they are over 50 years old. Use must nevertheless be acknowledged.
LISTED BY	Sue Fairbanks
DATE	12 th Dec 1996

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AUDREY BLAKE COLLECTION

ACCESSION NO. 96/60

HISTORICAL NOTE:

Audrey and her husband Jack D. Blake were prominent members of the Communist Party of Australia. Both were particularly active during the Liberal Party's assault on the CPA and Jack Blake wrote numerous articles and papers on the Cold War. Audrey was the first Secretary of the Eureka Youth League when it was formed during the Second World War. She has written the history of the League, a copy of which is also held by the Archives. Comments on photographs below are also Audrey's own.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Blake, Audrey Collection, Acc. No. 86 169 for a taped interview
Eureka Youth League Collection, Acc. No. 94 96 for EYL History
CPA, Victorian State Committee Collection.

The main collection of Jack and Audrey Blake papers is held in the Mitchell Library, Manuscript Division, Sydney.

TRANSFERRED: 9 June 1996

TRANSFEROR: Audrey Blake

DATE RANGE: c.1940s - 1952

ACCESS:

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Sue Fairbanks
12 December, 1996

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Audrey Blake Collection

- 1 EYL group with German and Austrian boys from the Dunera (all those in uniform). They were allowed, although ‘aliens’, to join a Labour Battalion of the AIF. The other chaps are *back row*, George Sutherland, *middle* Michael Marmach, *front* Bern Fidler and a Jewish member of the EYL whose name escapes me.
The women: *back row far left* Margaret Lyttle, Betty Lyttle, then A. Blake, *front row* Pat Lyttle. In the ‘40s.
- 2 Group of EYL members having a day off from work at Camp Eureka in late ‘40s. *Back row* Margaret MacArthur, Marie Cutbush, Rivkah Brilliant, *middle* Rosemary Smith, *front* Jean Curlewis, Audrey Blake.
- 3 EYL Camp in ‘40s. Jack Mitchell and Gwen Fong facing each other at one end, Audrey Blake at head of table with Jim Adams on her right.
- 4 Prices demonstration, Bourke Street, Melbourne, in a united youth demonstration in ‘40s. Rivkah Brilliant (now Mathews) in light skirt and dark jacket, EYL-er responsible for organisation of march.
- 5 Isla Green, Jan Blake (daughter of J. & A. Blake), work party at camp, c.1946.
- 6 Audrey Blake working on the building of Camp Eureka after the war. Work parties worked every weekend. This photograph taken c.1947.
- 7 Audrey Blake, National Secretary EYL, working at the League’s headquarters in North Melbourne, c.1944.
- 8 Audrey Blake, addressing New Deal for Youth Rally, early post-war period, Melbourne. The platform included representatives of religious youth organisations, ethnic groups, students and working class youth organisations. The young man nearest the camera, on my left, is Noel Ebbles, representing the Melbourne University Labor Club. Noel was active in building the National Union of Students, and later represented Australia in the International Union of Students (IUS) in Prague. Noel died while helping to organise the Australian Youth Carnival for Peace and Friendship (Sydney 1952). He was hitching a ride on a truck after a National Student meeting in Perth and was accidentally killed. His book *The Australian Labor Movement*, with an introduction by Lloyd Churchward and a memoir by Manning Clark, was published in 1960. Nest to Noel is Kurt Mertz, I think, an Anglican youth organisation, and the young man behind him is Ron Pinnell.

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- 9** Australian delegation in Budapest at opening ceremony for the 1949 Youth Festival for Peace. Can't remember the names except for John Bluthal (*in shorts, front row*), A. Blake *front row* talking to Noel Counihan, Noel Ebbles at *end of front row*, blond girl in *centre* Blanche Mertz.
- 10** Start of final 1949 World Youth Festival for Peace, Budapest Hungary. Standard bearers John Bluthal and David Levine. *At far left of front row* Nita Murray-Smith, Stephen Murray-Smith, *seventh from left* Marie Cutbush. There were over 50 in the Australian delegation. Wilfred Burchett (covering the Festival for an English newspaper) took a number of photographs of the Australian delegation but I'm not sure if these are his.
- 11** Preparing for the World Youth Congress which followed the Festival (both organized by the World Federation of Democratic Youth to which the EYL was affiliated). This group is *from left*: Ken Gott, typing out our contribution to the Congress (to be delivered by A. Blake), Noel Ebbles, Bernard Pechter, A. Blake.
- 12** *Unity Dance Group*, on way to Berlin Youth Festival for Peace in 1951 organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The Australian Delegation numbered 134. In the centre is Isla Green, to her right at back is Rae Dowdle, at end of the back row is Margaret Walker the leader of the group (previously a member of the Borovansky Ballet). Margaret, who was awarded the Order of Australia medal for services to dance in Australia, died a few days before Christmas in 1996. All the members were members of the EYL. [Obituary of Margaret Walker also enclosed.]
- 13** Aborigine, Ray Perkins, delegate to Berlin Youth Festival 1951. Ray in white top. At farewell at wharf.
- 14** Farewell at wharf to Berlin delegation, Australian delegation of 134. *Second from left* Peg Hewett (EYL then, now a leading member of OWN - the Older Women's Network), then unidentified young women, then Roy Hewett.
- 15** Folk dancing on the wharf in Sydney when delegation was leaving the Berlin Youth Festival 1951. Margaret Walker was playing the accordion. Amongst those dancing is Peg Hewett, now a leading activist in OWN (Older Womens Network).
- 16** At the Australian Youth Carnival for Peace - the opening ceremony at Fairfield's Hollywood Park. 1952, March.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES
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- 17** Youth delegation taking gifts from the Youth Carnival to patron of the Carnival Dame Mary Gilmore 1952. Can't identify two young people on the left - *young woman on right* Jan Blake.
- 18** A mixed group from the Australian delegation to the Berlin Youth Festival 1951. They were invited to the USSR after the Festival as the guests of the youth movement. Here they are at the grave of Ruben Ibarurri in Stalingrad. He was the son of Dolores Ibarurri one of the great communist leaders of the Spanish Civil War. She was known as La Passionaria. A great many Spanish Communists took refuge in the USSR after the defeat of the elected Spanish government by Franco and his Nazi and Italian fascist supporters. Reuben Ibarurri died fighting the Nazi German Army, as a member of the Red Army in World War II.