

Miscellaneous Documents

About the collection:

This collection consists of a plethora of ephemera (disposable paper objects i.e. tickets, posters, leaflets etc.), mainly of British origin. The series is termed 'Miscellaneous' as the items do not necessarily relate to one particular individual, as in the manner of the British and Commonwealth Private Papers collection. The collection contains material dating mainly from the two World Wars, although a small number of items relate to the post-war service of HMS *Belfast* and the Falklands War (1982). The collection contains some very rare and unusual items, including private autograph books, hand-drawn theatre programmes and examples of individual service records.

History of the collection:

Collecting of this material started with the museum's foundation in 1917, but was formed into the existing series only when a separate Documents archive was established in the early 1970s.

How did the collection come into IWM's care?

Public donations following the foundation of the museum in 1917 were placed into the care of the IWM Library, later renamed the Department of Printed Books. The material was then transferred to the Department of Documents (now the Documents and Sound Section) following its establishment in the early 1970s, and further items have been acquired since then on a regular basis, primarily through public donations.

How many items are there within the collection?

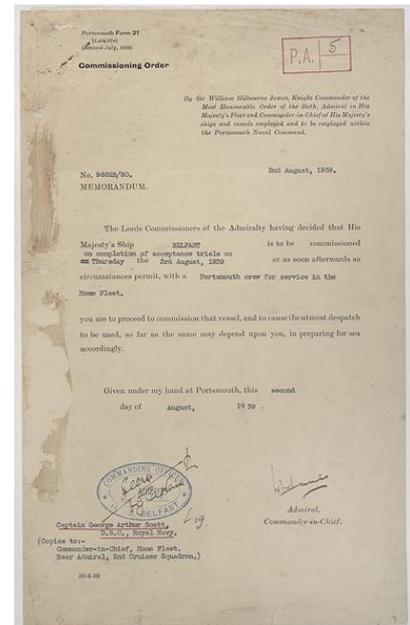
There are almost 4,000 separate miscellaneous collections, ranging from a single file to multiple boxes.

Where can I see it at IWM?

They are stored largely in archival stores at IWM London. Items are frequently used for research and exhibition purposes.

How to search the collection?

- Search the Collection using [Collections Online](#)
- For more information please see the [Miscellaneous \(Documents and Sound\)](#) collection pages on the website or contact our [Explore History Centre](#)



Commissioning Certificate for HMS Belfast