

John Jarvis

Concert Parties

I used to like to get up and sing. And this lad he was trying to organise like a concert party, and someone had told him about me like to sing and he come along. And he never told nobody he was there and we were having a bit sing-song in the hut then. And he come over to us like and he says "I like what I heard", and he says "I like it very much", he says "would you like to be on the concert party"? "Do I get any extra food"? I mean... He says "No, I'm sorry, no", he says "but it helps to lift the morale of other people". I says "Why if I'm doing anybody a good turn I'll try and do you". And there was some nights I could go in a hut and get all the lads singing. Sing all night. Maybes the following week, properly demoralised. Go in, and I used to get up and sing half a song and get down and walk out. And this fellah couldn't understand it. And I couldn't explain it. I could only sing when I was happy, you know, when I was in the mood. If I was in the mood I would sing with anybody, but if I wasn't in the mood, if I tried to force meself into the mood to sing, no good.