



FROM THE GALLERIES AND COLLECTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Typically only a small portion of a museum collection is exhibited at any one time. This is due not only to practical consideration of display space but a range of professional considerations designed to protect and preserve the artefact.

This series highlights objects and stories you may have overlooked in the galleries or collection items awaiting the opportunity to be viewed and share their story. Enjoy and explore further.

Memories of ANZAC House



Western Australian veterans have had a central Perth headquarters since 1916 when the Soldier's Institute was set up in Government Gardens. Later Perth's first ANZAC House was opened by the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia on 5 October 1934. The next ANZAC House was opened by the Returned Services League of Australia on 14 November 1981, and refurbished and reopened again on January 27, 2006. The latest Anzac House, incorporating Veteran Central was opened by the Returned and Services League of Western Australia on 12 November 2020.

The design of the 1934 ANZAC House was the result of a competition with AR Baxter-Cox Architects submitting the winning design. Alfred Richard (Derf) Baxter-Cox served in 3 Tunnelling Company in World War 1 and initially commanded 2/16 Battalion in World War 2 before brigade command and staff appointments. ANZAC House was heralded as a 'monument to the men and women who served their country in a time of great crisis'. The 1934 ANZAC House incorporated a ballroom, a rifle range and the very first ANZAC Club.

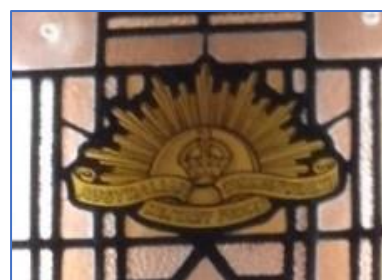
The entry at the Australian Army Museum of WA has three significant mementos of the 1934 ANZAC House. Two are leaded glass panels which graced the St George's Terrace entrance. The panels incorporate the Australian Imperial Force rising sun badge in an art deco style window panel, typical of the era. The panels were rescued from the demolition site in 1980 by Honorary League architect, Ken Broadhurst, and held in safekeeping for many years before being donated to the Army Museum. Today they are framed and backlit in the Museum entrance hall flanking the third memento from ANZAC House.

The Museum entrance is one of the few places where the large portrait of Lieutenant General Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs KCB, KCMG, VD can be displayed and viewed to full effect. The portrait was painted by Ernest William Buckmaster on a visit to Perth in 1936. Buckmaster (1897–1968) was best known for his still-lives and landscapes but won the first of several Archibald Prizes in 1932 with a portrait of Sir William Irvine. He also served as an Australian war artist during World War II.



The portrait was officially unveiled in the ballroom of ANZAC House on 30 September 1936. During its time in that venue, the portrait suffered damage from atmospheric pollutants (cigar and cigarette smoke) and required extensive conservation before display at the Army Museum.

The portrait of General Hobbs is flanked on adjacent walls by the large Honour Boards of the National Australia Bank and Boan Brothers.



Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia web site

<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40963956?searchTerm=Buckmaster%20Hobs>

<https://www.glasscraftsman.com.au/leadlight-windows/art-deco-leadlights/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Baxter-Cox

<https://www.museumofperth.com.au/alfred-edward-cox>

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/160823>

<https://www.rslwa.org.au/services/veteran-central>



*Perth Soldiers' Institute, St George's Terrace, Perth.
WA State Library BA533/88*



RSL Badges from the Heraldry Collection