

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 28 TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia is now open three days per week, Wednesday through Friday. A COVID-19 plan is in place with social distancing and limits on numbers in individual galleries. Sanitiser stations are available throughout the Museum together with an enhanced cleaning regime.

For those unable to visit at present, the Virtual Visit series will be continuing to present interesting features of the collection and their background stories.

Boans Limited Honour Board



The Boans Limited Honour Board for World War 1 records the names of members of Boans Limited staff who volunteered for service between 1914 and 1918.

Of the 98 men on this board, 15 died, 18 received wounds and one was reported missing in action. The Honour Board weighs over 600 kg and was hung in a prominent position on the ground floor

The Board was executed by Mr G Stirzaker of the West Perth Cabinet Works. the original gilt lettering was by Meston and Walters.

It was the policy of the Boans brothers, that for any staff member who volunteered for war service, there would be a job waiting for them on their return. This is indicated on the Honour Board by a blue dot. It is a sign of a harmonious workplace that virtually all surviving employees took advantage of this patriotic offer.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In the refurbishment of the Wellington Street store after the sale to Meyer in the late 1980s the board was stored in a Cannington warehouse. The Board received some damage in its removal from the store. In 2004, the Cannington Districts Historical Society, who having stored the board for some time, successfully applied to the State Government for a renovation grant. This work was carried out by Talbot Walsh & Co. of Welshpool and was completed in May 2005.

The Honour Board was relocated to the Army Museum and eventually positioned in the Museum entrance, in one of the few spaces large enough to position its 3.5 metres by 5 metres size. A structural steel mounting frame was chemically bonded to the wall to provide support for the estimated 600 kg mass.

In the renovation work, the hand painted lettered boards were removed and replaced with new boards and vinyl lettering. The original sections however have been retained and are in conservation storage.

In spite of diligent searching, tracking and public appeals through *Can You Help*, the World War 2 Honour Board cannot be traced and is believed to have been destroyed.



In another connection with the firm, the Army Museum is seeking details of the ceramic camels which were part of a window display at Boans Limited in 1941. The

Museum has an example but there is no manufacturer's or artist's label. If you know anything about this item, please contact the Museum.



FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVES



The Army Museum workshop team who designed and fabricated the supporting frame and mounted the Honour Board



Boy Scout parade with Sea Scout Band, Wellington Street



Scrap Metal and Trench Comforts – Boans Limited window 1917