

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 31

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

Lord Roberts Workshops - Kitchener Doll 1916

Lord Kitchener Visits Western Australia 1910



A popular patriotic doll, representing Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, given as a favoured Christmas gift in 1916 to Mollie Mitchell of Wooroloo, when continental fashion dolls were in short supply.

In December 1916, seven-year old Mollie Mitchell of Wooroloo, Western Australia asked for a Kitchener doll for Christmas. The doll was made as a representation of Field Marshall the Right Honourable the Earl Kitchener, KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, ADC, PC (24 June 1850 – 5 June 1916).

This British soldier hero of the Sudan was a key person in the defeat of the Boer Republics. He almost alone foresaw the length of struggle in August 1914 and laid the basis for the recruitment and organisation of the mass British and Empire army that achieved ultimate victory in 1918.

The doll has a cloth body with composition head, hands and feet. The head has

moulded hair and moustache.

The doll is dressed in a khaki uniform with a leather belt and gun holster. The peak cap is made of the same khaki material and has a leather peak. The ribbons are embroidered, and the buttons are fashioned from metal paper fasteners. A length of

13 mm wide cotton tape is wrapped round each leg to represent puttees. The doll was designed to be supported on a stand.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A product of the Lord Roberts Workshops in England, which were set up during the First World War to provide employment to disabled soldiers and sailors, this doll was a popular feature of their "Patriotic" series. Because of a shortage of bisque headed fashion dolls from France and Germany as a result of the war, a doll factory was established in Katanning to meet local demand for dolls.

Kitchener initially rose to prominence upon becoming Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian army and taking the city of Khartoum in 1898 after a two-year battle which earned him the nickname of "Kitchener of Khartoum". He cemented his reputation towards the end of the Boer War, during which time Australian troops came into contact with him and British military justice.

From 1902 -1909, Field Marshall Viscount Kitchener commanded Britain's Indian forces. In 1909/10 he visited Australia at the invitation of Prime Minister Alfred Deakin to inspect and advise on the country's defence preparedness. Kitchener's report, submitted in February 1910, recommended the introduction of compulsory military training, which was immediately adopted, as was the establishment of the Military College, Duntroon. His visit was accompanied by popular outpourings of sentiment and the production of countless souvenirs.



Artillery Guard of Honour for Lord Kitchener in Melbourne (AWM Photo)

The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia has no photographs relating to Lord Kitchener's visit to Western Australia. If you have a lead please contact the curator at curator@armymuseumwa.com.au



The British government had no hesitation in appointing Kitchener the Secretary of State for War in 1914, employing his face on the now famous "I Want You" and "Your Country Needs You" recruiting posters.

Against his better judgement, and under considerable pressure from Winston Churchill, Kitchener agreed to support the Gallipoli campaign in February 1915, but its disastrous outcome damaged his military reputation.

His tour of Gallipoli on 13 November 1915 included meeting Australian troops and their commanders. Kitchener died on 5 June 1916, when the cruiser he was sailing on was sunk by a German mine off Scapa Flow.



Lord Kitchener inspecting conditions and the tactical situation at Gallipoli

LINKS FOR FURTHER ENJOYMENT

Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia web site
<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

A sampling of newspaper articles relating to Lord Kitchener's visit and inspections in Western Australia

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/37407953?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/256721382?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/26248153?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/148618817?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/257293434?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/77320267?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/26248054?searchTerm=Lord%20Kitchener>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers?keyword=Lord%20Kitchener&l-advstate=Western%20Australia&date.from=1910-01-01&date.to=1910-04-01&startPos=160>

Many more may be found at:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers?keyword=Lord%20Kitchener&l-advstate=Western%20Australia&date.from=1910-01-01&date.to=1910-04-01&startPos=160>



[advstate=Western%20Australia&date.from=1910-01-01&date.to=1910-04-01](https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers?keyword=Lord%20Kitchener&l-advstate=Western%20Australia&date.from=1910-01-01&date.to=1910-04-01&startPos=160)

A carved jarrah statuette of Kitchener by noted Western Australian wood carver William Howitt is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

<https://www.portrait.gov.au/people/william-howitt-1846>

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/howitt-william-6752>

<https://digitised-collections.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/126531>

<https://www.leski.com.au/m/lot-details/index/catalog/159/lot/68227/WILLIAM-HOWITT-Occasional-table-carved-jarrah-with-portrait-carved-top-PROVENANCE-nbsp-Hardey-family-collection-Western-Australia?url=%2Fm%2Fview-auctions%2Fcatalog%2Fid%2F159%3Fcat%3D834>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/32122391>