

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 55 TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Throughout 2021, the Virtual Visit series will be continuing to present interesting features from the collection and their background stories.

The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia is now open four days per week, Wednesday through Friday plus Sunday. Current COVID19 protocols including contact tracing will apply.

Lieutenant General Joseph John Talbot Hobbs Died at Sea 21 April / Funeral in Perth 14 May 1938



If there is one Western Australian soldier whose impact and presence is felt throughout the Museum it is Lieutenant General Sir Joseph John Talbot Hobbs, KCB, KCMG, VD (24 August 1864 – 21 April 1938) The presence begins at the Museum entrance with the formal Buckmaster portrait and continues in a storyline of military and community service through to the introduction of the World War 2 Gallery. This Virtual Visit traces some of those connections across the Galleries by highlighting some significant collection items and their story.

Hobbs' career began in the ranks of the Volunteers, progressed through commissioned service in the defence forces of Western Australia and then command appointments in Australian Commonwealth units and formations after Federation. Selected to command the Artillery of the 1st Division of the Australian Imperial Force he landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He continued in this appointment in France until appointed to command the 5th Division AIF in January 1917. After the Armistice on 11 November 1918, he succeeded Sir John Monash in command of the Australian Corps.

He continued to serve in the Commonwealth Military Forces until his retirement in 1927.

Hobbs died at sea of a heart attack while enroute to the unveiling of the Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial. The eulogy of Lieutenant General Sir

Brudenell White was "he was not only a soldier, he was also a great citizen, and a great Christian gentleman ... who knew none other than the straight path", ***Items relating to the service of Joseph John Talbot Hobbs may be found throughout the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia, indicative of his extended period of service across many decades.***

Entrance - Buckmaster Portrait



A large formal portrait of General Hobbs hangs in the Museum entrance facing the reception and gift shop area. The General is portrayed in a relaxed seated pose in service dress with sword without medals or cap. The portrait was painted by renowned artist Ernest Buckmaster

The portrait formerly hung in the original Anzac House on St Georges Terrace. Smoke from cigarettes and a fireplace necessitated extensive conservation before it was displayed in the Army Museum. The portrait is today flanked by decorative glass panels in the Art Deco style salvaged from the original entrance doors to Anzac House.

Traditions Gallery - 2 Division AIF Memorial Plaque



A plaster cast of one of the battle scene plaques from the controversial 2 Division AIF Memorial is mounted in the Traditions Gallery. The cast was donated by the United Services Institution of Western Australia of which Talbot Hobbs had been President. It is assumed that the cast came into his possession in the context of his role with the design and dedication of many war memorials in his capacities as commander and architect. The Germans destroyed the main sculpture of the 2 Division AIF Memorial in 1940. The original bronze casting of this plaque remains on the reconstructed

Memorial and a second casting is in the Sculpture Garden at the Australian War Memorial

Traditions Gallery - Regimental Colours



This Regimental Colour of the 44th Battalion (The West Australian Rifles) was Presented by Lieutenant-General Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs, KCB, KCMG, VD, LLD at a parade held on the Esplanade, Perth, 22 October 1927. It is one of several Colours on display in the Traditions Gallery at the Museum.

World War One Gallery – Uniform Items and Gallipoli Walking Stick\

In separate cases in the 1914 and 1915 areas may be found personal accoutrements from Talbot Hobbs’s war-time uniforms and a walking stick he fashioned from a piece of driftwood picked up at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915.



World War One Gallery – Portrait, Watercolour and Telephone



Below a post-war, head and shoulders portrait of Hobbs in the Gallery is a copy of a watercolour by Albert Henry Fullwood of Hobbs in July 1918 working at his desk as General Officer Commanding 5 Division AIF. On the table behind him is a field telephone repeater an example of which forms part of the display. Planning is underway for the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918,

which resulted in a great Allied victory, “the Black Day of the German Army”.

The field telephone repeater is one of many artefacts from the Army Museum collection currently on temporary loan to the Museum of Perth in the Atlas Building on the Esplanade for their current exhibit: ***A Signaller’s Story: The Extraordinary War Diaries of Bert Turner***. Herbert ‘Bert’ Turner chronicled his daily life during the Great War; from Fremantle with the 11th Battalion in 1915, to France with the 51st in 1916, and the 4th Division Signals Company in 1918. His meticulous diaries are an extraordinary insight into Bert’s experiences of War. They are also a very valuable historic record given their accuracy and detail.

Contemplation Area – State War Memorial

The Contemplation Area is flanked on the left-hand side by a photo of the State War Memorial and a limestone model of the Memorial used for fundraising. Construction of the Memorial began in 1928 by honorary architect General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs. It was officially unveiled on 24 November 1929, the year of the Centenary of Western Australia, by the State Governor Sir William Campion.



Archives – Enrolment Ledgers, Ephemera . Photos And Maps

The Archives contains maps, ephemera and photographs from Hobbs’s personal collection. Many of the digitised photographs are indexed and described and are available on Mosaic at the Museum and through CollectionsWA at <https://collectionswa.net.au>

Artillery Roll Books containing details of pre-Federation military service have been digitised and are accessible through the Western Australian Military Digital Library at

<https://www.wamdl.com.au/Home>



(Above Left) Talbot Hobbs with King George V in France, 1917

(Above Right) 10 Light Horse sentry marking Reviewing Stand for parade in Perth in 1943 at Talbot Hobbs Memorial

LINKS FOR FURTHER ENJOYMENT

Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia web site

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

<https://slwa.wordpress.com/2014/11/25/j-j-talbot-hobbs-wwi-diaries-online/>

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hobbs-sir-joseph-john-talbot-6690>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talbot_Hobbs

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hobbs-4155>

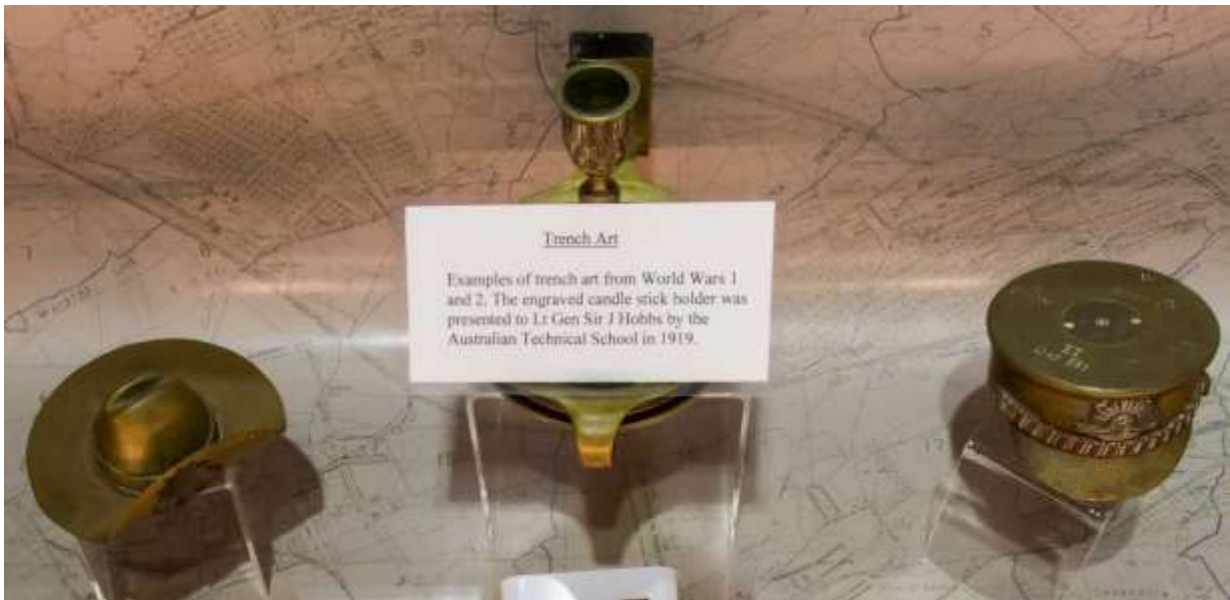
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C177226>

<https://research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/publications/joseph-john-talbot-hobbs-1864-1938-and-his-australian-english-arc>

<https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/SLWA-on-ABC-Radio/j-j-talbot-hobbs>

<https://www.museumofperth.com.au/a-signallers-story>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Division_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Division_(Australia))



Trench Art Candlestick presented to General Hobbs during his time as Corps Commander by the Australian Technical School, one of many such training and vocational initiatives between the Armistice and Repatriation

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/politics/repatriation>



Coffin of General Hobbs leaving Artillery Barracks, morning of 14 May 1938