

CHAPTER 3

ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Status of the Army Museum

3.1 Mr Roger Lee, Head of the Army History Unit, Department of Defence, told the Committee that:

Successive chiefs of the Army have acknowledged that the collection preservation and interpretation of Australia's military history is of central importance to the Australian Army. The study of history helps to develop and strengthen the bonds of esprit de corps in individual units and in the corps of the army and is an essential element in the training of its officers and soldiers. Army's existing network of about 60 museums and historical collections is important in the way in which Army collects and presents this history. The Army museum network provides a multifaceted service to our officers and soldiers, their families and friends, and provides Army with the means to develop links with the greater Australian public that supports it.¹

3.2 In 1995, Defence issued Defence Instructions (General) 54–1, which covers the operation of museums and historic flights. In this Instruction, under preservation of heritage, the following policy guidance is given:

Through the display of items of historic, cultural or intrinsic value, Defence museums serve an important role in terms of:

- a. **public relations**—promoting the image of the ADF and informing the public of the history, role and contribution of the Services to Australia;
- b. **recruitment**—introducing the concept of a military career to potential recruits, especially by displays at schools, open days and conducted tours of museums;
- c. **morale**—promoting esprit de corps by providing an environment where ADF members including trainees can study the history of warfare and the development of military hardware; and
- d. **equipment preservation**—restoration, storage and display of equipment of historic, cultural or intrinsic value.²

3.3 The Army History Unit was created and given the role of managing and promoting the large existing and disparate network of mainly Army museums and

1 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 167.

2 Defence Instructions (General) ADMIN 54–1, p. 3.

historical collections. The Army Museum of Western Australia operates within this network.

3.4 The Army Museum of Western Australia was begun in the Dilhorn Barracks in Perth in 1977. It remained there until 1994, when it was required to move from that site as Dilhorn Barracks had become surplus to Defence requirements and was subsequently sold. The Museum was moved to the east wing of the Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle, in mid 1995.

3.5 Defence maintains the physical structures occupied or used by the Army Museum. It also provides limited funding for staffing (three part-time reservist positions) and administrative expenses (about \$7,500 a year). Defence also pays security, power, light and water. Staff are trained through the Army training scheme, including museum courses at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.³

3.6 The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation (the Foundation) is a public company managed by a Board of Directors. It ‘owns and provides thousands of the objects on display that have been collected over many years. It is only with the foundation’s support that the museum is able to develop and mount exhibitions, conduct guided tours and provide all the services normally associated with the museum.’ The Committee was told that ‘Army readily acknowledges that, without the foundation, the Army Museum of Western Australia would cease to be an effective functioning museum’.⁴

The Museum’s collection, displays and activities

3.7 Mr Lee said that the ‘Army History Museum of Western Australia is a regional museum. It collects and interprets the history of the Australian Army in connection with Western Australia.’⁵

3.8 The Foundation submitted that:

The Mission of the Army Museum of WA is to collect, conserve, interpret and display Western Australia’s Army heritage and to commemorate with integrity, the role of the Army in WA, and Western Australians in the Army, on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

The Museum’s Objectives are:

- (a) To establish and maintain a permanent museum for the display and conservation of historical Army items in WA.

3 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 175.

4 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 168.

5 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 168.

- (b) To foster public interest in the history of the Army and the Armed Forces in WA.
- (c) To collect and accept items of military historical interest from all available sources and ensure their preservation, cataloguing and display to the public.
- (d) To encourage the preservation and maintenance of items of historical military value held in or in possession of other organisations.⁶

3.9 The Foundation also submitted that ‘Galleries in the main building depict the Army’s role from Colonial times, through the major conflicts to the present day, while outbuildings are used for storage and conservation, administration and as workshops. The Museum contains Australia’s largest publicly donated collection of army heritage items outside the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.’⁷

3.10 The Museum is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Apart from individual visitors and tourists, the Foundation also arranges school visits and visits by other organisations, such as community and ex-service groups, to the Museum. With regard to school visits, Major Weir, a museum consultant and volunteer, submitted that ‘Young children of primary school age particularly learn why we have an army and what it does in both peace and war’.⁸ Entrance fees are charged for all visitors, including groups. A bookshop is also located on site.

3.11 The Foundation provided the Committee with details of visitor numbers and revenue obtained from visitors to the Museum. These are shown in Table 3.1.

6 Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, submission no. 17, p. 1.

7 The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, submission no. 17, p. 2.

8 Major K M Weir (Retired), submission no. 9, p. 2.

Table 3.1: Statistics relating to the operation of the Army Museum of Western Australia

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 (to 15/10/00)
<i>Members subs</i>				\$5,500.00	\$5,880.00	\$6,080.00
	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>Sat/Sun/Wed</i>	<i>Sat/Sun/Wed</i>
<i>Visitors (numbers)</i>	3,040	3,960	5,480	4,964	5,295	7,276
<i>Public opening days</i>		\$5,517.80	\$6,949.25	\$9,849.20	\$10,418.40	\$13,654.20
<i>Functions and tour groups</i>				\$6,538.70	\$7,768.70	\$8,482.30

*Note: visitor income is not complete and the figures do not represent total income.*⁹

3.12 Although Defence has provided some material to the Museum, much of it is under the control of the Foundation. Most items in the collection have been donated or lent to the Museum. Mr Lee told the Committee:

As a general rule, we would say that most of the items are likely to be owned by the foundation. Part of the problem is that until recently ownership has not been an issue that has been tracked by the administration of our museums. I would have to be honest and admit that the correct legal title to about 80 per cent of our collection is unclear. But within the Army Museum of Western Australia the foundation would probably be the owner of most of the artefacts. We have already acknowledged that without the foundation, without their artefacts, we do not have a museum in the West; we understand that.¹⁰

3.13 According to the Foundation, although the controversy over the future location of the Museum has increased the number of visitors to the Museum, ‘the

9 The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, additional information tabled at hearing on 19 October 2000.

10 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 177.

number of donations has diminished as a consequence of the ongoing uncertainty in the minds of the public'.¹¹

Proposed relocation to Hobbs Hall

3.14 Mr Lee told the Committee:

Much has been said of what constitutes a suitable home for the Army Museum of Western Australia. The justification for Army's museums has always been the collection, preservation and utilisation of its history. Because the museums are an integral part of Army it has always been Army's policies that the collections belong with, and should be housed, with Army units. That is why Army considers that a suitable home for any Army museum, including the Army Museum of Western Australia, is within a Defence facility. The museum public also expects an Army museum to be located within an Army facility.¹²

3.15 Mr Lee also said that:

In 1995 all the museums in the Army network were offered a choice: (1) they could become part of the Army program and come under the jurisdiction of Army—abide by Army's corporate goals ... or (2) they could become a private commercial activity on an Army site but pay full cost recovery in that separate commercial regime. No army museum has yet opted to go (2).¹³

3.16 In effect, the Foundation has been given an ultimatum by Defence—either move to another Defence property, which has suitable facilities, or break the link with the Army and become a commercial venture.

3.17 Mr Lee also said that by operating on a Commonwealth site under Commonwealth jurisdiction, all the Army museums are operating under one set of occupational health and safety regulations.¹⁴ The Army also provides surplus and out of service equipment to museums within the network. Such equipment would not be available to museums outside of the Army network.

3.18 With the Artillery Barracks declared surplus to requirements and arrangements underway for the site to be sold on a priority basis to Notre Dame University, Defence has been seeking alternative sites for the Army Museum and the University of Western Australia Regiment, the other occupant of the Barracks.

11 The Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, submission no. 17, p. 2.

12 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 168.

13 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 176.

14 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 177.

Defence indicated that Hobbs Hall at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, Perth, is the favoured alternative site.

3.19 Defence also argued that it would be cost-effective to relocate the Army Museum to Hobbs Hall rather than renovate the Army Barracks. Mr Corey said that ‘The figures we have had done by some consultants suggest that it would be about \$2.4 million to bring the Artillery Barracks up to a state that might be suitable and something like \$1.3 million to do Hobbs Hall’.¹⁵

3.20 The Army History Unit told the Committee that it would hire contractors to ‘disassemble, move and reassemble, or at least assist with it’.¹⁶ The Committee was told in Fremantle that some of the exhibits were very fragile and would not necessarily survive a move. Moreover, the exhibits were designed to fit the particular exhibition spaces in the Artillery Barracks and a new design would have to be created for a different layout in Hobbs Hall.

3.21 The Foundation gave the Committee a Functional Planning Brief for development of Hobbs Hall to accommodate the Museum. DEO told the Committee it was assessing the Brief, in association with the Army History Unit, and would be responding to the Foundation in about a month from the time of the hearing. It was not available at the time the Committee was finalising this report. However, Mr Corey told the Committee that DEO did not agree with the \$3 million costing estimated by the Foundation for the redevelopment of Hobbs Hall.¹⁷

3.22 Mr Brian Manns, Deputy Head, Army History Unit, told the Committee:

It would be fair to say there are probably not too many of our museums housed in ideal or anywhere near ideal buildings. Hobbs Hall is no less suited than Artillery Barracks is. In fact, in my opinion there are some benefits to Hobbs Hall that I have already mentioned. There is certainly much better storage. An important element of any museum is to be adequately secure. By secure I mean safe from such things as the ingress of weather and insects and the like. There is a floor space that could be developed for exhibitions that is at least as large as the floor space in the current gallery spaces.¹⁸

15 Mr Rod Corey, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 176.

16 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 231.

17 Mr Rod Corey, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 230.

18 Mr Brian Manns, Deputy Head, Army History unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 230.

Volunteers

3.23 The Committee's attention was drawn to several negative factors about the proposed move to Hobbs Hall. The Foundation foreshadowed that the move would result in many of the volunteers, upon which the Museum depended, not continuing their association with the Museum. Mr Dalton, a Board Member of the foundation said that 'If the museum moves from here, the energy that has been built up over the last five years will simply dissipate. There is nothing to attract that volunteer group to Irwin Barracks.'¹⁹

3.24 Mr Peter Shaw, a foundation member of the Western Australian Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia and a person who has had a close association with the Army Museum since its inception, submitted that that 'thousands of hours have been put in by Museum curatorial staff and volunteers in the planning and development of professional quality displays at the new site' (ie at the Artillery Barracks). He went on to say that:

Short of providing a purpose built building to house the museum, or to outlay significant costs in modifying and extending existing facilities to meet the requirements of the museum, it is difficult to envisage how the museum can be easily accommodated at an alternative site.

Even if alternative accommodation was eventually provided, the impact of the museum being forced to relocate once again is likely to result in a reduction of continuing support by volunteers who have worked hard to get the museum to its current standard. To expend major effort in moving and trying to retrofit purpose built displays to fit alternative display layouts and to relocate specially built storage areas will be a demoralising task for many. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the museum and without their support, the museum will not function.²⁰

3.25 When these comments were put to Defence, Mr Lee responded:

I have heard that put. All we can do is regret that. There is nothing we can do about that. It is a genuine consideration but at the end of the day it is not a factor that is going to affect the Defence Estate Organisation and the policy of property rationalisation. We will do what we can to encourage the volunteers to come across. We have got a very good relationship between the AHU and the volunteer groups. Without it we could not operate a museum.²¹

19 Mr James Dalton, Board Member, Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, *Committee Hansard*, 19 October 2000, p. 51.

20 Mr Peter Shaw, submission no. 18, pp. 4-5.

21 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 230.

3.26 Both the Foundation and the Army History Unit agreed that, if many of the volunteers decide not to continue to support the Museum at Hobbs Hall, and if replacement volunteers could not be recruited, the Museum would just wither away. It is clear that it could not be run without sufficient volunteers.

Visitors to the Museum

3.27 Mr Dalton told the Committee that ‘With respect to the location of the museum here in the tourist precinct, as everyone seems to accept and nobody denies, it is the ideal location ... The potential purchaser thinks it is the right place to be. The mayor spoke strongly yesterday about the importance of the museum being here as part of enhancing the tourist precinct. The building itself is an exhibit. The bricks and mortar of the Artillery Barracks are as a part of the exhibition of this museum as the things in the glass cases on the first floor. There is a synergy that embraces the barracks and the collection and enhances both.’²²

3.28 The Mayor of the City of Fremantle supported the keeping of the Museum where it is. He told the Committee:

In terms of the advantage of the museum being in the City of Fremantle, and I have mentioned international tourism to Fremantle, research shows that in aggregate, international, interstate and local visitors, Fremantle attracts 1.2 million people a year. With the enhancement of this precinct, that is a number that the museum can tap into. The city has recently set up a CAT system, a central area transit system, which enhances the accessibility of this area, as well as the Fremantle Art Centre, to the CBD. No-one will go to Karrakatta.²³

3.29 The Committee noted that the Army Museum was a short walk to the Fremantle History Museum and the Fremantle Arts Centre.

3.30 Hobbs Hall at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, is situated well away from tourist areas. It is accessible by train and bus. However, during the inquiry, no-one generated any optimism that the Museum, if located at Hobbs Hall, would attract many visitors, except those with a special interest in military history and paraphernalia. If few people visited the Museum, that would be discouraging for the volunteers who remained faithful to the Museum at its new location and would make their eventual replacement more difficult, if not impossible. It would also reduce significantly the income now earned by the Foundation from its three open days a week.

3.31 Moreover, unlike the Artillery Barracks, which can be promoted as a tourist attraction in their own right, Hobbs Hall has little to commend it in that way, despite its heritage status.

22 Mr James Dalton, Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, *Committee Hansard*, 19 October 2000, p. 50.

23 Mr Richard Utting, Mayor, City of Fremantle, *Committee Hansard*, 18 October 2000, p. 4.

Security of tenure

3.32 Mr Peter Shaw submitted that:

When the Army Museum was relocated to Artillery Barracks in Fremantle in 1995, this had the support of the Army area Headquarters in WA and considerable logistics and planning went into the move involving not only Army resources but extensive time and effort by many museum staff and volunteers. Following this major move it was certainly expected that security of tenure in the newly selected location would be longer than 5 years.²⁴

3.33 As the Museum moved to the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle, from Dilhorn only five years ago, the Committee questioned Defence officials why the Museum was moved to the Artillery Barracks in 1995 when, even then, it, or at least part of the site was mooted for disposal. In fact, a ‘Portion of the Barracks facility available for disposal’ was included in the Defence publication *Facility and Property Procurement and Disposal Plan (Green Book) 1994–1999*, dated June 1994.

3.34 By mid 1998, the ‘Draft Strategic Plan for the Defence Estate (SPDE) identified the need to review the retention of the Army reserve establishments in the West, and in particular in the Perth area, with a recommendation to plan the disposal of Artillery Barracks’.²⁵

3.35 Defence told the Committee that the volunteers organisation at the time of the move knew that relocation to the Artillery Barracks was a temporary move. However, Defence was unable to provide written evidence that the volunteers knew it was only a temporary location for the Museum. Mr Lee told the Committee:

We need to be a bit careful. Back in 1995, the relationship between the museums and the department was somewhat less formal than it is now. Most of the museums in the Army system were privately built concerns, using voluntary labour from either within or without the unit that promoted them. I suspect there would not have been an entity to whom to write in that sense in 1995.²⁶

3.36 Even if the volunteers knew that the Artillery Barracks would not be their permanent home, it is clear from the work put in by the volunteer group over the last five years that they were expecting to stay there for some considerable time.

3.37 Consequently, if the Museum were to move again, it would be imperative that it move to a site at which it could have some guarantee of long-term occupancy. The Committee noted that, during its visit to Irwin Barracks, residential development was

24 Mr Peter Shaw, Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation, submission no. 18, p. 4.

25 Department of Defence, submission no. 37, annex C.

26 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 190.

occurring nearby and that Karrakatta was prime residential land. The Committee put to Defence that residential encroachment might require the Museum to move again. In response, Mr Corey said:

Hobbs Hall is a heritage building which has a heritage classification on it not dissimilar to the Artillery Barracks. The defence strategic plan sees rationalisation of Karrakatta and other property. Karrakatta is the whole of that area around Hobbs Hall. But we would also look to consolidate Army Reserve units within the precinct there and around the precinct of Hobbs Hall, so we will have a multi-user depot or something of that description around Hobbs Hall and the rest of that property will probably be developed in the medium term as housing development.²⁷

3.38 When pressed about Hobbs Hall remaining a Defence property in the long term, Mr Corey said, 'If we invest significant dollars in building a multi-user depot adjacent to Hobbs Hall, that should be enough of a guarantee for anybody, because we do not build things for the short term; we build them for the long term.'²⁸

3.39 A number of alternatives were suggested to the Committee during the inquiry that were aimed at keeping the Museum at its present site. One was for Defence to sell the property and then lease back the part occupied by the Museum. Another was to keep that part and sell the rest of the property. Dr Tannock, Vice-Chancellor of Notre Dame University, suggested that the University might lease to the Museum its current area at a peppercorn rental but, presumably, the Army or some other body would have to pay the cost of maintenance. The problem for Defence in respect of all these options would be continuation of paying the upkeep of a property which it wishes to divest in order to save money.

Between a rock and a hard place

3.40 Defence regards the Army Museum of Western Australia as a sub-unit of Army. Under current arrangements, army museums are located on Defence properties, preferably where there are other Defence units operating. Under these arrangements, if the Artillery Barracks were sold, then the Army Museum would have to move, even if Notre Dame offered a 20 year lease at a peppercorn rental.²⁹ Mr Lee confirmed that, if the Foundation took up Dr Tannock's offer and continued to operate in the Artillery Barracks, Defence would remove its items from the collection. Asked what these items might be, he responded:

I would be guessing. We have never really done an analysis or a breakdown on who owns what. We are working on it, but it is not complete. Largely

27 Mr Rod Corey, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 220.

28 Mr Rod Corey, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 232.

29 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, p. 178.

what we provide is equipment recently in service that has just gone out of service. It is transferred to my register. I am the fleet manager for heritage items in Army. It comes onto my register and I distribute it round the network. They might get recent examples of weapons, recent examples of kitchens and equipments, recent examples of papers. We are just about to give them about 2,000 maps that are surplus to requirements. We give them documents. They would lose the Army provided administration stuff like computers and the museum management software. They would lose access to our museum training programs and that sort of matter.³⁰

3.41 The problem for the Foundation is that, if the Museum does not move from the Artillery Barracks, once sold, it loses all the assistance provided by Army. However, if the Museum does move to Hobbs Hall, the disadvantages of the site might lead to the demise of the Museum.

3.42 The Foundation put a proposal to Defence and the Committee to manage the whole property. Without having the whole property as a source of income, the Foundation would not have enough funds to run the Museum on its own without Defence assistance, unless the State Government or the City of Fremantle, or both, provided annual funding to maintain the site. To date, the Committee is not aware of any offer of funding by the State Government or the Fremantle Council.

3.43 There was agreement from all sides in this inquiry that the Army Museum of Western Australia is a valuable facility, which fulfils a worthwhile role for the community and the Army. It was also widely acknowledged that the Museum was most appropriately located at the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle. Although Defence regarded Hobbs Hall as a suitable alternative location for the Museum and went so far as suggesting that, with appropriate renovation, it would be as good as the Artillery Barracks, other witnesses did not support this view.

3.44 Leaving aside the contentious issue of whether the Artillery Barracks or Hobbs Hall is the better physical venue for the Army Museum, it is generally acknowledged that the future health of the Museum will depend largely on the Foundation keeping most of its volunteers (or finding replacements for them) and attracting the public to the Museum. It is also generally accepted that it will be much more difficult to do this at Hobbs Hall than at the Artillery Barracks. Most people outside of Defence believe that the move to Hobbs Hall might lead to the demise of the Museum. Mr Lee of the Army History Unit recognised this possibility.

3.45 If the Foundation did not have enough volunteers to open the Museum to the public on a regular basis, it would stagnate. It would be difficult to attract new material and probably some existing lenders would request the return of their items. However, the Museum would continue to exist as the difficulties of disposing of the

30 Mr Roger Lee, Head, Army History Unit, Department of Defence, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2000, pp. 178-79.

collection would be inordinately difficult. The exhibition would take up valuable space for little return to Army or Defence.

3.46 There is a noticeable resurgence of interest in Australia's military heritage, particularly among young Australians, reflected in pilgrimages to Gallipoli and attendances at dawn services on Anzac Day. The Army Museum will both benefit from that interest and, in turn, it will encourage other people to take an interest in their military heritage. As pointed out to the Committee, the Museum does not glorify war but stands testament to the courage and bravery of people who served our country in time of war. This new interest should, in the longer term, give more people an awareness and understanding of defence needs, and encourage participation in the Defence Force, either full-time or in the Reserves. The Army Museum should accomplish much more by remaining at the Artillery Barracks in a tourist precinct than 'hidden' away in Hobbs Hall.

3.47 Although this inquiry is not one into Army museums and collections, the Committee necessarily took some evidence on the subject, given the location of the Army Museum of Western Australia at the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle. In view of the formalisation of the system of Army museums and collections in recent years, it is obvious that this is some acknowledgement within Defence of the benefits of maintaining museums and historical collections. In fact, as pointed out early in this chapter, the Defence Instructions refer to the 'important role' Defence museums play in terms of public relations, recruitment, morale and equipment preservation.

3.48 Whether Defence has thought through how it might optimise the existence of these museums and historical collections for Defence's broader benefit rather than just for serving personnel is not clear, with little evidence to suggest that it has. In the proposed relocation of the Army Museum of Western Australia to Hobbs Hall, the wider benefits to Defence of attracting the public and ex-ADF men and women to the Museum have obviously been downgraded in favour of simply maximising the financial return from selling the property. It appears that conformity to existing arrangements, irrespective of circumstances, is more important than finding a solution to a problem that will benefit Defence in the long term. In other words, it is clear that Defence is more concerned about process than achieving a successful outcome (a viable museum fulfilling the important role ascribed it in the Defence Instructions).

3.49 Although there are advantages in co-locating the Museum with other defence force activities, the Committee can see no reason why the Museum must be located on Defence-owned property apart from the support Defence gives museums within its network. Nor does the Committee consider that continued support for the Museum by Defence need be contingent on its location on Defence-owned land. It is obviously the preferred option but some flexibility is desirable and should be exercised in special circumstances. A long-term lease on the existing site from the ultimate owner of the property would not be inconsistent with other Defence proposals for sale and lease back. It would also be consistent with the Australian Government's record of sale and lease back of many properties that were once owned by the Commonwealth.

3.50 The Committee appreciates that there are difficulties associated with operating the Army Museum on land not owned by Defence. Defence identified occupational, health and safety; liability; and security as some of these difficulties. However, these difficulties are not insoluble.

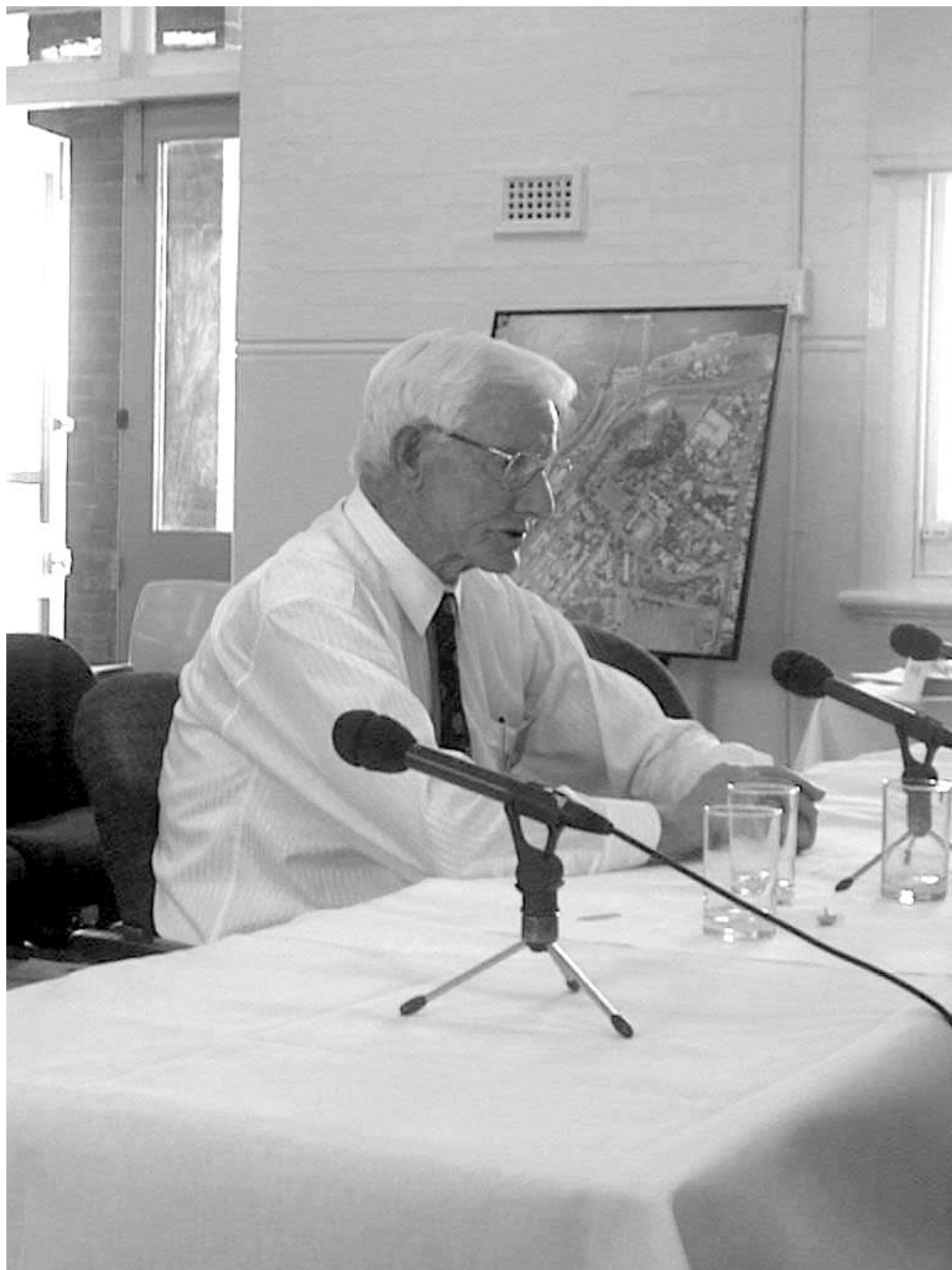
3.51 If the property is kept in public hands by transferring it to the Western Australian Government through a Federation Fund grant or similar mechanism, presumably the State Government would acquire it at no cost. As the State Government and the City of Fremantle would be beneficiaries of this deal, both bodies should consider contributing to the refurbishment and upkeep of the Museum site. As Defence would otherwise have been obliged to pay the cost of the transfer of the Museum to Hobbs Hall and the refurbishment and long-term maintenance of that site, as well as getting ongoing benefit from the Museum, there is a case for Defence, too, to contribute to the upkeep of the Museum at the Artillery Barracks, when it is disposed of.

3.52 The Committee believes that every effort should be made to find a way to keep the Army Museum where it is.

3.53 It is essential that the Museum be provided with security of tenure in the long term at whatever site it is located.

Recommendation

3.54 The Committee recommends that the Minister for Defence review the Department's decision to relocate the Army Museum of Western Australia to Hobbs Hall and examine the possibility of retaining the Museum at Artillery Barracks.



Mr Bill Haskell giving evidence before the Committee