

**LEGACY HOBART GELLIBRAND ARTEFACTS
REMARKS BY HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR
THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, 10AM TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021**

Good morning and welcome to this Morning Tea for members of Hobart Legacy and for the donation of Memorabilia which belonged to Major-General Sir John Gellibrand, to be held at Legacy House in Hobart.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and yet who continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

How nice it is to welcome to Tasmania Margaret Brown, widow of General Gellibrand's grandson; and with her the Wollongong and South Coast Legacy President Dierdre Landells, and Greg Keir, Secretary.

And Dick and I also warmly welcome Rob Grey, President of Hobart Legacy and colleagues and friends.

Probably for many Tasmanians, who know a little of our history, the Gellibrand name is a familiar one. But first let me summarise his exceptional life as a soldier. As well-known as it is, it is always worth recounting – not least at an auspicious event such as we have here this morning.

Tasmanian born Major-General Gellibrand graduated from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst (top of his class) in 1893.

He served with the British Army in the Boer War after which he graduated from Staff College at Camberley in 1907.

In June 1912 he returned to Tasmania, then at the outbreak of World War One, Gellibrand joined the Headquarters of the First Australian Division (not without some difficulty as he was by then over 40 years of age).

He distinguished himself on the beaches of Gallipoli where he oversaw the landing of supplies and ammunition and their despatch to the troops fighting on the ridges.

He was wounded twice during the first three weeks and evacuated to Egypt but soon returned to the ANZAC beaches.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel he joined the Second Division AIF and was given command of 12th Battalion, predecessor of 12th/40th Royal Tasmanian and in 1916 he was again promoted and given command of 6th Brigade on the Western Front.

Wounded again, he continued to take part in the fighting. Unhappy at the influence British officers had had which led to the defeat at Bullecourt, Gellibrand resigned but was dissuaded by General Birdwood and sent to England.

In England he overhauled the AIF supply depots and training methods.

In 1917, he returned to France in command of 12th Brigade.

In May 1918 Gellibrand was given command of 3rd Division where he remained to the end of World War One.

For his service in France, Gellibrand was awarded a bar to his DSO, the CB and later the KCB. He had been mentioned in despatches several times throughout his career.

After the War, Gellibrand served as chief commissioner of police in Victoria and in 1925 he was elected to Federal Parliament for the seat of Denison but was defeated in subsequent elections.

General Gellibrand was the founder of the 'Remembrance Club' in Hobart in 1923, later renamed Hobart Legacy Inc. and having objects in common with Legacy Clubs around Australia.

Today the role of Hobart Legacy – as with all Legacy branches – continues strongly, namely, to see to the care of dependants of those who served their country and who gave their lives or health on

operational service. We are all very grateful for that, and I thank Legatees on behalf of all Tasmanians.

As I mentioned earlier the Gellibrand name is a familiar one historically in Tasmania, in legal and political circles but also in the farming community of the Derwent Valley in particular.

At South Arm is the burial vault of William Gellibrand, an early settler who arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1825. The vault is a familiar and intriguing sight to walkers on Arm End and also to recreational boats in the Derwent Estuary – it is clearly visible from Mary Ann Bay and invites inspection.

William's son, Joseph Gellibrand, a lawyer, came to the colony with his father having been appointed as the colony's first Attorney-General. Joseph came into conflict with Lieutenant-Governor Arthur over trial by jury but that is another story.

Joseph was John Gellibrand's grandfather, and John's father was Thomas Lloyd Gellibrand and his mother Isabella Brown. Thomas and Isabella had seven children. John was born at Leintwardine, Ouse, in the Upper Derwent Valley. When he was just 21 months old his father died and Isabella sold the farming properties and returned to England with her seven children.

But that was not the end of John's connection with Tasmania. Before he sat his Sandhurst exams, he returned to Tasmania with his mother in 1891, and then he returned again in 1912 with a view to farming – hoping to buy a larger share of Cleveland, a large grazing property west of Ouse in which he has a one-tenth share.

That did not happen and instead he bought an apple orchard at Risdon. This he returned to after the war, and he entered politics as well as continuing to farm at Risdon and Smithton – and of course he founded Legacy – the reason, we are here this morning.

Thank you.