



ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SYDNEY

Historic military collection belonging to Australia's first general

An important and rare collection of historic swords, pistols, medals and other artefacts belonging to Australia's first general, Sir Maurice O'Connell, is among the new displays at the Anzac Memorial.

The collection spans over four decades of Sir Maurice O'Connell's career including his time as Lieutenant Governor of NSW under Governor Lachlan Macquarie in the early 1800s to his role of general and first commander of Australia's military forces from 1838-1847.

With few objects surviving from the earliest decades of European settlement in Australia, the O'Connell collection is of great significance to NSW and Australia's colonial history.

The collection includes:

- The Lloyd's of London Presentation Sword
- A William IV, Mameluke hilted, General Officer's Sword,
- A pair of cased, percussion cap officers' pistols,
- Knighthood neck decoration and breast badge – O'Connell was knighted in 1835,
- O'Connell's gold bullion epaulettes to indicate his General's rank
- Officer's shoulder belt plate, 73rd Foot Regiment featuring features the battle honours for Mangalore, Seringapatam & Waterloo.

The Lloyd's presentation sword is one of the most significant swords in Australian history and it is fitting it be displayed at the Anzac Memorial, a site once known to have been visited by O'Connell when he used Hyde Park as a venue to exercise and drill the 73rd Regiment.

It was acquired as part of the Anzac Memorial Centenary Project with substantial support from the NSW Government.

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