# DEDICATION OF GUILDFORD'S 10th LIGHT HORSE STATUE

Honouring the 10th Light Horse Regiment, raised in Guildford in October 1914



Stirling Square Guildford Western Australia 12th March 2023 This statue is dedicated to the *IOth Australian Light Horse Regiment* (hitherto referred to as *IOth Light Horse* or *the Tenth*) that was raised in Guildford in 1914. It honours the courage of this Regiment and the special bond shared by horse and trooper. It is an acknowledgement of those who served in World War I and II, the between wars militia and the *IOth Australian Light Horse Regiment* of today.

This sculpture sits in the heart of historic Guildford in Stirling Square. It was unveiled by the Guildford Grammar School Cadets on 12th March 2023 in the presence of Ms Tania Lawrence MP, Hon. Michelle Hopkins Roberts MLA, Cr David Lucas (Mayor, City of Swan), Lt Col Daniel Wright CO 10th Light Horse Regiment, Brig Phil White AM RFD Hon Col 10th Light Horse Regiment, and WO Chris Sharp RSM 10th Light Horse Regiment.

Booklet written by Barbara Dundas in consultation with Paul Bridges and Chris Horvath. Artwork prepared by Anita Rowell.

#### Disclaimer

Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, some of the content in this booklet may contain inaccuracies or errors.

Members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are advised that this booklet contains names, images and information relating to deceased people.

This booklet may also include historically and culturally sensitive images, words, terms or descriptions; such material does not reflect the committee's or author's viewpoint but rather the social attitudes and circumstances of the period or place in which it was created.

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#### Introduction

This IOth Australian Light Horse Statue is the culmination of five years' work by the Guildford Light Horse Statue Committee from formation, fund raising and tender to its completion. The committee wanted a statue unique to Guildford that demonstrated the bond of horse and trooper that has become legendary. Attention to accurate military detail was of critical importance before approving the final artwork design. Charles Robb's sculpture depicts a Light Horseman with a regiment horse emerging from the Helena River at the Guildford Depot where the regiment was raised.

I sincerely thank committee members Barbara Dundas (Secretary/Guildford Association), Celia Miller and Kathy Feucs (Swan Guildford Historical Society), Laurens West (ex IOth Light Horse Regiment)(RAACWA), Chris Horvath (military expert), and Kim Ward (St Matthew's Church), for their valuable contribution, time and expertise to bring this worthwhile project to fruition.

It is my honour to also extend appreciation to The Hon Ken Wyatt AM and The Hon Michelle Hopkins Roberts, MLA for their important support and attendance at meetings. The City of Swan Council and Staff is commended for their significant support, commitment to the project and future maintenance of the statue.

The project was completed with grants from the Federal Government (Department of Veterans' Affairs Community Grants and Armistice Grants Programme), State Government (Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries), and Local Government (City of Swan) as well as private donations. A Lotterywest grant contributed towards the public dedication event and interpretive plagues installed on site.

Cr. Charlie Zannino

Chair, Guildford Light Horse Statue Committee



There never has been a closer bond between man and animal than that which exists between the veteran Light Horseman and his Waler. After the front line, his horse is his first anxiety. He stands between rations and the man's own health.<sup>2</sup>



## The Sculptor

The IOth Australian Light Horse Statue was completed by Dr Charles Robb with significant input from Prof Sarah Holland-Batt on context at the formative stage of the project.

The work was produced with the assistance of sculptors Mr Michael Riddle and Ms Narinder Virdee - both artists in their own right - and whose expertise was invaluable to the production of this work.

Charles and Sarah would like to express their profound gratitude for the patience, skill and attention to detail that they brought to the project, as well as their moral support throughout.



Figure I: Arriving in Guildford

Charles Robb is an artist and Senior Lecturer in Visual Art at QUT, Meanjin/Brisbane. His sculptures have been seen in numerous group and solo exhibitions at venues including MONA (Hobart), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney) and the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia (Melbourne).

Robb was a finalist in the 2012 McClelland Sculpture Survey (Langwarrin, Victoria), and he has been shortlisted for the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award and the National Gallery of Australia Sculpture Award.

In addition to his gallery-based practice, Robb has completed several major public art commissions including The General Sir John Monash Commemorative Sculpture (with Sarah Holland-Batt, 2018) for the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Sarah Holland-Batt is an award-winning poet, editor, and critic. Her poems have been widely published in international journals and magazines, including *The New Yorker* and *Poetry*, and she has received numerous national and international awards. Her recent book, The Jaguar, was named The Australian's 2022 Book of the Year. She is Professor of Creative Writing at QUT.



Figure 2: Arriving in Guildford

# Dedication of the Tenth Light Horse Statue in Guildford

The unveiling of the IOth Australian Light Horse Statue in Guildford, is a significant event, honouring an historical connection with the raising of this troop in Guildford at the commencement of World War I. Many of these young troopers were born, lived, educated or worshipped in Guildford. Their courage and deaths in battles in the Middle East were strongly felt within the town and at their Garrison Church St Matthew's in Stirling Square. This statue truly deserves to stand in the heart of Guildford - the 'Birth place of the Tenth'.

The dedication of this statue recognises men of all ages, races

and backgrounds, who fought as equals alongside their mates in the 10th Light Horse Regiment. It honours their courage and the unique bond shared between horse and rider. The statue also commemorates the Army Service Corps with its rough riders, farriers and veterinarians etc. The 10th Light Horse Regiment formed part of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade. The mounted corps included field ambulance, machine gunners, signallers and men who were later transferred into the Camel Corps, but all who shared a unique 'esprit de corps,' arising in part from the shared and tragic loss of life on Gallipoli on August 7th 1915 and in later exploits.



Figure 3: 10th Australian Light Horse Statue, Guildford

#### Historic Guildford Town



Figure 4: This early map of Guildford shows the extent of floodplain lands c1830

The historic town of Guildford is situated between two rivers, the Swan and Helena that surround the town on 4 sides, leaving but a narrow neck of land in the North East. The rich alluvial soils attracted not only the first European settlers but had been the hunting, camping and corroboree grounds of indigenous people for over 40,000 years, this area was known as *Mandoon* or place of many trees.

Floodplain lands surround Guildford town, forming approximately 50% of the total land area. Winter flooding has ensured

these lands have remained as meadows and commonage for the past 194 years. The lands adjacent to the rivers were alluvial clays with tall trees, however, this quickly dissipated to sand and low scrub within 100 metres of the rivers outside the town site.

### Guildford's Military Associations

#### **Early Military Associations**

Guildford town has had a long military history dating back to the first European settlement. In 1829 Captain Stirling was accompanied by two companies of the 63rd Regiment and many retired military personnel. A number of these men took up town grants in Guildford including Colonel Lautour, Captains Pratt, Meares, Whitfield, Shaw, Irwin, Lieutenants Heal, Bull and Ensign Dale. Thirty years later, with the advent of penal transportation, Enrolled Pensioner Guards took up residence in Guildford and were a reserve force after their duty of escorting convicts.



Figure 5: 10th Light Horse troop training at Guildford Remount Depot c1915

#### **Volunteer Corps and Cadet Corp**

Guildford residents embraced the establishment of the Swan Volunteer Rifle Corps in I862, just three months after the formation of similar Corps at Perth and Fremantle. Although disbanded in I863, it was re-established as the Guildford Rifle Volunteers in I874 under Lieut. Samuel Hamersley and Sub. Lieut. Stephen Gardiner, the local State School head master. Gardiner later raised a Cadet Corps (the first unit in the state) at Guildford in I884 with the assistance of the Governor's wife, Lady Barker, known as 'Lady Barker's Own. By I890, Guildford had both a branch of the Rifle Volunteers and a Mounted Infantry. Guildford's units contributed to the Bushmen's and Mounted Infantry Contingents that fought in the Boer War.

#### **Federal Defence Organisation**

Following Federation in 1901, the Commonwealth Government determined to reorganise the military forces in Australia. The *18th Light Horse Regiment* was raised in Western Australia in 1903, comprised of 4 Squadrons. Guildford and Midland were part of No I Squadron (metropolitan) and the other 3 were created in country towns throughout WA.

#### Commonwealth Military Plans

Guildford's military associations were further strengthened following the release of the Kitchener Report 1910<sup>7</sup> and the introduction of compulsory military training for all young males over 12 years. In 1911 Guildford was nominated as a training area (Cadet Area S9a) with a total of 543 eligible persons. Youth 12-14 years of age joined the Junior Cadets and those 14-18 years joined the Senior Cadets. Men between 18-26 years joined the Commonwealth Military Forces.

That same year the Federal Government compulsorily acquired 203 acres of the Malahide Estate, in South Guildford, to establish an Artillery Park and to supply and graze military horses. In 1912 the Remount Depot was established with 76 horses and 7 men, who were camped in bell tents, as no adequate accommodation was available.



Figure 6: Federal land acquisition of the part of the Malahide Estate, South Guildford 1911, imposed over 1910 Real Estate Plan

In September that year construction commenced of a Command School with barracks, stables, forage store, an engineers' store, coach house and magazine. Horse breaking yards were built with the increased need for the supply of horses. The *18th Light Horse Regiment* was disbanded in 1912 and replaced with the *25th Light Horse* 

# Raising the 10th Light Horse Regiment

When the British Government declared war with Germany on August 5th 1914, the Australian Federal Government was swift to offer 20,000 Australian troops. Recruitment drives commenced across all States in Australia.

Western Australia was initially advised that it would only provide one Squadron of Light Horsemen. The selection of these men started in August that year, with training at Blackboy Hill.

Two months later the Governor General announced the formation of a new brigade, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and WA would provide a regiment of light horsemen.

This announcement precipitated the formation of the *IOth Australian Light Horse Regiment* (hitherto referred to as the *IOth Light Horse Regiment*).

# Training at the Guildford Remount Depot

Recruiting continued for both horses and men for the *IOth Light Horse Regiment* throughout WWI. Selection of soldiers was base on medical and physical conditions and riding skills.

Many of those selected were from the 25th Light Horse and had their own horses and military experience. As country recruits joined this regiment, it represented a cross section of society, from city and country, lawyers to rough riders, farmers' sons and some indigenous men (despite being officially excluded from enlistment). A number of recruits had previously attended private schools with cadet units e.g. Guildford Grammar School, some were country boys with Guildford connections, some lived locally. Many were motivated by a sense of adventure, duty, and pride in being part of a mounted unit.

The recruits moved into bell tents at Guildford Depot and training commenced. This group was called Squadron A and was under the command of Lt. Col. Brazier and

Major Love. B and C Squadrons formed up at Claremont Show Grounds under Captain Todd; they marched to Guildford for training. This was the first time the squadrons combined as the full IOth Light Horse Regiment. The Artillery, Service Corps and I3th Field Engineers were also based at the Remount Depot. With this variety of units, horses were exposed to many new sounds and equipment- essential training before the battle fields.

Major Love gathered a small squad of rough riders at Guildford, to handle the partially broken in horses. 14 There is documentation to show that some indigenous men were rough riders at the Depot because of their outstanding bush riding skills. Whilst some indigenous men were discharged for being 'Not of substantially European descent; 16 however, after two failed conscription referenda the enlistment criteria were relaxed. A number of indigenous men went on to serve with distinction in various units including the 10th Light Horse Regiment.



# The Light Horses

Whilst the first recruits provided their own mounts, for which the government paid I2/I0/-, many additional horses were needed for riding, draught and pack animals. Horses had to be able to carry over I30 kilograms and have the stamina to travel over long distances with little water.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 7: Horse breaking at the Guildford Remount Depot- Light Horse Camp 1914

### Middle East Campaigns

The IOth Light Horse Regiment moved to Rockingham and Claremont Show Grounds for training, the latter being their final encampment prior to embarkation. In late 1914, it was decided that all 3rd Brigade Light Horsemen (being 8th, 9th & 10th Light Horse) from Victoria, SA and WA would wear emu feathers in their hats, to help establish an esprit de corp.<sup>21</sup>

The first of the *IOth Light Horse Regiment* to embark at Fremantle, were A and B Squadrons on HMAT A47 Mashobra on 8th February 1915. This transport carried 352 men and 323 horses. Days later C Squadron embarked on HMAT A52 Surada with 205 men and 230 horses. The men cared for and bonded closely with their horses during the voyage.

The Tenth reformed at Mena Camp where they trained intensively in drills, bivouacs, bayonet, horsemanship, but above all the care of equipment and their horses. Light Horsemen were mounted infantry who fought on foot. They rode to battle in sections of four with one

trooper nominated as horse holder while the other three confronted the enemy. Horses were taught to lie down to limit exposure to enemy fire.



Figure 8: Sgt Gwynne of IOth LH trained his horse to lie on command

The 8th and 10th Regiments of the 3rd Brigade left their horses and fought as infantry at Gallipoli. It was here that they experienced appalling loss of life and casualties at the Nek on 7 August and Hill 60 on 29-30 August 1915.



Figure 9: Trooper David Rust in 10th
Australian Light Horse Regiment Uniform c1916

In 1914 Military veterinarian with horse selectors travelled the across the state to the North, South and East, seeking riding horses from 14.3-15.3 hands high, 4-10 years old, any colour but grey, strong, sound of limb and ideally broken in.<sup>18</sup> Heavier horses were acquired for draught work, drawing guns or wagons, etc for the military.

Although known generally as 'Walers' many West Australians preferred to avoid the NSW reference and just call them 'Light Horses.' In November 1914 the selectors were seeking 500 additional riding horse, 60 draught and 30 pack horses for the military.

# Middle East Campaigns (contd)

The Tenth sustained I38 casualties from their 300 men with 80 killed. Despite this defeat and withdrawal, the selfless courage displayed by these men became part of the ANZAC story and I0th Light Horse tradition. The Tenth remained in the Middle East as a mounted unit, whilst other units moved to the Western Front in Europe. They were engaged in many sorties and



Figure 10: Caring for the horse lines Mena Camp c1915



Figure II: Tpr. T. Buckingham of the I0th Light Horse at Mena Camp Egypt c1915

battles, some now detailed in the Battle Honours on the Regimental Guidon and discussed in detail in unit histories on the *IOth Light Horse*. Whilst troops were returned from Europe in 1918 and 1919, some of the *IOth Light Horse* were retained in Egypt to suppress a nationalist uprising against British rule.

## Returning Home

In 1919, as the Regiment prepared to go home to Australia, the men were informed that quarantine regulations and the cost of shipping, prevented their horses returning with them. Horses of unsound condition or over 12 years were destroyed, and others were to be used by the British and Indian Military.

The heart break of many of the men at leaving their loyal companions is written into many poems, letters and articles at that time.<sup>25</sup>

Only one horse, belonging to General Bridges, returned to Australia, out of over I20,000 sent for the war effort.



Figure I2: Troops waiting to board HMAT Kantara for their return home without horses.

#### Interwar and World War II

The IOth Light Horse Regiment was disbanded on its return in 1919, at the conclusion of the WWI. However, there was concern at the loss of the name, honour and distinctions associated with the AIF units. It was thus decided to redesignate the Citizen Military Force (reservists) with the numbers of the AIF.

The 25th Light Horse (CMF) became the 10th Light Horse. The unit was presented with its Guidon and Battle Honours in October 1928.<sup>26</sup>

In 1920 the new 10th Light Horse Militia was raised at the Guildford Depot, the same site as their WWI forefathers.

In the Second World War with one section mechanised, the name was changed to the *IOth Reconnaissance Battalion* (W.A. Mounted Infantry or WAMI).

In 1942 the name was changed to *IOth Australian Light Horse Regiment*, a unit involved in mounted coastal surveillance that did not serve overseas. After a further name change, the Unit retained its title of *IOth Light Horse*, albeit reduced to Squadron size.



Figure 13: Cooling in the waters of the Mediterranean



Figure I4: A view of the I0th Australian Light Horse camp, Zagazig, North Egypt, I7th May 1919

(By H. S. W. Gullett, Australian War Correspondent in Palestine).

(From the Melbourne "Herald.")
In "Westralian Cavalry in the War,"
published recently. Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Olden has given us a fine,
plain story of the Australian Light
Horsemen at Gallipoli and in Palestine.
He writes particularly of his own resiment, the 10th, a happy, dashing, and
very plucky body of West Australians.
But his book covers the work of the
Light Horse as a whole and is a notable contribution to the scanty literature of the Palestine campaign.

These vividly illustrated pages are alive with the spirit and the great campaigning qualities of the Australian Light Horseman. His easy, matchless borsemanship, his phenomenal "eye for country," his cold precision with the rifle, his terrible dash with the bayonet, his joy in the use of the sword, his beautiful self-sacrificing spirit of comradeship, his dislike of ceremonial spirit of comradeship, and yet his absolute discipline in action "when it mattered"-all these qualities which won the Light Horsemen, in Allenby's phrase, "the gratitude of the Empire and the admiration of the world," shine out of Colonel Olden's narrative.

Figure 15: Sunday Times, 1st January 1922 pl2

### On the Home Front

During WWI, Guildford was a Military Base for several units. Soldiers were hosted in billets and as boarders whilst in training or waiting for enlistment. They were entertained by the community at dances and supported in training and camps.



The Guildford community was closely involved with fundraising and entertainment for the YMCA at the Remount Depot. Further community jumble sales, fetes and fund-raising gatherings became part of community life, even the school children raised funds by gathering scrap metal. Mrs Evans of East Guildford headed the Soldiers Children Scholarship Trust and the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives.<sup>27</sup>

The Red Cross gathered food and clothing parcels, and raised money for cigarettes and tobacco for the boys at the Front. St Matthew's Church in Guildford provided spiritual support and became the Garrison Church for men of the Tenth, the Artillery and Service Corps.

Figure 16: Opening of the YMCA Building at Guildford Camp

### Post War Memorials

The losses and injuries in WWI had major impact on the Guildford community. Almost every family had either lost or knew of friends who had died. They grappled with the ongoing tragedies of war, consoled only by reports of the selfless and courageous actions of their loved ones.

The building of war memorials and monuments as a recognition of service, was important to those left behind or who had returned with injuries.

In Guildford, the Municipal Council established a committee to build a Town War Memorial. Newspapers at the time described over 400 men enlisting from Guildford, including over 100 from the Remount Depot. Noted sculptor Pietro Porcelli won the design for the obelisk carved from Donnybrook stone.



Figure 17: Guildford Town War Memorial and Howitzer Gun cl921

The foundation stone was laid by General Birdwood in January 1920, and was dedicated on November 6th 1920, in the presence of Lieutenant General Talbot Hobbs, the Mayor and other dignitaries and a crowd of residents.

At that time, just 7I names were inscribed on the memorial as men from Guildford. As a further memorial to those who served and fell, the Council requested their gardener design a new garden around the memorial. A war trophy, a Howitzer gun placed adjacent to the memorial in 1921, was melted down in for scrap as part of the war effort in 1944 and was replaced in 1962 with two 25 pounders and again replaced in 1974.



Figure 18: Opening of the Memory Gates Guildford 1932

At St. Matthew's, the Garrison Church for the Artillery and the 10th Light Horse, plans were considered for the building of a memorial steeple. However, this was prohibitively costly, so a reredos was commissioned with jarrah choir stalls and panelling of the walls in the Sanctuary. St Matthews now has a dedicated Soldiers' Chapel in the north nave. This Chapel contains, plaques and tablets presented by the Artillery (RAAWA) to honour the memory of Lieutenant General Talbot Hobbs (1938). and the 10th Light Horse Regiment presented plagues to Major General Bessell-Browne (1948), and Lieutenant Colonel T.J. Todd (1938)<sup>30</sup> their commander.

The church also contains artefacts with military associations, including a hand illuminated honour roll by W. Speight (1918)<sup>31</sup> and a copper plaque honouring the parishioners who fell in WWI.<sup>32</sup>

In 1930, men from *10th Light Horse* marched with the Artillery to attend the third Gunners' Day service. These two regimental units marched together until 1954, when the Tenth discontinued their involvement. The Artillery continues the Gunners' Day tradition with a march and service to this day.

In 1932, the Guildford Municipal Council presented gates, obtained from the Perth Railway Station. The mayor felt that these should be dedicated to the memory of the AIF units that trained at Guildford and had their headquarters there, (and this) should be perpetuated. General Bessell-Brown unveiled them in 1932 and noted that as far as he knew, this was the only occasion of a memorial being dedicated to units other than rolls of honour. The units concerned deeply appreciated the sentiments which had prompted the dedication of these gates.34

These gates once located at the Eastern entry to the church have been relocated closer to the Town War Memorial.



Figure 19: Military Memorial Plaques in The Soldiers' Chapel, St Matthew's Church, Guildford

# Lieutenant Colonel Thomas (Barney) Todd

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas John Todd has been described as one of the outstanding personalities of the AIF <sup>35</sup>. He was one of the first to enlist in Western Australia following the declaration of War. Todd spent time reorganising the *IOth Light Horse Regiment* and was posted to A Squadron as Captain in October 1914.

Born in New Zealand. Todd came to WA with his brothers and assisted running a major contract and building business as the accountant. They had brick yards in Bellevue<sup>36</sup> and Todd took up the license at the Bellevue Hotel. He became a councillor on the Midland Council and was noted for his willingness to fight for his community. He lobbied to get a Post Office in Midland, also supported the development of an abattoir and sales yards. His decision to enlist in the 10th Light Horse Regiment generated gifts from well-wishers of five valuable racehorses.40



Figure 20: Lt. Col. T.J. (Barney) Todd

Todd was highly respected by his troops for his courage at The Nek and willingness to stand up for his men. A communications road at Walker's Ridge was named Todd's Road. In 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and commanded troops at the Battles of Rafa, Magdhaba and Gaza, was mentioned in Despatches and awarded a Bar to his Distinguished Service Order for his role in the Palestinian Campaign and a CMG. Todd died of heart failure prior to embarkation to Australia. He was buried with full Military Honours at the Old Cairo Cemetery on 21st January 1919.4

His loss was felt deeply by his men and particularly in the communities of Guildford and Midland. As a member of many sporting clubs, his memory was honoured with silence, parades and a race being named after him at the West Australian Trotting Club. Community fund raising (The Tom Todd Memorial Fund) saw an obelisk honouring both his memory and regiment at Kings Park.



Figure 21: Col T.J. Todd leading 10th Light Horse Regiment through Perth 1915

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- 7. Photographer: C. H. Park, Source: Reproduced courtesy of NAA Photographic Collection 6494B
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- 16. Source: Source Western Mail 09.06. 1916 p23
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Back Cover: 10th Light Horse training at Rockingham. Source: Western Mail 25.12.1914, p30

In October 2021, the Australian Defence Force re-raised the *IOth Light Horse* from a squadron to a regiment. However, the story of the IOth has now visibly gone from the Guildford area. The Guildford paddocks that were once alive with the sound of loud military commands, the neighing of horses and 6am gun fire are now silent. The morticed post and rail fencing have disappeared from around the old Remount Depot grounds.

The town of Guildford has long celebrated its proud historical association with the early mounted units and *IOth Australian Light Horse Regiment* and this story needed to be retold. The community desire to recognise this regiment resulted in the formation of the *Guildford Light Horse Statue Committee* in June 2017, which has culminated in today's unveiling.

