



The Chauvel Border Light Horse Trail

MONUMENT STORIES

Shepparton – Lieutenant Colonel Bouchier in the Charge - statue

This statue shows the commander of the 4th Light Horse Regiment galloping during the famous Charge at Beersheba on 31 Oct 1917. The 12th LH Regiment charged beside them. This unexpected charge climaxed the battle by General Sir Harry Chauvel's Desert Mounted Corps, capturing the town and its wells, finally breaking the Ottoman defence line in the Middle East. Murray Bouchier was a local farmer at Strathmerton who returned post-war. He became a state politician and leader of the Country Party, advocating welfare measures for ex-servicemen. This statue was designed by Paul Smits, completed by Ewen Coates. A local committee, with the local RSL and Council, carried out the project over a 14-year period. It was unveiled on 24 April 2022.

Find at: Nixon and Welsford Streets, Shepparton.

Albury – a Lone Pine

Planted on Anzac Day 1936 by curator J. Fellowes, just 2 years after the first seedlings were propagated in Australia by grieving relatives. When some of these flourished, there was seed-sharing by government and service organizations, in what has become a nationwide sign of Remembrance. Albury's Botanic Gardens has over 1,000 botanical species, with a self-guided heritage walk which includes the Lone Pine. Soldiers had brought pinecones back from the place on Gallipoli's ridge ("the lonesome pine") where some of the fiercest fighting occurred. Light Horse units arrived there in May 1915 to assist the infantry, a month after the first landings, leaving their horses behind in Egypt. The 7th LH Regiment fought at Lone Pine itself, others at nearby places like Quinns and the Nek.

Find at: Wodonga Place and Smollett Street, Albury Botanical Gardens, Albury

Wagga Wagga – Light Horse statue Victory Memorial Gardens

This bronze statue depicts a rider on his sturdy Waler horse rescuing a stranded mate during battle. Designed by Brett ("Mon") Garling, it was unveiled in Sep 2023, after 6 years of local fundraising. Local author Ian Hedges estimates 160 locals joined the Light Horse during World War One, many bringing their own horses. The 2 hectares of garden were established in 1925 on the site of the old police paddocks and are the site of an Eternal Flame lit by World War One veteran Ted Drake on Anzac Day 1990. It is located next to a Cenotaph (unveiled by then-Brigadier Thomas Blamey in 1922 - who was born in Wagga Wagga himself). More recent conflicts are also honoured.

Find at: Baylis and Morrow Streets, Victory Memorial Gardens, Wagga Wagga

Harden – Light Horse Memorials

The bush rock memorial has bronze plaques that commemorate the 1st Light Horse Regiment, with panels showing local Corporal Bill Bradford, and scenes from the battles of Romani and Beersheba in World War One. (a rear inscription pays tribute to the "Nackeroo" scouts in northern Australia during WW2). Nearby, a statue of Major General Kenneth Mackay commemorates the founder of the 1st Aust LH, raised here in 1897. Diagonally across the road is a life-sized sculpture by local artist Carl Valerius showing the rescue of 4 troopers by Major Michael Shanahan riding the famously big, strong, temperamental 'Bill the Bastard' under enemy fire at the battle of Romani in 1916.

Find at: at the corner of Bathurst Street and the Burley Griffin Way.

Gundagai – Lone Pine

This memorial pine tree is in Anzac Park, which has a fine set of ornate wrought iron gates depicting the Rising Sun. (For details about Lone Pine, see the Albury notes on this page. This particular tree was propagated from seeds brought back in 1965 by George Elliott, who was a sergeant-major in the 6th Light Horse Regiment and had visited Gallipoli for the 75th anniversary of the landing). The park was originally established in 1903 (after the Boer War) and there is also a plaque honouring all those who supported the war effort on the Home Front in World War Two. The town also has a white marble Boer War monument in front of the courthouse (Sheridan Street).

Find at: Byron Street, ANZAC Grove, ANZAC Park, Gundagai.

Tumut – Boer War memorial

This marble column is dedicated to 3 local troopers who were killed in action in South Africa in 1900. A later plaque names 2 other locals who served there. The Boer War was a British colonial conflict with breakaway Boer settlers. Volunteers from various states (Australia was not yet a nation until 1st Jan 1901) travelled in state contingents (approximately 120 men) to assist the British forces. They quickly established a reputation for their scouting and bush skills, but they could not bring their horses back to Australia afterwards, owing to quarantine restrictions in Australia. Some who later served in WW1 had gained useful military experience in South Africa, including future general Sir Harry Chauvel.

Find at: Richmond and Capper Streets, Richmond Park, Tumut

Adelong – The Last Charge - sculpture

This dramatic semi-abstract sculpture depicts in metal a group of horses in the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse's 4th LH Brigade at Beersheba on 31 Oct 1917. Created by sculptor Harrie Fisher (whose great-uncle Alf was a trooper in the Charge) it seeks to capture the raw emotion of that battle. The artist started with sketches to capture the movements, then constructed small models to work out the weight and balance of each animal piece, before the full-scale construction and assembly. The work was first exhibited at Bondi in 2017 in Sculpture by the Sea, on the centenary of the battle.

To find: access the Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail from off the Adelong Caravan Park Road, Adelong.

Batlow – memorial gates

These ornate gates were an original tribute (1925) to those locals who lost their lives serving in World War One. Marble plaques of names had been located beside them. However, over the years the gates lost their appearance, and they were eventually removed in the 1950s. More recently, in 2019 local researchers Jo and Kevin Murrell made the finding and restoration of these gates a key project for the whole community. Kevin was given scholarship support from Rotary to research all the local soldiers from that era and a new cenotaph was erected. The gates and most plaques were re-discovered in various parts of the district, and restored, giving a renewed sense of "a place to put a poppy in remembrance".

Find at: Wakehurst and Memorial Avenues, Batlow Memorial Park, Batlow.

Tumbarrumba – Boer War memorial

This is a black granite memorial unveiled on 8 April 2006. It shows the names of locals who served in the Boer War and is based on research by local historians Ron and Catherine Frew. (For details about the Boer War, see the Tumut notes on this page).

Find at: Bridge and Winton Streets, Tumbarrumba.

Corryong – Commemorative artwork

Artist Simon White was commissioned to produce these murals on the wall of the local RSL in 2022. They include a portrait in memory of Ivy Bartlett, who enlisted here in 1915 to nurse wounded Australian soldiers in Egypt and under very difficult conditions on Lemnos Island near Gallipoli. The mural wall extends further along the car park in a series of well-known Light Horse action vignettes.

Find at: Donaldson Street, K.A. Bailey Mechanical Repairs, Corryong.

Tallangatta – Sandy the only horse to return – statue

This bronze statue commemorates the only horse to return to Australia after World War One (owing to quarantine restrictions and shipping limitations). A sturdy Waler donated to the war effort by a local brick-making company, he was one of three horses ridden by General William Bridges (the commander of Australian forces at Gallipoli) and was his favourite. After the general was killed by a sniper there, Sandy was eventually brought back to Australia in line with the general's original wishes and saw out his days grazing at the Remount depot in Maribyrnong (western Melbourne) until 1922. This statue project took 4 years of local committee work. Created by sculptor Brett ("Mon") Garling, it was unveiled in May 2023 when 200 riders paraded through the town.

Find at: The Triangles Park, Towong Street, Tallangatta.

THE SOLDIER

General Sir Harry Chauvel was an outstanding military leader. He served in three wars over half a century and led the army in peacetime. He grew up in Tabulam in northern New South Wales. After initial service in South Africa, he commanded the 1st Light Horse Brigade at Gallipoli. A year later he led his Division across the Sinai to spectacular success at Romani, Rafa and Maghdaba. As commander of the entire Desert Mounted Corps, he is best known for the successful charge at Beersheba in 1917 and a year later for the triumphal capture of Damascus. On his return to Australia following the end of the First World War, Chauvel was appointed Inspector General and then Chief of the General Staff. In 1929, he was promoted to the rank of full General in appreciation of his distinguished career. With foresight of likely future conflict, Sir Harry strove to establish, preserve, and train the Australian Army as a peacetime force. He retired from the Army in 1930 and as a man who thought of others before himself,



he continued to serve the nation in a wide variety of involvements. At 75, he returned to service in WW2 as Inspector-in-Chief of all the Volunteer Defence Corps (Australia's "Dad's Army").

THE FOUNDATION

The Chauvel Foundation is a not for profit Australian Charity. Its purpose is to promote, support and inspire service to community by building public awareness of the attributes, dedication and accomplishments of the Australian Light Horse and their greatest commander, General Sir Harry Chauvel.



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