

1 of 3.

104 Old Bangalow Rd
Tintenbar, N.S.W. 2478.
10 August 2014

Ref World War I
Soldiers & Their Horses.

Sue Meekam,
32 Summerland Cres,
Cumbalum N.S.W.

Dear Sue,

Attached is some data relating War horses & soldiers of World War I.

This information is submitted so that Council may give thought to erecting a monument in their honour during the Centenary.

May I suggest a monument or plinth at the Ballina War Memorial or even a street named "Waler Avenue".

Yours faithfully,
John Hayter.

Opinion

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Remember efforts of man and beast

Horse heroes

AS THE annual roll-call for horses birthday on August 1st quickly draws near, closely followed by the centenary of the outbreak of World War One on August 4, 1914, let us also pay tribute to the thousands of Australian horses that accompanied our soldiers into battle overseas, particularly the most respected of all, proudly known as the 'Waler'.

Specially bred up over many years from a mixture of breeds introduced to Australia from early settlement, including the Clydesdale draught horse for added strength and durability, they proved their worth as one of the best Cavalry horses of all time, capable of carrying the massive weight of a fully laden soldier and associated equipment through lengthy periods of battle.

On this matter, I draw on

Byron Bay Echo 22/7/2014, Also Ballina Advocate, 23 July 2014



LT. THOMAS Karl Ferguson, of Bangalow. Killed in action on October 11, 1916 aged 23.

the memoirs of a then young Bangalow lad and family member, namely John Hayter Ferguson, whom in the call to arms and amid heavy shelling had his horse blown to pieces from beneath him. As luck happened, John survived, notwithstanding the terrible loss of one side of his buttock. But on returning to Bangalow he

renewed his horse riding passion propped up in the saddle by a specially padded cushion to maintain balance.

Not so lucky was his brother Lieutenant Thomas Karl Ferguson who paid the supreme price, never to see his home town again.

The grief thrust on our soldiers at war's end, in having their magnificent steeds quarantined from re-entry to Australia was heartbreaking. Many were sadly put down by their riders for fear of mistreatment at the hands of strangers in foreign lands.

They deserve their recognition in the realms of Australian history, both man and beast alike.

A monument to their honour stands in the New South Wales City of Tamworth, lest we should ever forget.

John Hayter
Tintenbar

War Horse tribute

I WISH to thank and congratulate John Hayter for his article published in the Advocate (23/7) regarding paying "tribute to the thousands of Australian horses that accompanied our soldiers into battle overseas".

It was heartening to read of his acknowledgment of the contribution of our Australian horses in World War 1 and also of the bond between the soldier and his horse.

The soldiers' pain of leaving their horses or having to shoot them so they would not suffer under "foreign" owners would have contributed to their stress and trauma.

More than 39,000 horses were sent overseas during the war and only one horse, "Sandy", returned to Australia.

As well as the monument in Tamworth, there is also a War Horse Memorial in Adelaide.

As well as the monument in Tamworth, there is also a War Horse Memorial in Adelaide.

I found this story even more poignant as my father (who was also a great horseman) was a soldier in World War 1 and fought and was wounded in France.

On his return to Australia in 1918, he was presented with a memento from "the friends of Bexhill on his return from the Great War 1914 - 1918" - a memento I proudly have in my keeping.

Thank you John for reminding us to remember these horses while we celebrate the birthday of horses on August 1.

Kerry Johnston
Teven

*Ballina Advocate
6 Aug 2014*

13.1 Notice of Motion - Gateway Entry Treatments.DOC

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From: Hans Lovejoy <hans@echo.net.au>
Subject: letter response
Date: 24 July 2014 2:43:26 PM AEST
To: rellydesigns@internode.on.net

Hi Elle
I was asked to pass this on from echo reader patricia
regards
Hans

patriciana@yahoo.com

Hi Hans,

Could you please contact J Hayter on my behalf.

His/her letter struck a chord.

My grandfather, Fred was an expert horseman who worked cattle in the Kimberleys.

When WW1 broke out he crossed the Nullabor and headed to New South Wales where he successfully tried out for the prestigious 1st Light Horse

He was sent, together with some of the war horses to the Sinai.

His exploits as part of the 1st Light Horse have been relegated to household legend

He told me endless stories of his horse, Maree.

Like many faithful steeds she was taken into the desert for that last ride.

Of course, Fred reported to his commanding officer, like many, many heartbroken soldiers before him, that his mount had broken her leg and had to be destroyed.

Years later, in fact in the fifties, whilst I was on the Central Coast, at The Entrance, and well after my grandfather had died, I would visit a marble plinth with a Whaler's shoe carved in marble on top.

It was a classy monument to the horses of WW1

Alas, with the commercial makeover of parts of The Entrance adjoining the war memorial the plinth was removed.

I looked for it.

Not happy at all and pursued the creation of a new plaque to replace the plinth

It took AGES.

Only for the fact that an elderly gentleman, a member of the local RSL also remembered the plinth did my arguments against Wyong Shire Council gather any merit.

A bronze plaque now adjoins the memorial at The Entrance to commemorate the horses lost in war.

I have since lobbied, albeit it would appear unsuccessfully for the role of creatures great and small to be remembered in the Anzac Centenary Celebrations.

Ideas such as having rein led horses, a donkey and the war dogs as part of the major parades seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

I also advocated for postage stamps to commemorate the role of animals in war

We owe them a lot and the military's dependency on them is grossly understated

On a recent trip to London (2012), I was brought to tears at the memorial to animals that is located in Hyde Park where it is clearly sculptured
THEY HAD NO CHOICE

It says it all

I would encourage you to google the London memorial as there is no way one could describe how the pain and suffering of the donkeys has been so

expressly captured.

The tears were unstoppable

If at all possible, I would encourage/beg you to lobby for a memorial to horses and other animals to be part of what is done in Byron Shire as part of the Anzac Centenary.

Regrettably, with the community activities I currently have on my plate, I simply don't have the time to do the required work.

Take care and thank you for your letter

--
Hans Lovejoy

**Presentation to
Councilor Susan Meehan**

The Project

Establishment of a Memorial to 'The Walers' who
where the mounts for the Light Horse Regiments
serving in the 1st World War 1914-1918.

The Reason

Most towns in Australia have their memorials, Cenotaphs, Rolls of Honour, Walls of Remembrance etc.... to the memory to service personnel.

Very few sites acknowledge the part played by the thousands of horses 'The Walers' who were sent overseas – never to return!

The Light Horse Regiments

The Palestine campaign of the Light Horse Regiments may be said to have commenced with the crossing of the Suez Canal on the 23rd April 1916 to re-occupy Romani, thus halting the Turkish Army entry into Egypt.

The most memorable operation was the taking of Beersheba on the 31st October 1917 – known as The Charge of the Light Brigade. This in company with British forces the Australian and New Zealand horsemen opened the way for an advance into Palestine. No war correspondent was present at the site of the charge so the victory was not recorded – unlike the coverage of Gallipoli and the Somme campaigns.

The resultant victory forced the Turkish Army to retreat and this opened the way for the fall of Jerusalem and eventually Damascus.

The soldiers and their horses endured horrendous conditions in the desert - the cold nights the heat of the day, the shortage of food and in particular, the lack of water.

The Suggested Site

My initial thought to locate the memorial at the Cumbalum end of the Old Pacific Highway – using the small water catchment area as the centerpiece for a Memorial which would also link this site to the projected Avenue of Remembrance running into Ballina.

This site I have shelved because of its isolation and vulnerability to vandalism.

My other preference would be at the parkland on riverside entrance to the Ballina RSL Club parking area.

Should the existing Cenotaph be relocated 'The Waler' Memorial could become an integral part of the new Cenotaph position by forming a pathway from the entrance.

There is a beautiful sculpture at Tamworth NSW dedicated to 'The Walers' and 'The Light Horsemen' which I am told cost approx.. \$150,000, this is not something I feel we should not replicate.

I envisage a stone column of approx.. 2.4 metres high with four sides capable of holding plaques engraved with the description of 'The Walers' history. At the base there could also be a stone carved as a drinking trough (similar to those in our streets of yesteryear) with the added attachment of a recycling water fountain, to signify to the extreme desert conditions in the Sinai Desert.

The Funding

Once the costing has been established approaches could be made to:

1. Commonwealth Government
2. State Government's
3. Ballina Shire Council
4. Horse Associations
5. RSL Clubs
6. Service Clubs
7. The Chamber of Commerce
8. The 1st Royal NSW Lancers with the 15th Northern Rivers Regiment amalgamated
9. The Australian War Memorial - Canberra
10. 'The Waler's' – Horse Society of Australia Inc.
11. 'The Waler's' – Horse Studs
12. Riding for the Disabled
13. A Public Fundraising Appeal

The Conclusion

Although the heroism and sacrifice of our soldiers on the front line and the tragedy of their losses will never be forgotten, perhaps it is also time to acknowledge the terrible ordeal of the horses who also endured horrific conditions and injuries whilst serving in these campaigns.

Without the strength of heart and capability of 'The Walers' the soldiers of the Light Horse Regiments may not have achieved their victory.

That these heroic horses' fate at the end of the war was to be shot by their handlers or abandoned in the field, because of Australia's stringent quarantine laws, makes their story especially tragic.

Presented by
Maurice Lewis
02) 66 815 382

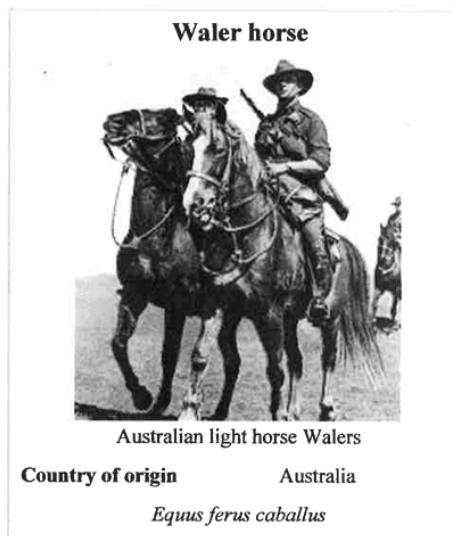
Waler horse

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Waler** is an Australian breed of riding horses that developed from the horses that were brought to the Australian colonies in the 19th century. The name comes from their early breeding origins in New South Wales; they were originally known as *New South Walers*.

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- 1 Origins and characteristics
- 2 History
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Origins and characteristics

The Waler combined a variety of breeds; particularly the Thoroughbred, Arab, the Cape horse (from the Cape of Good Hope), Timor Pony and perhaps a little Clydesdale or Percheron. It was originally considered only a "type" of horse and not a distinct breed. However, as a landrace bred under the extreme climate and challenging working conditions of Australia, the Waler developed into a hardy horse with great endurance even when under extreme stress from lack of food and water. It was used as a stockman's horse and prized as a military remount. Walers were also used by bushrangers, troopers and exploration expeditions that traversed inland Australia.^[1]

The preferred Walers for cavalry duties were 15 to 16 hands high (60 to 64 inches (152 to 163 cm)). Those over 16 hands were rejected for use in the South Australian Bushmen Corps. Unbroken horses, as well as those with grey and broken (spotted) coat colours were also rejected. The selected horses had to be of a good type that could carry sixteen or seventeen stone (102 to 108 kg (224 to 238 lbs)) day after day.

The Walers carried the rider, saddle, saddle cloth, bridle, head collar, lead rope, a horseshoe case with one front and one hind shoe, nails, rations for the horse and rider, a bedroll, change of clothing, a rifle and about 90 rounds of .303 rifle ammunition.^[1]

The gaits of the Waler were considered ideal for a cavalry mount; it could maintain a fast walk and could progress directly to a steady, level canter without resorting to a trot which was noisy, liable to dislodge gear and resulted in soreness in the horse's back.^[2] The cavalry horse required docility, courage, speed, and athletic ability, as it carried the rider into battle. The infantryman's horse was

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waler_horse

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used as a means of transport from one point to another, for example, from camp to a battle ground, where the horses were kept back from the fighting.^[1] Heavier animals were selected and used for draught and packhorse duties.^[2]

Most of the early Walers carried a fair percentage of Thoroughbred blood, with some recorded as race winners and a few being registered in the Australian Stud Book. While in warfare service in North Africa, some Walers proved successful in races against local Egyptian horses and assorted Thoroughbreds. In 1919 horses from the ANZAC Mounted Division won five of the six events at Heliopolis, near Cairo.^[2]

History

Australian horses were sent overseas from the 1830s; between the 1840s and 1940s, there was a steady trade in Walers to the British Indian Army.^[3]

In Australia's two wars of the early 20th century—the Second Boer War and World War I—the Waler was the backbone of the Australian Light Horse mounted forces. It was especially suited to working in the harsh climate of the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine, where it proved superior to the camel as a means of transporting large bodies of troops.

During the Boer War, Australia dispatched 16,314 horses overseas for use by the Australian Infantry Forces. In the First World War, 121,324 Walers were sent overseas to the allied armies in Africa, Europe, India and Palestine.^[4] Of these, 39,348 served with the First Australian Imperial Force, mainly in the Middle East, while 81,976 were sent to India.^[2] Due to quarantine restrictions, only one Waler is known to have been returned to Australia; "Sandy", the mount of Major-General W.T. Bridges, an officer who died at Gallipoli in May 1915.^[2]

The English cavalry officer, Lt Col RMP Preston DSO, summed up the Australian Light Horses' performance in his book, *The Desert Mounted Corps*:^[5]

"... (November 16th, 1917) The operations had now continued for 17 days practically without cessation, and a rest was absolutely necessary especially for the horses. Cavalry Division had covered nearly 170 miles...and their horses had been watered on an average of once in every 36 hours.... The heat, too, had been intense and the short rations, 9½ lb of grain per day without bulk food, had weakened them greatly. Indeed, the hardship endured by some horses was almost incredible. One of the batteries of the Australian Mounted Division had only been able to water its horses three times in the last nine days - the actual intervals being 68, 72 and 76 hours respectively. Yet this battery on its arrival had lost only eight horses from exhaustion, not counting those



Memorial to the Australian Light Horse, Tamworth, NSW



A plaque on the Waler Horse memorial, Tamworth, NSW.

killed in action or evacuated wounded.

... The majority of horses in the Corps were Walers and there is no doubt that these hardy Australian horses make the finest cavalry mounts in the world.... They (the Australians) have got types of compact, well-built, saddle and harness horses that no other part of the world can show. Rather on the light side according to our ideas, but hard as nails and with beautiful clean legs and feet. Their records in this war place them far above the Cavalry horse of any other nation. The Australians themselves can never understand our partiality for the half-bred weight-carrying hunter, which looks to them like a cart horse. Their contention has always been that good blood will carry more weight than big bone, and the experience of this war has converted the writer, for one, entirely to their point of view. It must be remembered that the Australian countrymen are bigger, heavier men than their English brothers. They formed just half the Corps and it probable that they averaged not far off 12 stone each stripped. To this weight must be added another 9-1/2 stone for saddle, ammunition, sword, rifle, clothes and accoutrements, so that each horse carried a weight of 21 stone, all day for every day for 17 days, - on less than half the normal ration of forage and with only one drink in every 36 hours!

The weight-carrying English Hunter had to be nursed back to fitness after these operations and for a long period, while the little Australian horses without any special care, other than good food and plenty of water were soon fit to go through another campaign as arduous as the last one!...."

One well-known Waler was Major Michael Shanahan's mount, "Bill the Bastard", who bucked when asked to gallop. Yet, during World War I, when the major found four Australians outflanked by the Turks, "Bill the Bastard" carried all five men – three on his back and one on each stirrup – .75 miles (1.21 km) through soft sand at a lumbering gallop, without first bucking.^[2]

At the end of the war, 11,000 surplus horses in the Middle East were sold to the British Army as remounts for Egypt and India. Some horses that were categorised as being unfit were destroyed. Also, some light horsemen chose to destroy their horses rather than part with them, but this was an exception, despite the popular myth that portrays it as the fate of all the war horses. Parting with their Walers was one of the hardest events the light horsemen had to endure. A poem by "Trooper Bluegum" sums up the men's sentiment:

*I don't think I could stand the thought of my old fancy hack
Just crawling round old Cairo with a 'Gyppo on his back.
Perhaps some English tourist out in Palestine may find
My broken-hearted Waler with a wooden plough behind.*

*No: I think I'd better shoot him and tell a little lie:--
"He floundered in a wombat hole and then lay down to die."
May be I'll get court-martialled; but I'm damned if I'm inclined
To go back to Australia and leave my horse behind.*

From *Australia in Palestine*, 1919

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waler_horse

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During World War II, 360 Australian Walers were assigned to the Texas National Guard 112th Cavalry in New Caledonia. The horses were eventually deemed unfit for jungle warfare.^[6] They were sent to India where they served with the Chinese Army before being assigned to the unit known as Merrill's Marauders.^[7]

As demand for remounts declined in the 1940s, the Waler trade ended. When the Australian Stock Horse Society was formed in 1971,^[8] the majority of horses accepted into its studbook were Waler horses. The ASHS also accepted horses of other breeds, notably Quarter horses, which has always been controversial. While many stock horses do have Quarter horse genetics in their breeding, not all do, as there are still many breeders who only breed horses of the old heritage bloodlines. These Heritage Stock Horses have extensive pedigrees, often back to the 19th century, and are direct descendants of Walers with no Quarter Horse or other modern breeds.^[9]

In the 1980s efforts began to reestablish the breed using feral Walers descended from horses that had been set loose in rural regions after the commercial trade ceased. The Waler horse now has two breed associations interested in preserving it, the Waler Horse Owners and Breeders Association Australia Inc. (WHOBAA) and the Waler Horse Society of Australia Inc (WHSA). Only horses and their progeny derived from the old bloodlines, with no imported genetics since 1945, can be registered as Walers with the WHOBAA.^{[10][11]} A memorial statue to the Waler Light Horse was erected at Tamworth, New South Wales as a tribute to the men of the ANZAC Corps who served in the Boer, Sudan and First World Wars. This memorial was constructed at a cost of \$150,000, funded by grants from Federal and State Governments, Tamworth Regional Council, Joblink Plus and donations from business houses, property owners, RSL Members and the community. It was designed and created by sculptor Tanya Bartlett from Newcastle, New South Wales. The military equipment is identical to that used in the First World War. Forty-seven light horse re-enactment riders and the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers took part in the unveiling by Major General William B. "Digger" James AC MBE MC (Retd) on 29 October 2005.^[12]

Today's Waler is a functional Australian horse, bred from bloodlines that came to Australia before 1945, that is free of imported genetics since that time.^[13]

Waler conservation issues

In May 2013, 10,000 Walers were culled at Tempe Downs Station near Kings Canyon, about 300 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs, Northern Territory.^[14]

See also

- Australian Light Horse
- Australian Stock Horse
- Battle of Beersheba
- Brumby
- List of horse breeds

References

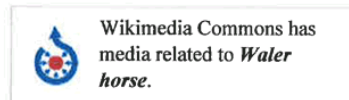
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waler_horse

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 3. [^] *M is for Mates – Animals in Wartime from Ajax to Zep*, Department of Veterans Affairs, Woden, ACT, 2009, ISBN 978-1-877007-39-2
 4. [^] *Australian Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, Grolier Society, Sydney
 5. [^] "Australian Stock Horse Society" (<http://www.ashs.com.au/horses/default>).
 6. [^] "WWII Summary History: 112th Cavalry Regiment" (<http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org>) Archived (<http://www.webcitation.org/5gP5ZEbDi>) from the original on 2009-04-29. Retrieved 2009-03-28.
 7. [^] p.66 Ogburn Jr, Charlton *The Marauders* 1959 Harper 1982 edition
 8. [^] Australian Stock Horse Society *How the Breed Evolved* (<http://www.ashs.com.au/horses/default.asp#>)
 9. [^] Carruthers, Fiona. *The Horse in Australia*. Random House Australia, 2008, ch. 12.
 10. [^] "Saving a nation builder", p. 17, *Outback Magazine*, Feb/Mar 2010, R.M. Williams Publishing
 11. [^] [1] (<http://Walerhorses.org>)
 12. [^] The Waler Light Horse Statue, Tourism, Tamworth
 13. [^] Waler Horse (<http://www.walerhorse.com/whsa/>) Retrieved 2010-5-5-
 14. [^] Horse cull spurs calls to preserve heritage breed (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-05-09/waler-horses-central-australia-cull-reaction/4679264>), Gail Liston, ABC News Online, 9 May 2013

External links

- Rare Breeds Trust of Australia (<http://www.rbta.org/waler.htm>)
- Waler Horse Society of Australia (<http://www.walerhorse.com>)
- Walers (<http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/horses/index.asp>)
- Waler Horse Owners & Breeders Association Australia Inc. (<http://www.walerhorses.com>)
- Waler Horse Information, breeds, genetics and more. (<http://www.yarramalong.net>)
- Waler Memorial (<http://www.skp.com.au/memorials2/pages/20888.htm>)
- "The Waler" (<http://www.lighthorse.org.au/resources/military-stories-misc/the-waler...-a-breed-of-horses-legend-or-fact/?searchterm=walers>)



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Categories: Horse breeds originating in Australia | Horse breeds | Animal monuments

| World War I military equipment of Australia

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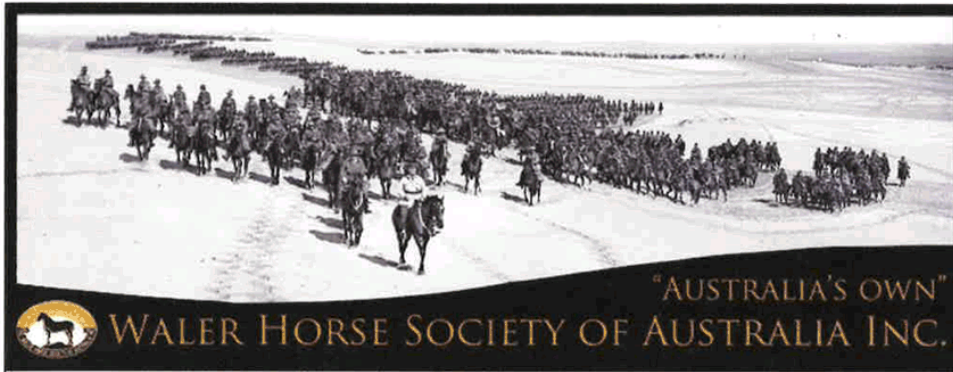
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The horses were known as Walers. Only one came back.

In memory of the Waler. Between 1861 and 1931 approximately 500,000 horses were exported from Australia to the Indian Army, the Boer War and Egypt with the Australian Light Horse as remounts. Of all these horses only one returned, a gelding Sandy belonging to Major General Sir William Bridges.

They were mainly bred from Blood, draught and pony breeds. These were the forebears of the Australian Stock Horses and were purchased from properties throughout Australia and in the early stages were mostly purchased from N.S.W. which gave them their name of Walers, coined by the English.

The most famous of all feats of the Waler Horse at war was the Light Horse charge on Beersheba in 1917. The horses were without water for 48 hours in the hot Sinai Desert and then undertook a 4 km cavalry charge across the burning plains under Turkish gunfire to take Beersheba and its wells.



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- [Development of the breed](#)
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HISTORY OF THE WALER

In 1788, the first fleet of eleven ships to Australia brought with it one stallion, two colts and four mares from the Cape of Good Hope. They were generally thought to be Barb horses. Later ships, such as the Britannia, which landed in 1795, brought a further thirty three Cape horses. The increasing demand in the fledgling colony for saddle and work horses led to migration of notable breeds such as the Thoroughbred, Clydesdale, Suffolk Punch, Cleveland Bay, Lincolnshire trotter, Norfolk Roadster, Yorkshire Coacher, Hackney, Timor pony, Arabian, Percheron and native British ponies.

From the outset of European settlement it was realised horses were needed that could meet the demands of this tough country. All horses that reached Australian shores had already undergone a tough sea voyage and many horses died along the way.

From those survivors, the foundation of a uniquely Australian Colonial horse was established.



The practice of cross-breeding the small number of breeds available in Australia at the time resulted in a versatile work horse with good weight carrying capabilities, speed, endurance and the ability to thrive on the native pastures.

Successive Governors encouraged the breeding of horses to meet the needs of transport and communications in the developing colony. Soon, owners of large properties were to breed these colonial horses by the thousands not only for the domestic needs but for what became a lucrative export trade in remounts, initially to the British Army in India. Strict standards of conformation and temperament were monitored by breeders for the fastidious remount horse agents.

These colonial bred horses became known as the "Waler", a term coined by the British in India given to those horses that were bred in the colony of New South Wales.

TA Coghlan, who became the government statistician in 1886, wrote:-

"The colony is specially adapted for the breeding of saddle and light harness horses and it is doubtful where these particular breeds of Australian horses are anywhere surpassed. The bush horse is hardy and swift and capable of making very long and rapid journeys when fed only on the ordinary herbage of the country: and in times of drought, when grass and water have become scanty, these animals often perform astonishing feats of endurance" (Wealth and Progress of NSW 1884, p348).

Walers were used overseas as remounts for the cavalry, as artillery horses, and as carriage and sport horses for both the British Army and the Raj in India. By 1867, the Waler was regarded by the British as amongst the finest cavalry horse in the world. Horses were exported from the colony as early as 1816 through private sales and the flourishing remount trade which ran from the 1830s till the 1960s.

Walers were supplied to the Australian army for the Boer War, where mounted on their strong robust Walers, the Australians established an enviable reputation for their horses and their horsemanship. Later in WWI, the Waler became legendary with the Australian Light Horse for their feats of endurance and courage in the desert campaigns and later in France.

During WWI, about 160,000 horses were sent overseas. The Light Horse proved themselves with feats of endurance and bravery in the sands of the Middle East. One of the most courageous and internationally recognised charges was that of the 4th and 12th Regiments at Beersheba on 31 October 1917, where after a full night's march and a day's fighting with no water, they galloped across a burning plain at the entrenched and heavily armed Turks, winning the day and the water wells of Beersheba. A monument was erected in Sydney by returned soldiers who due to quarantine and army economies had to leave their mounts behind. It has the inscription "by members of the Desert Mounted Corps and friends, to the gallant horses who carried them over the Sinai Desert into Palestine, 1915-19. They



<http://www.walerhorse.com/history.html>

31/08/2014

suffered wounds, thirst, hunger and weariness almost beyond endurance, but they never failed. They did not come home."

Again Walers were supplied to the Army during WWII for use by the secret North Australia Observer Unit who carried out surveillance of the remote northern coastline. A small number also went with the army to Papua New Guinea and to Burma. However, during this time mechanisation had begun to supersede horses both in the army and in general usage throughout the country.

At home Walers proved the ideal utility and stockhorse also being used by the mounted police. However, with phasing out of the remount trade in the 1940's and the onset of mechanization, commercial breeding of Walers rapidly declined. Some breeders destroyed their stock but others simply abandoned them to run free on their station properties. By the 1960's, the Waler had virtually disappeared from the domestic scene, with recreational and competition riders favouring more refined imported purebred horse such as Thoroughbred, Arab, European Warmbloods and Quarter horses rather than the old fashioned heavier boned colonial breed with no studbook. The Waler, once lauded to be one of the greatest cavalry horses in history, became an anachronism and almost became extinct.

Distribution of Waler Exports to Market Zones 1861-1931

Origin	Indian	African	S.E. Asian	E. Asian	Total
NSW	52284	19791	10919	8216	91210
VIC	152742	22108	16636	2400	193886
QLD	121519	21432	4945	10733	157729
SA	22667	908	513	90	24178
WA	4723	5697	7248	1357	19025
TAS	2	282	-	-	284
TOTAL	353937	70218	40261	22796	486312

*These figures are from:- M. Kennedy's - University of Melbourne 1986 Thesis - The Role & Significance of Bullocks & Horses in the Development of Eastern Australia Appendix "J".

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National Waler Week Oct. 31st.

WWI 160,000 sent overseas. legendary for endurance & courage. Beersheba.

Endangered rare breed now.

