

## John Brier Mills

Major John Brier Mills was a Western Australian Supreme Court barrister, appointed to the WA Bar on the 21 March 1905, after studying as an articled clerk in Perth since 1899. Prior to that, Major Mills was a journalist at the *West Australian*, commenting on parliamentary and legal matters, since moving to Perth from Broken Hill in 1895. Mills studied law at the University of Adelaide and then the University of Western Australia from 1910 until graduating with a LLB from UWA in 1914.

Mills fought in the Boer War with the 2nd WA Mounted Infantry contingent, and reached the rank of Sergeant. He had served in the military from age 13, as a bugler in his father's regiment, the 3rd NSW Infantry, and was a keen marksman. After the Boer War Mills changed from infantry to artillery, and was given a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on 21 of July 1905, made lieutenant 7 May 1907, Captain 1st of October 1908. Before becoming major he was in command of the 38th battery at Guildford in Perth. John was made major on 28 August 1914. Major Mills then was given command of a divisional ammunition column, 6th Battery, 2nd Field Artillery brigade, 1st division, AIF.

Major Mills enlisted 28 August 1914 and embarked 20 October 1914 from Melbourne on *Shropshire*. He was killed on 30 May 1915 at Gallipoli by artillery fire while observing a Turkish position. The shell landed underneath him, and he was mortally wounded from injuries in his abdomen. Major Mills died 5 hours later in a field hospital, and was buried very soon after at the Pink farm cemetery on the Dardanelles.