

## Samuel Edward Townshend

Samuel Edward Townshend enlisted 1 October 1914 and embarked aboard *Ceramic* on 22 December 1914. His rank was captain in the 16th Battalion (A West Australian unit) and he served as transport officer on board ship during the landing on Gallipoli. Wishing to join the firing line, he was permitted to go ashore on 7 May. There were many attacks and counterattacks by Turks and Australians at that tense time. A focal point of attack was the tenuous Australian hold on a high point known as *Quinn's Post*. On 10 May a Turkish attack found its way into the Post and occupied a short stretch of Australian trenches. A group of about 40 West Australians from the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion were ordered to charge the Turks and regain the position. Townshend led the charge.

C E W Bean described Townshend's actions in the final charge in some detail. With officers being shot all around he led the men over the parapet in the dark, shouting to them 'Fix your bayonets!', then told them, 'When I call "Australia for ever", charge boys.' Some were killed immediately. Townshend was shot in the foot, and then killed outright when he was shot again as he was carried out of the fight. His body was not located until after the war. The battle was one of extreme violence, unique even on Gallipoli as the Turks and Australian were so close together.

Townshend had studied law at Sydney University (university medallist in law, 1910). He was clerk of examinations at the University of Sydney from 1910-13. His family lived in Randwick. He had practised at the bar in Western Australia as well as New South Wales (admitted 1909) on motion of F Leverrier KC. At the time of his enlistment he had recorded his occupation as registrar of the newly established University of Western Australia. His citation in the University of Sydney *Book of Remembrance* reads: 'By sheer determination, ability and hard work he had reached a good position, and he was quite willing to surrender it all for his country . . . His death is a glorious and fitting close to a brilliant career.'