



Major Thomas James LOGAN

[1877 -1915]



2nd Light Horse Regiment

Thomas James Logan was born on 30 March 1877 at Brookfield and was educated Brisbane Grammar School. He later lived at Forest Hill

He served as a private with the 1st Queensland Mounted Contingent during the South African (Boer) War.

He volunteered for the AIF on the outbreak of the Great War and was posted to 2nd Light Horse Regiment. The regiment sailed from Brisbane on HMAT A15 *Star of England* and trained in Egypt

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

before being landed at Gallipoli (without their horses) on 12 May 1915. On arrival, the unit moved towards Monash Valley to relieve 4th Brigade where sporadic but intense fighting had occurred at Pope's, Quinn's, and Courtney's Posts.

On 13 May the Regiment relieved 15th Battalion at Quinn's Post. At Quinn's with the Turkish line a mere 15 yards away, inexperience saw early heavy casualties among 2nd Light Horse Regiment (2LHR). Following the failure of an attack by the regiment on 15 May, it was relieved by 15th Battalion and a system of 48-hour rotation of units through the post was introduced.

A heavy operation was commenced on 6 August with attacks planned in several locations including Quinn's Post, Pope's, Russell's Top, and German Officers' Trench. 2LHR's task was to capture Turkish trenches opposite Quinn's Post. 2LHR attacked at 4.30am on 7 August 1915. The troops were to emerge from tunnels preceded by preparatory activities including the taking of other objectives, the firing of a mine, the provision of artillery support and the element of surprise.

Major Logan was killed in action during an attack on trenches opposite Quinn's Post on 7 August 1915. The attack was doomed to failure and Logan was killed. He was one of 12 USC Members killed in the Gallipoli campaign. He and a fellow Member, Lieutenant Hinton, were killed within a few seconds and within a few yards of each other. The first line including Logan and Hinton was mown-down by Turkish fire within a few seconds and a few yards from the start point for the attack.

Surprise was impossible and the enemy was perfectly prepared. Extracts from the Official History provide more detail:

...The 2nd Regiment knew before dawn that German Officers' Trench was still in the hands of the enemy. As for the bombardment... the fire of field-guns against such a position was useless except to repel attack. It followed that... the assault would be dependent for success solely upon surprise, and since all night long the enemy had been roused not only by the fighting at the Pine and German Officers', but also by demonstrations-intended to cover the advance of the main columns--loyally and thoroughly carried out by the very troops who were to attack at Quinn's, Pope's, and Russell's Top, there was small chance that surprise would be achieved.

Nevertheless, the troops who were to make the assault, though their intelligence showed them that every condition was now against them, faced their task with a grim determination.

But here, as at The Nek, the enemy was perfectly prepared. As the troops scrambled from the trenches, intense fire was opened upon them. One Turkish machine-gun was shooting from the direct front, two from Dead Man's Ridge, and a fourth from German Officers'. Major Logan, who led the line, was killed before he had gone five yards. With one exception, every man of the first line was killed or wounded, the majority before they had gone six yards. Many owed their lives to the fact that they were struck when on the parapet and fell back wounded into the trench. ...In this action Major Logan, Lieutenants Burge and Hinton, and 14 others had been killed.

An obituary in the *Pastoral Review* on 16 Sep 1915 stated:

Major Thomas James Logan, a member of the well-known Queensland pastoral family of that name, has been killed in action at the Dardanelles. He was generally liked—in fact was one of the most popular officers in Queensland—and his death is greatly regretted. He was the eldest son of Mr. Whitmore Logan, and was born at Brookfield in 1877, taking up military work early in life. He was a member of the first Queensland contingent of Light Horse men who volunteered for active service in South Africa during the Boer War, leaving Brisbane in November 1899, and going through an arduous campaign. He was slightly wounded, and was awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps. On his return from South Africa, he gradually rose in military rank, till he was second in command of the 2nd Light Horse regiment to Lieut.-Col. R. M. Stodart, in which capacity he was one of the first officers to enlist for active service in the present war. A photograph will appear in next month's issue.

Major Logan now lies in Quinn's Post Cemetery.



Sources included:

- *Australian War Memorial*
- *National Archives of Australia*
- *Various web pages*
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992 by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton*
- *Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents.*