



## Lieutenant Edward Graham WAREHAM

[1890 – 1915]



15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion

Edward Graham Wareham was born in Townsville on 21 July 1890, the only son and elder of two children of Edward Bull Wareham (company manager) and Clara Isabella Wareham (nee Macdonald).

When his father became Queensland Manager for the Adelaide Steamship Company the family moved to Brisbane and the young Wareham was educated at Normal State School and then Brisbane Grammar School where he was in the school's Cadet unit for two years.

On leaving school he was later employed as a customs clerk by Dalgety Limited.

*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.*

As a younger man he was *somewhat less than careful about his own safety, perhaps even foolhardy*. Little else about his nature has been discovered except that he did have admirers.

Wareham served in the militia before the Great War for over two and a half years, commissioned in the Moreton Regiment. He applied for a commission in the AIF on 16 September and he was appointed to the AIF as a lieutenant on 1 January 1915.

He was allotted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcements, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion which at that time was training in Egypt. He sailed from Brisbane on 13 February 1915. By the time of his arrival the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion was fighting on Gallipoli, and he was held on board ship with other reinforcements until 2 May 1916.

He arrived in 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion's lines on 4 May 1915. By then 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in action around Quinn's Post.

On the night of 9/10 May the battalion assaulted Turkish trenches in front of Quinn's Post and occupied them, but were forced to withdraw with heavy casualties at 6am on 10 May. Lieutenant Wareham was killed in this action.

The following accounts combine to give a reasonable picture of the circumstances of Wareham's death.

The Official History states:

*About 2 a.m. Cannan [CO of 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion] had sent for Lieutenant Little, in charge of No. 6 Subsection of Quinn's and ordered him to take a number of men to the extreme left and safeguard that flank ... Little tried to discover who was on his right. Getting no satisfactory answer, he asked for Lieutenant Smith or Wareham. The reply was: "Both dead." Wareham had apparently been killed while firing at a Turkish officer; Smith had been mortally wounded.*

Wareham's batman wrote to the family after the action:

*On May 2 we landed at Gallipoli Peninsula for active service - Lieut. Wareham and 40 men. Our chaps went into trenches on May 4, and again on May 5 for twelve hours each time. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we went in for 48 hours, and during this period Lieutenant Wareham was hit by a hand grenade, which happily did not explode. After this we were supposed to have 48 hours' rest. On the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> we were led by your son in a charge against the enemy, which he did most bravely. Early in the fight he received a wound in the head, but kept on, and it was just at dawn on 13<sup>th</sup>, whilst firing at the enemy, that he was shot dead. Previous to going into the fight he asked Private Morley to take his field glasses for further use in the campaign should he not return for them himself...and Private Morley hopes to return Lieutenant Wareham's field glasses to you personally. The company of men who came from Enoggera in February count the loss of your son as a personal loss, every one holding him in the utmost respect.*

The batman had reported the date of death as 13 May, but is recorded in the War Diary (and officially) as 10 May 1915. The conflicting dates are confusing but understandable in the circumstances where it would have been easy for him to lose track of dates.

An article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* almost a year later on 4 April 1916, quoting Sergeant Gore of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, said:

*Lieutenant Wareham, who was killed in May and was formerly a well-known Brisbane businessman, was also beloved by soldiers. He was brave and almost reckless fighter, and was invariably in the thick of a battle. Sergeant Gore said that this officer was always 'after' Germans, and this led to his death. One day, during an advance, he saw a Turkish rifleman, and covered him with his revolver. At that moment a German helmet caught his eye. "By Jove, there's a German" he exclaimed, and swung his revolver round on to the more hated foe. Immediately the Turkish rifleman shot him dead.*

Wareham was only 25 years when he was killed, a week after his arrival in the combat zone. He was one of 12 USC members killed at Gallipoli, and one of four from 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion killed there. (Lt Armstrong, Maj Cannan, and Captain Willis are other USC members of 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion who still lie at Gallipoli. They each have a story in this series of Notes.)

His body was buried on 24 May during the armistice.

Lieutenant Wareham is commemorated on the walls of the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.



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