

Extract from *"The Fighting 10th"*, Adelaide, Webb & Son, 1936 by C.B.L. Lock;
kindly supplied courtesy of the 10th Bn AIF Association Committee, April 2015.

SMYTH, Trevor Owen

Born 1887.

The elder of two sons of the late C E Owen Smyth DMB, ISO, who for many years was Superintendent of Public Buildings and on 5 August 1914 convened a patriotic demonstration in Victoria Square, Adelaide, founded the Adelaide branch of the Royal Society of St George and resided at "Egryn", Kensington Park.

He was educated at St Peter's College, and for some time had been associated with the Bank of New South Wales in Adelaide, first proceeding as a cadet to the bank's Cuthroo Sheep Station on the River Murray, and subsequently proceeding to From Downs Station.

He was appointed a Lieutenant in the 2nd Australian Infantry Regiment on 19 May 1908, at the time Colonel S P Weir was officiating as Adjutant of the regiment.

During the last few years preceding the Great War he had lived principally in the back country of Northern Queensland, where he was looking for sheep land.

He had decided to take up a small holding west of Rockhampton, and had paid a deposit on it.

The outbreak of the Great War, however, altered his plans, and he returned immediately to Adelaide to enroll for overseas.

He straight away enlisted as a Private in the 10th Battalion at Morphettville, his regimental number being '625'.

On 11 September 1914, he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, and appointed Transport Officer of the Battalion.

He embarked with his Transport Section on *HMAT A12 Sadhana* on 20 October 1914, and proceeded to Egypt.

He subsequently embarked with the Transport Section on the *Nizam* for the Dardanelles, and was sorely disappointed upon receiving instructions that the men of his section would not be permitted to land with the main body of the Battalion.

He subsequently returned to Alexandria, where his horses were exchanged for mules, and returned to Lemnos Island.

Still anxious to get his men on the Peninsula, he managed to get ashore himself, with the express object of making enquiries as to the possibility of his section eventually landing at Anzac.

On the morning of 16 May 1915, when returning to the beach at Anzac, with the intention of re-embarking for Lemnos, he was killed by shrapnel.

He was a man of a lovable disposition, of powerful physique, and a splendid horseman.

He was noted for his skill with the rifle and revolver.

No.721 Driver P Young, of the Battalion Transport Section, and one of his men, in writing from Lemnos after his death said:

"While there (Alexandria) our officer exchanged our horse for mules, as the horses were getting ship-weary, and he also reckoned we had a better chance of getting ashore (on Gallipoli) with mules. Poor fellow! He went ashore to get us off, and was right up in the firing-line taking photos. He was killed on the beach when returning to the boat. He was one of the gamest and best."

He had been recommended for a Lieutenancy prior to his death, and same was confirmed on 28 May 1915.