

Gunner of Renown



Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Major General William Throsby BRIDGES, KCB, CMG

(1861-1915)

William Bridges was born in Scotland in 1861 and moved with his family to Canada in 1873 and in 1877 entered the Royal Military College of Canada but purposely failed the academic course so that he could follow his family to settle in Australia in 1879.

He was commissioned into the NSW Permanent Artillery in 1885 and the next year undertook the first course at the School of Gunnery and served on the staff of the School for the next four years.

In 1890, he became the first member of the NSW Permanent Artillery to attend gunnery courses in the UK returning 1893 to become the Chief Instructor of the School of Gunnery and the colony's Firemaster.

He joined a British cavalry division in 1899 for the Boer War and on return to Australia participated in committees working on the Commonwealth of Australia defence bill and played a significant role in establishing the defence arrangements of the new Commonwealth. He became a member of the Military Board and in 1909 became the first Chief of the General Staff.

In 1910, after a few months on duty in Britain, he was recalled to become the inaugural Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He remained in this appointment until 1914 when he was commissioned to form and command the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

He commanded the AIF in Egypt and on Gallipoli until he was shot by a sniper on 15 May 1915 and died of his wounds three days later.

For more information follow the link below.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bridges-sir-william-throsby-5355>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bridges_\(general\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bridges_(general))