

Gordon FINK

Gordon Fink was born in 1885. His father was Theodore Fink, principal in Fink, Best & Hall, solicitors as well as a politician and newspaper proprietor. Gordon Fink graduated in law from Melbourne University; he was a lieutenant in the Victorian Field Artillery from 1907 to 1909. Fink later spent time in the Malay States (now Malaysia) where he joined the Malay rifles.

Gordon Fink returned to Australia by 1913 and took up farming with his friend Carl Pirani, in Western Australia. Pirani was the son of Samuel Pirani, another leading Melbourne solicitor. Carl Pirani had completed a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University at the same time that Fink was undertaking his law degree.

Fink, Pirani and their friend Harry Leake, who were all farming in the Kununoppin district in Western Australia, enlisted together in the 16th Infantry Battalion, hence Fink's rank as a private, when he could have easily sought an officer's commission. Fink embarked on board the HMAT *Ceramic* on 22 December 1914. The 16th Battalion arrived at Gallipoli in April 1915.

Gordon Fink was an observer for Major Mansbridge of the 16th Battalion. On 2 May 1915 Fink was killed when he volunteered to carry ammunition to the firing line. Fink was most probably killed by a sniper and was initially listed as missing. His father had been unofficially told of his son's death by General Monash (through his wife, Mrs Monash) long before he was officially notified by the AIF. His body was not found until many weeks later and was only identified by his pay book. Gordon Fink is remembered at the Lone Pine Cemetery on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Gordon Fink's brother Thorold Fink also served during the Great War, enlisting in 1916, at 19 years of age. Thorold Fink saw action in France and was gassed and wounded. He returned to Australia, completed his law degree, and was part of Fink, Best & Hall as well as active in the newspaper business. His name, for some reason, has been omitted from the Memorial Board.



A fragment of a 16th Battalion uniform found at Gallipoli in 1919.