

# *Gerald Turner M.in D.*

*1885 – 1915*

*Captain 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
5<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)*



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Gerald Turner, Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) was the second son of Captain James Trench Turner, a Paymaster with the army pay department, and his wife Florence Emma Turner of Loudon Cottage, Woodhall Road, Colinton.



He was born at Cherat, Peshawar district of British India, now Pakistan, on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1885. Educated at Fettes College, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. A talented sportsman he was Captain of the 1st XI Fettes cricket team, and in 1905 he was second in the Sandhurst averages with 46.80. He also played rugby, and was in the Fettes 1st XV. In his final year at Fettes he was made a School Prefect.

While at Fettes he was a Corporal in the Officers' Training Corps. Commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Cheshire Regiment in 1905. Gazetted Lieutenant 5<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1907, and further promoted to Captain.

He fell in action in the Dardanelles on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1915, aged 29. The following paragraph from The History of the 5<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles 1858-1928 describes what happened.

Captain Turner was shot through the head and died instantaneously, and a number of his men, too, were either killed or wounded. Lieutenant Beddy saw Captain Turner fall and attempted to reach him, but was hit in the side, and died the same night. Beddy and Turner were buried side by side in Gurkha Ravine and reburied after the war in Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles. Gerald Turner is commemorated by a special memorial as it was not possible to identify his body.

He is Remembered with Honour at Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles, Fettes College, Dean Church, and Colinton War Memorial.