Private Noel Gambetta (XC 1908—10)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour
Noel Gambetta

Service Number: 99
Rank: Private
Unit: 24th Australian Infantry Battalion
Date of death: 29 November 1915
Place of death: Gallipoli, Turkey
Cause of death: Killed in action by a stray bullet
Age at death: 18
Served: 184 days (26 weeks and 2 days)
Place of association: Geelong West, Australia
Cemetery or memorial details: Lone Pine Cemetery (Plot I, Row C, Grave No. 28), Gallipoli, Turkey

From “The Xaverian” 1915, p. 31
Noel Gambetta’s name recalls a small boy of smart and athletic build, and still in short stockings, as we knew him for the five years he spent at college. He enlisted as a signaller, was wounded in action, and finally was killed a few days before his 18th birthday, which fell on December 3rd, 1915, the feast day of St Francis Xavier. We clipped the following details from one of the morning papers: “Signaller Noel Gambetta, third son of Mr. Christopher L. Gambetta, of the Education Department, Melbourne, is amongst those reported as having been killed in action. He was 18 years of age, and enlisted with his two brothers. Noel Gambetta was educated at Xavier College, Kew, and at St Patrick’s College, Ballarat. Previous news about him was that he had recovered from wounds received at Gallipoli, and had returned to the front. He was killed on November 28th.” We offer our sincere sympathy to Mr. C. L. Gambetta

From “The Xaverian” 1916, p. 32
Gambetta Brothers.—News has come to hand from Archie concerning poor Noel’s death, already chronicled in the last issue. “We were standing within two feet of each other,” Archie writes, “chatting about home, when suddenly a stray shot

struck poor Noel. He simply gasped, and all was over. It was a fearful shock, but in calmer moments I had (and you, too, will have) the consolation of feeling that he went through quickly, yet prepared, and in the grace of God, for he had been to Holy communion just two mornings before. We buried him at Brown’s Dip, Lone Pine, putting up a small cross to mark the spot where he lies in the little cemetery. May he rest in peace.”