

Phillip Raphael STONEHAM

3rd Battalion AIF

2226



Date/Place of Birth: 1896, Waverley, NSW

Date/Place of Death: 07 August 1915, Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Turkey

Biographical Details: The youngest of three boys in a family of five children born to Ephraim Stoneham and Matilda Vincent, he was the first of two brothers to make the ultimate sacrifice "For King and Country". Stoneham completed his schooling at Paddington Superior School. Prior to enlisting for active service in "The Great War", he had served four years in the Citizens' Forces and had been employed as an Ironmonger and Warehouse Salesman.

Service Details: Stoneham enlisted on 23 May 1915 and was assigned to the 9th Army Service Corps, 6th Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion. The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade. Stoneham embarked from Sydney with his battalion per *A63 HMAT Karoola* on 16 Jun 1915.

In August 1915 the battalion took part in the assault on, and subsequent defence of, the Turkish trench complex known as Lone Pine. The Lone Pine action was a diversion for a larger operation launched to breakout of the ANZAC position via the heights of the Sari Bair range. The attack commenced on 6 August and on 14 August Stoneham was reported as missing. A statement given at Tel-el-Kebir on 23 February 1916 by Sgt. R. L Graham of "D" Coy, 3rd Battalion confirmed that Stoneham was killed by machine gun fire in the trenches at Lone Pine on 6 August 1915. Sgt. Graham also claimed that he witnessed Stoneham's burial in a hole dug in the trench where he was killed.

Following repeated entreaties from Stoneham's father, a Court of Inquiry was finally held in the Field in France on 5 June 1916 where it was determined that Stoneham was killed in action between 7 – 12 August on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Memorial Details: Lone Pine Memorial Panel 21, Lone Pine Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Sources:

Australian War Memorial First World War Nominal Roll

Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

Australian War Memorial, Red Cross file, IDRL/0428, 2640710K

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

NAA: B2455, STONEHAM Phillip Raphael
