Peter Killen

Service No. 1968

Rank: Private

Unit: 14th Battalion

Peter Killen was born in Stawell in 1884, the son of James Killen and Sarah McGinley. At the time of his enlistment his wife Lily and two sons were living at North Fitzroy, but when Lily is given as next of kin, her address is c/o Post Office Greensborough. He was 30 years old and working as a driver when he enlisted on 15th January 1915. After training he travelled on HMAT Hororata A20 and landed in the Dardanelles. He was taken on strength in July 1915 and saw active service in Gallipoli.

Peter Killen was killed in action 21st August 1915 at Lone Pine. He is commemorated at Lone Pine.

Peter’s wife was notified on 16th September 1915 that he was missing following a report from another soldier that he was wounded. There was no confirmation of his death and letters from Lily Killen to Base Records Melbourne indicate her anxiety and grief at not knowing her husband’s fate and her financial difficulties. Lily and her sons James and Peter jnr were granted pensions from July 1916. Peter Killen’s death was finally confirmed by a Court of Enquiry in May 1916.

He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Memorial Plaque and Scroll. In 1967, his son James Killen applied for his father’s Gallipoli Medallion.

Peter Killen is commemorated in Greensborough on the Fallen Soldier’s Memorial, and the Greensborough and District Honour Board at the Greensborough RSL.