## **ROBERTS, Harold**

**Reference: Beecroft Church of England Roll of Honour, Beecroft Roll of Honour, Beecroft War Memorial, Tony Cunneen book**

**Resident of “Lorne House,” Beecroft, NSW**

[Unable to find birth details in NSW]

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 472

Enlistment Date: 24 Aug 1914

Born: Ulverston, Lancashire, England

Age: 30 years

Occupation: House steward

Address: ‘Lorne House’, Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 30

Height: 5’ 5 ½”

Weight: 10 stone 2 lbs

Chest Measurement: 37”

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Light brown

Religious Denomination: Methodist (Wesleyan)

Next of Kin: Mrs Willinte, ‘Lorne House’, Beecroft, NSW

Previous Military Service: 19th Hussars – 5 years

Rank on enlistment: Sergeant

Unit Name: Field Artillery Brigade 1, Brigade Ammunition Column

AWM embarkation Roll number: 13/29/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board Transport A8 *Argyllshire* on 18 Oct 1914

Roll title: 1 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (Oct 1914)

Regimental number from Nominal Roll: Commissioned

Rank from Nominal Roll: Lieutenant

Unit from Nominal Roll: 1st Divisional Artillery Brigade

Fate: Killed in Action 17 Sep 1917

Place of burial: Reninghelst New Military Cemetery (Plot IV, Row F, Grave No. 10), Belgium

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial: 13

Medals: Military Cross

 ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty he showed the greatest energy and fearlessness as forward observation officer, following the infantry closely in an attack and establishing communication which owing to the wire constantly being cut had to be maintained by runners. He established a post in a captured dugout after killing three enemy officers who refused to surrender, and throughout the operation he carried out his work with the greatest coolness under very heavy shell fire.’

 Source: ‘Commonwealth Gazette’ No. 219; Date: 20 Dec 1917

Other details: Medals: Military Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

**AWM (Australian War Memorial): Roll of Honour**

**Harold Roberts**

Service No. not available

Rank: Lieutenant

Unit: 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade

Enlistment Date: 24 August 1914

Fate: Killed in action

Fate Date: 17 September 1917

Date of Death: 17 September 1917

Place of Death: Belgium

Cause of Death: Killed in action

Place of Association: Sydney, N.S.W.

Cemetery or Memorial Details: Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Flanders, Belgium

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 5, 8, 51, 55, 62, 86)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 2 Dec 1916 (promotion to lieutenant, previously employed by Dr. Rygate of Beecroft)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 23 Mar 1917 (reported wounded)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Fri 5 Oct 1917 (reported killed)