## **SHIELS, Alexander James Ireland**

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

**Resident of “Heathfield,” Copeland road, Beecroft, NSW**

**Brother of John Shepherd Shiels**

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 18746

Enlistment Date: 6 Sep 1915

Place of Birth: Sussex, England

Age: 25 years 3 months

Occupation: Wool buyer

Address: ‘Heathfield’ Copeland Road, Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 25

Height: 5’ 7”

Weight: 139lbs

Chest Measurement: 33-36”

Complexion: Fresh

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Religious Denomination: Church of England

Next of Kin: Father, Nicholas Shiels, ‘Heathfield’ Copeland Road, Beecroft, NSW

Previous military service: 2 years Cadets

Rank on enlistment: Gunner

Unit Name: Field Artillery Brigade 7, Battery 26

AWM embarkation Roll number: 13/35/1

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A8 *Argyllshire* on 11 May 1916

Roll title: 7 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (May 1916)

Regimental number from Nominal Roll: Commissioned

Rank from Nominal Roll: Lieutenant

Unit from Nominal Roll: 7th Field Artillery Brigade

Promotions: 2nd Lieutenant

 Unit: Field Artillery Reinforcements; Promotion date: 7 Nov 1918

Recommendations (Medals and Awards): Mention in Despatches

Awarded, and gazetted, ‘London Gazette’, second Supplement, No. 30448 (28 Dec 1917); ‘Commonwealth Gazette’ No. 57 (18 Apr 1918)

Fate: Returned to Australia 11 May 1919

Other details: War service: Western Front

 Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 23, 31, 33, 69)

The Sun, Fri 10 Mar 1916 (farewell)

The Daily Telegraph, Wed 15 May 1918 (mentioned in despatches)

The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Jul 1919 (return)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 19 Jul 1919 (engagement)