## **SPEECHLEY, Wemyss Benjamin**

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

**Resident of Beecroft road, Beecroft, NSW**

[Born 1899, Petersham district, son of William H. and Emma E. Speechley]

**AIF Project details:**

Regimental Number: 2653

Enlistment Date: 23 Jun 1917

Place of Birth: Petersham, Sydney, NSW

Age: 18 years

Occupation: Clerk

Address: Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 18

Height: 5’ 4 ¾”

Weight: 130lbs

Chest Measurement: 35”

Complexion: Medium

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Brown

Religious Denomination: Wesleyan (Methodist)

Next of Kin: Sister, Miss Alice Marie Speechley, Bank Street, Molong, NSW

Previous military service: School Cadets 4 years, 32a transferred

Enlistment Date: 5 Aug 1916

Rank on enlistment: Private

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll:

Fate: Discharged 13 Nov 1916

**AIF Project details (re-enlisted):**

Regimental Number: 3387

Place of Birth: Petersham, Sydney, NSW

School: Petersham Public School, NSW

Occupation: Clerk

Address: Beecroft, NSW

Marital Status: Single

Age at embarkation: 18

Height: 5’ 4 ½”

Weight: 122lbs

Chest Measurement:

Complexion:

Eyes:

Hair:

Religious Denomination: Methodist

Next of Kin: Sister, Miss Alice Marie Speechley, Bank Street, Molong, NSW

Previous military service: A.I.F. 13th Battalion 2 months (underage)

Rank on enlistment: Private

Unit Name: 35th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement

AWM embarkation Roll number: 23/52/3

Embarkation details: Unit embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board HMAT A28 *Miltiades* on 2 Aug 1917

Roll title: 35 Infantry Battalion – 7 and 8 (Reinforcements Jan-Aug 1917)

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll: 35th Battalion

Fate: Killed in Action 22 Aug 1918

Place of death or wounding: Bray, Somme Sector, France

Age at death: 18.2

Age at death from cemetery records: 18

Place of burial: Cote 80 French National Cemetery (Row D, Grave No. 19), France

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial: 126

Misc. information from cemetery records: Parents: William and Emma Speechley. Native of Haberfield, NSW.

Other details: War service: Western Front

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

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

**Wemyss Benjamin Speechley**

Service No. 3387

Rank: Private

Unit: 35th Australian Infantry Battalion

Enlistment Date: 23 June 1917

Fate: Killed in action

Fate Date: 22 August 1918

Date of Death: 22 August 1918

Place of Death: France

Cause of Death: Killed in action

Age at Death: 18 [born 1899 Petersham district; parents: William H. & Emma E.]

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

Cemetery or Memorial Details: Cote 80 French National Cemetery, Etinehem, Picardie, France

**Further references:**

“Beecroft and Cheltenham in WW1” by Tony Cunneen (pages 79, 87)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 10 Jan 1914 (college music exam results)

The Sun (Sydney), Thu 22 Jan 1914 (qualifying certificate)

The Sun, Tue 26 Jun 1917 (enlisted)

The Daily Telegraph, Wed 25 Sep 1918 (killed in action)

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 15 Oct 1918 (casualty list)