Rifleman Vincent Patrick Shiel (XC 1913-14)

New Zealand ~ Roll of Honour

Vincent Patrick Shiel

Service Number: 4115
Rank: Rifleman
Unit: New Zealand Rifle Brigade, 2nd Battalion
Service: New Zealand Expeditionary Force
Date of death: 18 September, 1917
Place of death: Camiers Military Hospital, France
Cause of death: Died of wounds
Age at death: 19
Place of association: St Claire, Dunedin, New Zealand
Cemetery details: Etaples Military Cemetery, Boulogne, France
Grave Reference: Plot XXVI, Row B, Grave No. 6A

From “The Xaverian” 1916 p. 64

Vincent Shiel (1913).—Our informant simply says—“Listed.” Hence we can do little more than that reserve a Shiel space. However, we hope that he caught up on Charlie working along Ted Myers, “somewhere in France.”

From “The Xaverian” 1917 p. 64

Vincent Shiel.—One of the many notable fellows whose all has gone down in the world’s awful war. He died in the Military Hospital at Camiers in September 18th, aged 19 years and 10 months. A sunshiny boy, full of character at School, poor Vincent was the same to the last.

For two years after leaving School he was at his father’s farm at Heriot, and the folk used to wonder who was the strange boy that went to Holy Communion every Sunday there was Mass. That was Vincent right through—solidly good, quietly doing what others thought of him. It meant a fight as big a fight, and it is standing him to now the war is over for him and the reward come. The School’s sincerest sympathy to his sorrowing family.

Vincent Shiel, was one of the youngest Old Xaverians to die in World War 1. He was a boarder at the school in 1913-14. He arrived at the school, from Dunedin, New Zealand, when he was 16.

His records could not be found at the Australian War Memorial and he does not appear on the Commemorative Roll for Australians who were not serving with the Australian Armed Forces because he was not Australian. A clue to where his records could be, was his hat. New Zealand forces used the peaked hat that Vincent Shiel wears above.