

## Military Records

Several members of the Kyezor family served their country in various conflicts mostly in the First World War and some of them had interesting military careers which I've detailed here.

### Donald John Keyzor

**Birth Year:** 1899  
**Birth Place:** London  
**Regiment:** 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regimental Number:** 10870

Name	Corp.	Rank	Regt. No.
KEYZOR Donald J.	18 Hrs	PLC	10870
Medal	Bell	Face	Remarks
Tomb	CY/114 B	1308	
Decor	2	2	
Bras			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry through			

K. 1980

## Leonard Maurice Keyzor

**Birth Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1885  
**Birth Place:** Lanhill Road, Paddington, West London  
**Service:** Australian Imperial Force  
**Unit:** 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion  
**Ranks:** Private  
Lieutenant  
**Service Number:** 958  
**Death Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 1951  
**Death Place:** 83 Rodney Court, Paddington, West London



### Description

Leonard Keyzor was one of several men who, although not born in Australia, won the Victoria Cross as members of the AIF. He was born in London in November 1885, spent ten years in Canada while growing up, then migrated to Sydney a few months before the outbreak of war. He enlisted in the 1st Battalion and sailed for Egypt in October 1914. He took part in the Gallipoli landing of 25 April 1915 and was promoted to lance corporal two months later.

Keyzor won his Victoria Cross during the battle of Lone Pine in August 1915. By that time he had become a master bombthrower; during the days and nights of the battle, he proved his skill time and again. As Turkish bombs landed in his trench, Keyzor would smother the explosions with sandbags or clothing. If he had time, he would throw the bombs back - on several occasions he even caught them in mid-flight before lobbing them back into the Turkish trenches. He was twice wounded but refused medical aid, maintaining his efforts for 50 hours. His actions saved the trench and removed the enemy from the position.

From Gallipoli Keyzor went on to serve in France, where he was twice promoted, and twice wounded in 1918. He had always considered himself a Londoner and he returned to Britain to live after the war. He died there in October 1951,

### Citation (abridged):

On 7th August 1915, Keyzor was in a trench which was being heavily bombed by the enemy. At great personal risk he picked up two live bombs and threw them back at the enemy. Though wounded he continued throwing bombs, thereby saving a most important portion of the trench. Next day Keyzor bombed the enemy out of a position from which temporary mastery of his own trench had been obtained. Although again wounded he declined evacuation, volunteering to throw bombs for another company, which had lost all its bomb-throwers. He continued to bomb the enemy until the situation was relieved.



Leonard M Keyzor's (1885 – 1951) ashes  
Also Gladys Louise Keyzor (1896 - 1975)  
His wife



Plaque to Leonard M Keyzor  
At Rockwood Garden of Remembrance  
New South Wales

## **Richard Keyser**

**Birth Place:** Kensington, Middlesex  
**Regiment:** Northamptonshire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1st Battalion  
**Ranks:** Private  
**Regimental Number:** 19191  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Death Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> August 1916  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Buried or Commemorated at:** Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz VIII. G. 3. France

In Memory Of

Private

# **R KEYSER**

Service Number: 19191

1st Bn., Northamptonshire Regiment who died on 20 August 1916

Remembered with Honour

**FLATIRON COPSE CEMETERY, MAMETZ**

VIII. G. 3.



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COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
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WAR GRAVES COMMISSION