



## 690 SAYERS Raleigh Le Neve



Capt W. R. Sayers, M.C.

Son of WR Sayers Esq Merlin Street North Sydney born August 11 1891  
Entered 1902 Left 1909 Prefect 1st XV 1907-8-9 1st XI 1908-9 2nd Crew  
1908-9 Junior 1909 Great War 1914-18 (Major MC) Stock and Share Broker  
Sydney

Nom Roll Major 35 Bn RTA 12/6/19

Service Record Wool Buyer Joined Lt 35 Bn 16/8/15 Embarked 12/5/16 France  
21/11/16 Capt 15/11/17 WIA 4/4/18 France 31/5/18 MID 4/6/18 MC 30/7/18  
Maj 30/9/18 Wounded (remained on duty) 1/10/18 Returned 12/6/19 Terminated  
25/9/19

**R** BEAN recounts the action on 4/4/18 in which Sayers' company of the 35Bn counter  
attacked the German advance on Villers-Bretonneux, halting the British retreat [V  
317-350] In the midst of the action occurred the famous story of Sayers' single-  
handed encounter with three Germans.

MC "For conspicuous and devoted service during enemy attack on VILLERS-  
BRETONNEUX on April 4 1918. When the enemy had pressed back into the troops on  
our right and appeared to be at a point of breaking through our line this Officer  
mustered his Company and led them to counter attack. His resolute leading and  
courage were responsible for holding the enemy at a very critical moment. During  
the operation on 4-5 April when our line advanced notwithstanding heavy and  
accurate machine guns he greatly distinguished himself by his utter disregard of  
personal danger and his ability to handle the situation. On reaching the objective he  
organised his line in doing which he had to move fully exposed to the enemy and  
under heavy machine gun fire and much keen sniping; subsequently alone and  
unarmed he captured a machine gun which was enfilading his Company killing the  
two men on the gun - one with his own steel helmet and the other by throttling him.

"When wounded it was with difficulty he was persuaded to leave the line."