

LESLIE



MAYGAR



## HERITAGE PERSON

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# LESLE MAYGAR

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### CONTRIBUTORS

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Alexandra RSL  
Australian War Memorial  
Australian Dictionary of Biography  
State Library Victoria  
National Library Australia  
London Gazette  
Wikipedia

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# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

**Name:** Leslie Cecil Maygar  
**Born:** 27 May 1868 at Kilmore  
**Died:** 1 November 1917  
**Enlisted:** 1901 at Alexandra  
**Noted for:** Recipient Victoria Cross

Leslie Maygar was a local who attended school at Alexandra. He enlisted during World War I, rose in rank to command the 87th Battalion, and died during the Battle of Beersheba 1917.

### Early life

Leslie was born: Edgar Leslie Cecil Willis Walker Maygar, on Dean Station near Kilmore on 27 May 1868. He was the seventh child to English parents Edwin Willis and Helen Maygar. He was educated at the Kilmore State School before his family moved to the Alexandra District, where he attended the Alexandra State School. When he was 20 years old, his family moved to Ruffy, working on the family farm.

### Enlisting at Alexandra

Leslie first attempted to enlist in the war service after the outbreak of the Second Boer War (1899-1902), however he was rejected due to having bad tooth decay. Then in March 1891 he attended the Alexandra Town Hall where he successfully enlisted for the Victorian Mounted Rifles Division of the Army.



Lieutenant Maygar 1903  
WikiCCL 3.0



## INTRODUCTION

### **Military Service**

Leslie was quickly promoted to Lieutenant and subsequently arrived in Cape Town, South Africa in March 1901. His unit was constantly engaging the enemy in areas that included, Klippan, Kop, East Transvaal and Rhenoster. In August of the same year he was transferred to Natal.

As a 29 year old Lieutenant he was awarded the Victoria Cross by Lord Kitchener for the following gallantry under fire:

*On 23 November 1901 at Geelhoutboom, Natal, Maygar galloped out and ordered men of a detached post, which was being outflanked, to retire. The horse of one of the men was shot under him when the enemy were within 200 yards and he dismounted and lifted the man on to his own horse which bolted into boggy ground, making them both dismount. As the horse could not carry two, Maygar again put the man on its back and told him to gallop for cover at once, while he himself went on foot. All this took place under very heavy fire." (London Gazette, 11 February 1902).*

Leslie returned to Australia in March of 1902 and while working as a grazier at Euroa continued to serve as an active member of the 8th Light Horse, Victorian Mounted Rifles division. He was promoted to Captain in 1905 and transferred to the 16th (Indi) Light Horse Regiment in July 1912.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (by lowering his age to meet the requirements) and was appointed Captain of the 4th Light Horse Regiment on 20 August 1914. He sailed to Egypt in October 1914, fought at Gallipoli, and was promoted to Major. He received temporary command of the 8th Light Horse Regiment on 17 October 1915, and in December 1915 was promoted again to Lieutenant Colonel.

On 10 December 1915, Lieutenant Colonel L.C. Maygar wrote to the Fawcett Primary School children a letter reminding them to value truth, overcome difficulties and wishing them a happy new year. The letter was written from Gallipoli.

After the withdrawal of allied forces, Maygar commanded the 8th Light Horse Regiment during the Sinai and Palestine Campaigns (1916-1917) and held temporary command of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade on three different occasions.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in June 1917 and qualified for the Volunteer Decoration in July 1917.

### Death of Leslie Maygar

While in command of the 8th Light Horse Regiment he was engaging the enemy during the Battle of Beersheba where he was wounded by bombs dropped by two German Taube aircraft 31 October 1917. He was rushed to the Karm Military Hospital in a motor ambulance which capsized on the way. Once he arrived at the hospital, one of his arms was amputated. He was recovering well, even talking, laughing and joking with other men. However the next day he suffered an internal haemorrhage and died shortly after on 1 November 1917. He was buried near the Karm Hospital at the Beersheba War Cemetery in Israel.

Maygar Barracks at the Broadmeadows Army Base located in Melbourne, Victoria, were named in his honour. Maygar had helped establish the base in 1914 as a training ground for soldiers during World War I. A memorial at Euroa is dedicated to the Victoria Cross (VC) winner and a winery in the Strathbogie Ranges is named after him (Maygars Hill Winery).

In 1917 Leslie Maygar was added to the honour boards of the Longwood Primary School, Longwood Church of England, Euroa St Andrew's Church of England and the Euroa School. On the 16 November 2014 the township of Euroa officially opened their VC Memorial Park at Kirkland Avenue, Euroa, which included a statue of Leslie Maygar and a series of large information boards.

Wiki



Australian  
Dictionary of  
Biography



Maygars  
Hill Winery





# TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>27 May 1868</b>      | Edgar Leslie Cecil Willis Maygar was born at Dean Station near Kilmore. He became best known as Leslie.   |
| <b>March 1891</b>       | Visited Alexandra and enlisted for the Victorian Mounted Rifles division of the army.   |
| <b>1900</b>             | Tried unsuccessfully to enlist as a volunteer for service during the Boer War.  |
| <b>1901</b>             | Dispatched to Africa, arriving at Cape Town in March 1901, where he was quickly promoted to Lieutenant.   |
| <b>23 November 1901</b> | Acted with valour in the field, for which he was later awarded the Victoria Cross (VC).   |
| <b>March 1902</b>       | Returned to Australia where he worked on his father's farm near Euroa. He continued serving in the 8th Light Horse.   |
| <b>20 August 1914</b>   | Enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, was appointed Captain of the 4th Light Horse.  |
| <b>1914</b>             | Captain Maygar helped establish the Broadmeadows Army Base.   |
| <b>October 1914</b>     | Sailed to Egypt. He then fought at Gallipoli, where he was promoted to Major.   |
| <b>17 October 1915</b>  | Appointed temporary Commander 8th Light Horse Regiment.   |
| <b>December 1915</b>    | Major Maygar was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.  |
| <b>10 December 1915</b> | Lieutenant Colonel Maygar wrote to the Fawcett Primary School (#3393) children a letter reminding them to value truth, overcome difficulties and wishing them a happy new year. |
| <b>1916–1917</b>        | Commanded the 8th Light Horse Regiment and held temporary command of the 3rd Light Horse on three occasions.  |



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 30 January 1917** Added to the honour board at both the Longwood Primary School and the Longwood Presbyterian Church.
- June 1917** Awarded the Distinguished Service Order.
- July 1917** Qualified for the Volunteer Decoration.
- 31 October 1917** Wounded in action by a bomb dropped from a German Taube aircraft during the battle for Beersheba.
- 1 November 1917** Died of his injuries.
- 13 November 1917** Leslie Magar was added to the Euroa honour boards of the St Andrew's Church of England and the Euroa School Honour Board.
- November 1917** Buried at the Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel.
- 28 May 2011** At the opening of Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday 28 May, RSL Sub Branch President Henry Andrews presented a letter sent to the Fawcett School (3393) by Lt Colonel Leslie Magar VC in 1915. This letter was transcribed by the Education Department 12 April 1916 and reproduced with artwork as a poster.
- 27 June 2014** Artworkz first published this factsheet.
- 16 November 2014** The VC Memorial Park at Kirkland Avenue, Euroa was officially opened on Sunday 16 November. Around 2,000 people attended the opening. Euroa is the only town in the Commonwealth to have three men from its district awarded the Victoria Cross.



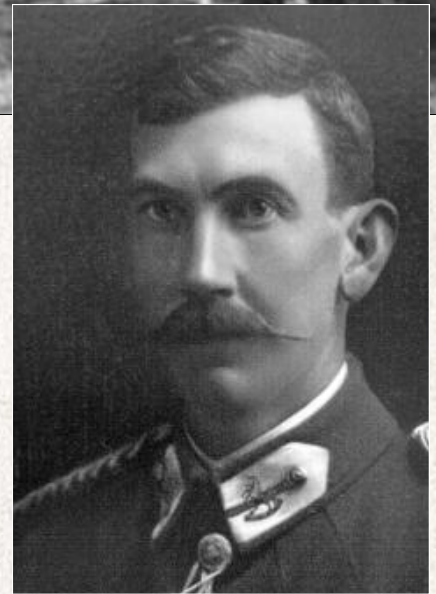
# GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Is this Leslie Maygar in Palestine in a previously unpublished photograph?  
You decide!**

Photographer James Pinkerton Campbell  
Courtesy Rod Falconer



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**8th Battalion needlecraft during the time Leslie Maygar was Commander**

Photographer James Pinkerton Campbell  
Courtesy Rod Falconer



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## SINAI



### RAFA Sinai 1917

(L-R)

- (1) Major Nicholas, General J.R. Royston DSO CMG, (2) Lt Col Todd DSO,  
(3) Lt Col Maygar VC, (4) Major C.C. Dangar MC, (5) Lt Col Scott DSO,  
(6) Captain Wilfrid Kent Hughes MC

(Sitting)

- (7) Donor J. Derham

Courtesy Australian War Memorial



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## EUROA VC MEMORIAL PARK 2015



**Images on public view at the Euroa War Memorial.  
Leslie Maygar (left) with friends at Ruffy circa 1909.**

Courtesy Euroa Memorial 2015



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## EUROA VC MEMORIAL PARK 2015

Lt L.C. Maygar VC (seated to the rear) in a rickshaw,  
being transported by a rickshaw runner in "tribal" dress.  
Boer War, c.1902. AWM A04437-2



**Images on public view at the Euroa War Memorial. Leslie Maygar (back)  
in a rickshaw during the Boer War c1902.**

Courtesy Euroa Memorial and Australian War Memorial



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## EUROA VC MEMORIAL PARK 2015



**The VC Memorial Park at Euroa in 2015**





# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## EUROA VC MEMORIAL PARK 2015





# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## EUROA VC MEMORIAL PARK 2015



**LESLIE CECIL MAYGAR VC**

BORN 27 MAY 1868

KILLED IN ACTION 1 NOVEMBER 1917





# NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



## NEWSPAPERS

***Ruffy.***

**(From our own Correspondent).**

ONE of our most esteemed residents, Mr. E. W. Maygar, senr., passed quietly away on Friday. Mr. Maygar had been in indifferent health for some time, never regaining his accustomed health after a severe attack of influenza two years ago. Mr. Maygar came to Australia when only 2 years old, and saw wonderful changes during the past 71 years. He leaves four sons and two daughters, one of his sons being Lieut. L. O. Maygar who served in South Africa with the 5th Victorians and gained the distinction of the Victoria Cross.

Yea Chronicle  
Thursday 28 January 1904  
Courtesy National Library Australia



## NEWSPAPERS

Numb. 27405.

843



# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1902.

*War Office, February 11, 1902.*

THE KING has been graciously pleased to signify His intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers, whose claims have been submitted for His Majesty's approval, for their conspicuous bravery in South Africa, as stated against their names:—

| Regiment.                    | Name.                       | Act of Courage for which recommended.  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1st Imperial Light Horse     | Surgeon-Captain T. J. Crean | During the action with De Wet at Tygerskloof, on the 18th December, 1901, this Officer continued to attend to the wounded in the firing line, under a heavy fire at only 150 yards range, after he had himself been wounded, and only desisted when he was hit a second time, and, as it was at first thought, mortally wounded.   |
| 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles | Lieutenant L. C. Maygar     | At Geelhoutboom, on the 23rd November, 1901, Lieutenant Maygar galloped out and ordered the men of a detached post, which was being outflanked, to retire. The horse of one of them being shot under him, when the enemy were within 200 yards, Lieutenant Maygar dismounted and lifted him on to his own horse, which bolted into boggy ground, causing both of them to dismount. On extricating the horse and finding that it could not carry both, Lieutenant Maygar again put the man on its back, and told him to gallop for cover at once, he himself proceeding on foot. All this took place under a very heavy fire. |

*Foreign Office, January 7, 1902.*

THE KING has been graciously pleased to appoint—  
John Francis Jones, Esq., to be His Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles; and  
Francis Edward Crow, Esq., to be His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Suez.

*Crown Office, February 8, 1902.*

MEMBER returned to serve in the present PARLIAMENT.

*County of Down, East Down Division.*

James Wood, Esq., in the place of James Alexander Rentoul, Esq., K.C., who hath accepted the office of Judge of the City of London Court.

*Treasury Chambers, February 7, 1902.*

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Mr. James Daly to be Steward and Bailiff of the Chiltern Hundreds.

*Whitehall, January 21, 1902.*

THE KING has been pleased to grant unto Henry Edmund Butler, Viscount Mountbarrret in the Peerage of that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, called Ireland, His Royal licence and authority that he and his issue may continue to use and bear his paternal surname of Butler only, and be called and known by the surname of Butler only and by no other:

And to command that the said Royal concession and declaration be recorded in His Majesty's College of Arms, otherwise to be void and of none effect.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

30 Jan 1917, The Euroa Gazette, p2

A Proud Record — On Sunday of last week a roll of honour board, containing the names of 30 church members who had volunteered, was unveiled at the Longwood Church of England. A laurel wreath was hung over the board in recognition of the honours won by the following, all of whom were baptised in the church — Lieut Col. Les. Maygar, V.C., Capt. Fred. Tubb, V.C., and Military Cross winners in Major Aubrey Wiltshire, Captain Gordon Maxfield and Lieut. Frank Tubb.

*Courtesy National Library Australia*

13 Nov 1917, The Euroa Gazette, p3

The reported death of Lieut-Col. Leslie C. Maygar, V.C., caused feelings of intense sorrow throughout the whole community. As a soldier he has won for himself the rank that he occupied by sheer merit. He has proved himself to be a capable officer, who had the respect and esteem of his men. In his civilian life, as a worthy resident in our midst his quiet, unassuming disposition endeared him to all. His name occupies the position of honour of the school Honour Board and also in St. Andrew's Church of England. Flags were flown at half mast for the gallant officer who died such a noble death.

*Courtesy National Library Australia*



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

8 February 1918, The Euroa Advertiser, p2

Letter to Mr. A E Maygar offering condolences to the family:-

“Allow me on behalf of the officers, the regiment and myself to extend to you and the rest of your family our deepest sympathy in the very great loss you have sustained by the death of your brother, Colonel Maygar, who died at Elimara Hospital on 1st inst as the result of wounds inflicted by an aeroplane bomb near Beersheba on 31st ult.

“This death is not only a very great loss to the regiment, but also to the Brigade and the whole of the forces here as he was one of the bravest and most capable officers we had, and whilst he had charge of the Brigade during the absence of General Royston, he was complimented by the higher command on the way he handled it. Personally I feel his loss very much, as he was my greatest friend, and we have been associated in military matters for over 17 years.

**“I will now give you a few particulars as to how he met his death: On 31st ult. we were in the firing line all day, and were relieved by the 11th regiment about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We then retired to near Desert Corps Headquarters, where we arrived just before dusk. Your brother went to headquarters to report, and I took the regiment on some little distance to await him. We had dismounted and he had just joined us and was talking to some of his men in the rear of the regiment when an enemy aeroplane came up and bombed some transports in our rear. The Colonel, whilst extending us for safety was hit, and his horse bolted with him.**

“That was the last I saw of him, although I sent men to look for him. A man brought his horse back, and said he was severely wounded and had been taken to a Field Ambulance. The regiment had immediate orders to go out to a certain position, and I was unable to see him.

“We soon then attached to another brigade and were fighting for two days and a night, and when we got back I inquired at the Beersheba Hospital and was told he was sent back to Karm. We went back there a couple of days later, and on arrival there was told he had died. His arm had been amputated and he was getting on well; in fact a little before his death he was laughing and joking with the men in the hospital, when a sudden hemorrhage set in, and he died shortly afterwards. He was buried near the Hospital at Karm.

“Yours sincerely, A W G McLaurin, Major.”

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

28 Feb 1918, The Bendigonian, p27

Mr. N. D. Harper, of 22 Fairholm Grove, Camberwell, formerly of Bendigo, has received an interesting letter from his son, Private Dick Harper. His letter is dated 17th December, 1917:— “...and were massing a little way back when two Taubes came over and bombed us, killing some horses and men, and wounding a good many, including Colonel Maygar, our C.O., who died on the following day.”

Courtesy National Library Australia

10 May 1918, The Euroa Advertiser, p3

Mr. G. Neil, of Violet Town, has received a letter from Pte. George Redding, 8th Light Horse. “...Poor old Maygar, too, had very hard luck – arm blown off with a bomb, his horse bolted and threw him, then the motor ambulance capsized getting him back to hospital; he never rallied.”

Courtesy National Library Australia



# OTHER

OTHER RELATED ITEMS



The New York Times

# MID-WEEK PICTORIAL

**The German 'Taube' aircraft was responsible  
for the death of Leslie Maygar. It made the  
cover of the New York Times 1 January 1917.**

Public Domain image

On 1 November 1911,  
Italian aviator Giulio  
Gavotti dropped the world's  
first aerial bomb from his  
Taube monoplane over the  
Ain Zara oasis, Libya.



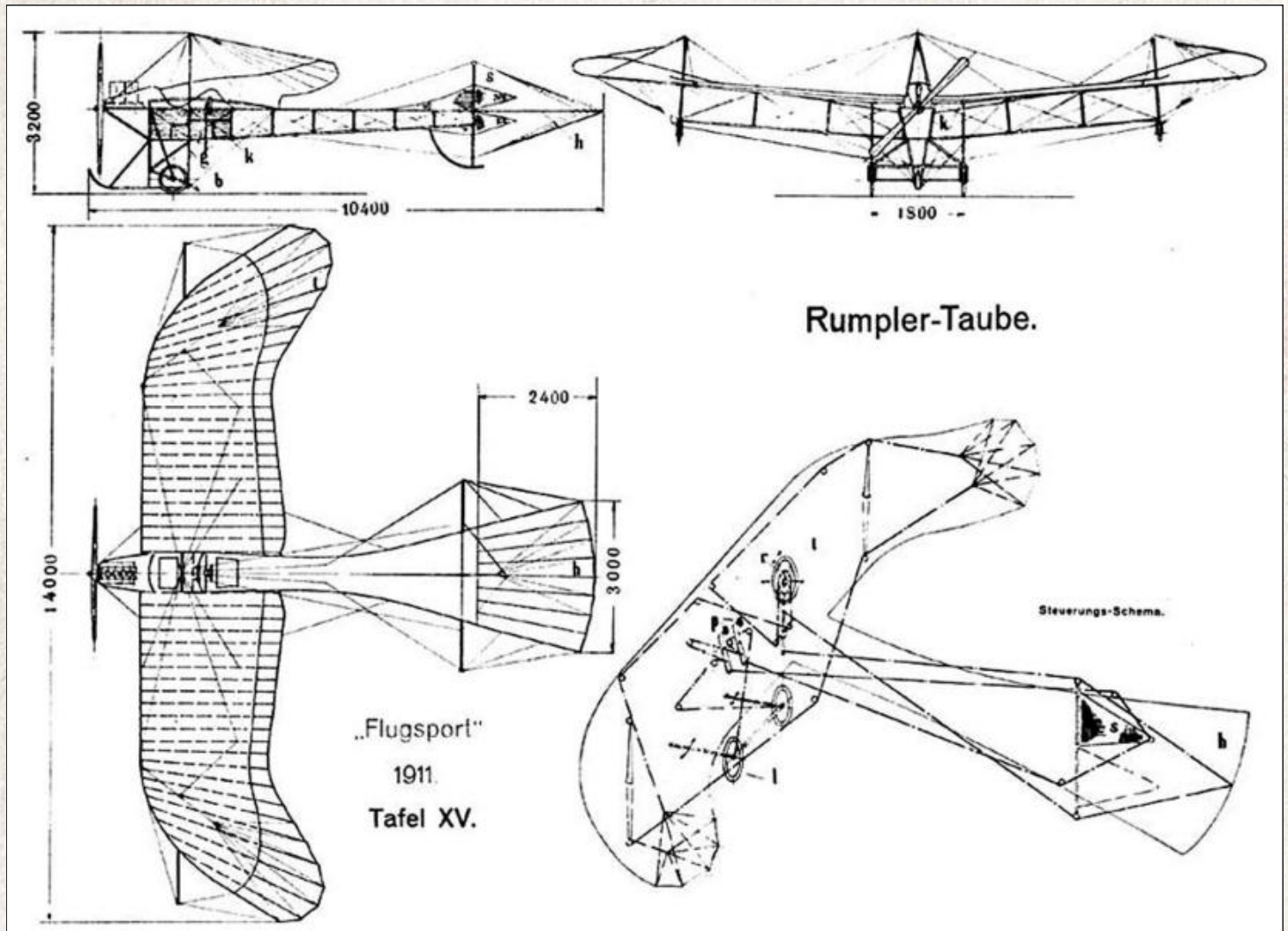
A German Fighting Monoplane Flying Very Near  
the Ground Photographed from Directly Underneath

© World of Science



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## GERMAN TAUBE AIRCRAFT



The Taube was a pre-World War I monoplane that was also the first mass-produced military aircraft in Germany. In Germany it was used in almost all areas of the military, including surveillance, trainer, bomber and fighter.

It was also used by other countries including Italy, Austria-Hungary and the Royal Flying Corps of the British Empire. Once World War I had begun, the ageing Taube was quickly replaced by aircraft with more effective designs and specifications. A Taube aircraft such as this was directly responsible for the death of Leslie Maygar after the pilot dropped a bomb onto the battlefield near where Leslie Maygar was directing military personnel to safety.



# LETTER TO FAWCETT SCHOOL





# LETTER TO FAWCETT SCHOOL

MOTTO

For State School Museum

NO. 3393, Fawcett

From L.C. MAYGAR, V.C. Lieut. Col.

C.O. 8th Light Horse Regt., 3rd.L.& C.Bde.

Tolman's Post,

Gallipoli.

10th. Dec, 1915

.....  
TRUTH IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN WEALTH AND

PERSERVERANCE OVERCOMETH ALL DIFFICULTIES  
.....

To School Children

Remember boys and girls of today,yours is a great and glorious heritage,consequently your duty is to persevere and apply diligentlywith all your heart and mind to your studies and instructions from your teacher, so as to qualify you for the great responsibility that you will be called upto carry on in the future...yours will be the task, duty to perform and carry forward where you leave off, to keep and maintain the honor and integrity of our glorious Empire swchich stands for truth andrighteousness, bearing in mind the hard fact that we are all in the present time fighting and shedding our blood for freedom and righteousness.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year , and success in all your undertakings,

10/ 12/ 15

Yours sincerely,

L. C. Maygar.*fr* 199

.....  
TRUTH & PERSEVERANCE  
.....



# LETTER TO FAWCETT SCHOOL

## FAWCETT HALL COMMITTEE

28<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011

### OPENING

I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking Rex Tate for providing me with the historical details for this presentation.

In 1915, during the first World War, Lieut Col L C Magar V C, replied to a letter sent to him by the pupils of Fawcett School, two of whom were his nieces.

This letter was copied in large calligraphy, with art illustrations of the highest quality by the Education Department, and presented to the school in 1918. It was hung on display until the school's closure in 1936.

In 1989 it was discovered in the RSL storeroom, used for a display, then offered to the Australian War Memorial Canberra, with a provenance letter by Mrs Millie Weeks (nee Gilbert), a pupil at the school who recalled it being on display on the school wall.

The War Memorial accepted the original, and provided copies in colour for descendants and local RSLs at Euroa and Alexandra. A brass plaque in the Shire Hall and the Cenotaph in Leckie Park lists the name of L C Magar, who was lost in action in Palestine in 1918. At that time he was a Brigadier commanding two Light Horse Regiments.

Today I would like to present this framed copy of the letter, to your hall in memory of the School, its Teachers, Pupils and Parents to 1936.

The letter reads.....

The large coloured copy along with other memorabilia have recently been water damaged at the RSL. When it is repaired or replaced I would like it to replace this framed copy of the letter.



# HISTORIC FACTSHEET

## MAYGARS HILL WINERY

A winery named after Leslie Maygar operates today from 53 Longwood Mansfield Road, Longwood East Victoria Australia, 3666.

The 20 acre winery includes accommodation in a spacious three bedroom cottage named Maygars Cottage. In April 2014 a Cabernet Sauvignon was pressed and called the Beersheba, after the battle that took Leslie Maygar's life.

A cricket team referred to as Maygar's Mob played the Wilderness Wanderers Cricket Match on International Women's Day 19 March 2014. It is expected that the match will become an annual event.







*Artworkz*

*Serving the Community*

