

CAPTAIN JOHN ARTHUR LEA MC AND BAR (1900-02)

The following is taken from the 1968 Register.

He was born on 23 May 1885 and trained as a Mechanical Engineer with South African Airways in Pretoria.

During WW1 he served in 1st Rhodesian Regiment fighting the Germans in South West Africa, followed by 9th Battalion of Royal Fusiliers, where he was promoted to Captain. He was first awarded the Military Cross on 26 July 1918 "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion when in command of the reserve company of his battalion. Under cover of an intense bombardment the enemy succeeded in piercing part of a line and he was order to recapture the position. He led his company forward under heavy machine-gun fire and succeeded in retaking the ground, which had been temporarily lost. Owing to mist, direction was difficult to keep and in order to avoid his company losing direction he kept about 20 yards ahead of his men, thus exposing himself to additional dangers. His courage and coolness were at all times admirable."

After being wounded in France on 26 October 1918, he was awarded a bar to his Military Cross on 8 March 1919 "In recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the field."