

Col. Allen Tarnow, O.B.E.

"Christchurch Times" Staff Reporter 1948



Usually when a regular army officer retires he looks forward to a quiet life in the country. Not so Col. Allen Tarnow, O.B.E., of "The Cedars," Walkford Road. Things could never be quiet for a secretary of the Highcliffe Citizens Association.

Neither could they be dull, for Col. Tarnow always has something to do. He spends about six hours a week on H.C.A. work, but in addition to his important job as the Association's secretary he manages to find time to be Pension Secretary for the Highcliffe British Legion, Auditor for St. Mark's Church, Highcliffe, a committee member of the Highcliffe Horticultural Society and Secretary of a Military College of Science Old Students' Association.

Any other person wouldn't have any spare time, but Col. Tarnow does. "Spare time," he says, "why I run a small fruit farm which produces about three tons of fruit a week. At the moment I'm experimenting with soil-warming devices."

The energetic colonel smiled when I asked him whether he found this work tiring. "I'm retired now," he said. "When I was in the army I really used to work, extremely hard."

He first put on khaki in 1912. Two years later he was serving with Allenby in the Near East. When the last shot was fired Col. Tarnow returned to Britain. Not much was heard of him by his friends in the next four years. He was working in the "hush-hush" experimental station at Woolwich. As an instrument engineer he had a technical job which led to the army using the "Tarnow Coastal Artillery Predictor."

WENT TO WEST AFRICA

After a spell in West Africa he came back to Britain and helped to start the Coastal Artillery Experimental Establishment at Sandown, I.O.W.

From 1927 to 1946 he was an instructor at the Military College of Science.

"The pre-war years were ghastly," he says. "There was no support at all. We couldn't even get paper on which to publish our findings. Then came the war, and the change-over was miraculous. They couldn't help us enough. You can imagine how we felt."

Col. Tarnow likes Highcliffe. "What made me come here?" He smiles and says: "When I was a boy I used to come here year after year for my holidays and eventually I married a Highcliffe girl."

How did he get the OBE.? He paused thoughtfully and then: "Perhaps it was because I used to say 'No' to my boss," he said.