

## Col. Allen C. Tarnow O.B.E.

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By Carl Whiteley



**Col. Allen C. Tarnow, O.B.E., chairman of Highcliffe Citizens' Association, is not satisfied with the development of Highcliffe.**

He feels that a little more foresight by the planners could have contributed a great deal more towards Highcliffe becoming not only one of the most delightful resorts in the country but one of the best planned.

The beach, he says is equal to any on the Mediterranean but with a few more years of coastal erosion the already narrow front will have disappeared with no space even for a car park.

**"The thing nearest to my heart is the proper development of such a lovely area to include proper landscaping of the sites available for development," said the Col. "But this is hardly working out in practice.**

"The new areas should contain more open features while the narrow High Street, now being improved by some very fine shop fronts, should have been three times as wide."

Col. Tarnow believes a citizens' association can play an important part in the moulding of a town. "An association such as ours gives the ordinary man an opportunity to state his grievances or praises in front of a meeting so that a case can be put before the proper authorities."

### ARMY OFFICER

A retired regular Army officer, Col. Tarnow has always something to do. He spends a good deal of his time on H.C.A. work but in addition to his important job as chairman of the association he finds time to be pension secretary for the Highcliffe British Legion, auditor for St. Mark's Church, Highcliffe, and secretary of the Military College of Science Old Students' Association.

Born in the city of London in 1891, he joined the Army in 1912 and two years later was serving with Allenby in the Near East.

He studied at Northampton College and Woolwich Polytechnic and was trained as an instrument engineer mainly on experimental work. He joined the Army as an instrument specialist.

Col. Tarnow served in Gallipoli and Egypt and was second-in-command of the Canal Workshops. He was recalled to the Military College of Science as instructor and to undertake experimental work on technical equipment.

**He designed and made the "Tarnow" platter for coast artillery, the "Hunt-Tarnow" predictor for anti-aircraft artillery and other instruments.**

After a spell in West Africa he returned to erect the Experimental Rangefinding Installation at Bembridge, I.O.W.

When the second war loomed ahead it meant continuous selection and instruction of technicians to maintain and repair the new technical devices, including radar, then coming into use.

### "MIRACULOUS CHANGE-OVER"

"The pre-war years with ghastly," he recalled. "There was no support at all. We couldn't even get paper on which to publish our findings. But with the war there was a miraculous change over. They couldn't help us enough."

Col. Tarnow retired in 1946 and came to live at "Cedars", Walkford Road.

**How did he obtain the O.B.E.? "I think that I earned it. My Commandant had one of the quickest brains in the Service, but was intensely outspoken. He tried out his new schemes**

**with me," he said. His honour was awarded in 1945.**

Col. Tarnow became secretary of the H.C.A. during his first year in Highcliffe. He held this position until his election to Christchurch Council in 1955. He was a Highcliffe representative for 12 months but was defeated at the next election.

His first visit to Christchurch was by motor cycle in 1906. He drove from London and did not pass another motor vehicle during the whole of the journey!

Col. Tarnow eventually married a Bournemouth girl whose great-uncle, the late Mr. George Marshall, was a former editor of this paper. Both are fond of walking and look forward each year to a holiday abroad.

#### KEEN GARDENER

An active member of Christchurch Sailing Club, he is also a keen gardener and has an acre of ground with orchard and soft fruits.

A quiet life is not for Col. Tarnow. He loves Highcliffe and enjoys taking an active part in local affairs.