

# Major Colin Louis Ziegler

C.T. 1958

By Carl Whiteley



Major C. L. Ziegler.

**Major Colin Louis Ziegler stepped from his garden and showed me into his study. Oak beams, panelled walls and a large open fireplace created an old world atmosphere.**

From the large bay windows I had a wonderful view the New Forest. Not a single house or building marred the scene. Just green foliage in the foreground with rolling hills reaching to the horizon.

Maj. Ziegler loves the country and the New Forest is so much a part of his life that Picket Orchard, just inside the edge of the New Forest, is his ideal home.

It was his love of the country that influenced his action in strongly opposing a London County Council proposal four years ago to build a large new town, with a suggested population of 40,000 at Avon Castle.

Maj. Ziegler was not by any means the only person in the area to oppose this plan, for the public meeting called to discuss it created tremendous interest.

The room where the meeting was held was full, there were many standing and the reaction of everyone present provided him with one of his most outstanding memories in his 20 years as a member of Ringwood and Fordingbridge R.D.C. "Everyone was against the plan," recalled the Major.

## FOUGHT HARD.

During the whole of his council service, Maj. Ziegler has fought hard for what he considered right and his five years chairmanship of the Council is evidence of the confidence and trust placed in him by his fellow councillors.

He retired from the Council at the last elections, but the age of 74 he is still a man of many activities and interests.

**He has been a member of the County Council for the Burley division since 1949 and this work takes up a great deal of his time.**

As chairman of the County's Civil Defence committee he takes an active interest in civil defence work throughout the county and is always keen to increase the strength of the Corps.

"However serious the damage done by a bomb and however great the area of destruction there is a much larger area of partial damage where there are people to be rescued and fires to put out," he said. "Lack of preparation is an invitation to any enemy to come and bomb us."

## DEPUTY LIEUTENANT.

Maj. Ziegler is president and chairman of the New Forest Commoners' Defence Association and is on the Councils of the New Forest Pony and Cattle Breeding Society and the New Forest Association. He has been a deputy Lieutenant of the County since 1956 and is also on the committee of the Christchurch Division of the Red Cross Society.

Born at Didsbury, near Manchester, Maj. Ziegler was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, before being commissioned in the Royal Artillery in December, 1903.

**He served in India and Ireland as well as at home and went abroad with the Expeditionary Force at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. Abroad throughout the War, he was**

**awarded the D.S.O. in 1917. He retired in 1921 and during the last war commanded the Ringwood Company of the Home Guard.**

Major Ziegler was married in 1921 to Miss Dora May Barnwell, of Balfron, Stirlingshire, but has been a widower since 1942. He has two sons, Mr. P. O. Zeigler, a solicitor at Lymington, and Mr. P. S. Zeigler, in the Foreign Office and at present serving in Paris. His only daughter is Mrs. G. Errington, whose husband, formerly chief test pilot with Airspeed, Ltd., is with de Havilland's.

#### BUILT BY "SQUATTER."

Major Zeigler has lived at Picket Orchard since his retirement from the Army. The house was originally a small cottage, built about 150 years ago by a New Forest "squatter."

In those days, he explained, there was a custom whereby if anyone could erect a fence, build a fireplace and have a fire burning before the Forest keepers caught him, the land was his. The people were called "squatters," but the practice was stopped in 1854, if not earlier.

In the porch overlooking the three acre grounds of the house is a large ship's bell. This was loaned to the Ringwood Council during the war and was positioned on the top of the Council buildings, where it was used as a fire alarm.

**The bell is now used to summon Major Ziegler from the grounds of Picket Orchard when he is wanted on the telephone.**