

Next Mayor of Croydon



ALD. COL. C. H. GIBSON

A MAN who has distinguished himself as a soldier, a builder and a civic administrator has been chosen as next Mayor of Croydon. The Mayoral Selection Committee on Monday night unanimously recommended Croydon Town Council to elect Alderman Colonel Charles Herbert Gibson to succeed Councillor Ernest Turner next May.

By profession, Colonel Gibson is a master builder and he is the founder of the well-known firm of C. H. Gibson, Ltd., Thornton Heath.

When he was first elected in November, 1921, he was one of the youngest members of Croydon Town Council. He represented the Central Ward and was appointed a member of the Croydon Finance Committee in 1925.

WORLD TOUR

In January, 1930, he retired from the Town Council to go on a tour round the world. On his return, he took an active interest in various organisations in the town and at the Municipal Elections of November, 1932, he was returned to the Town Council, again as a representative for Central Ward.

He has served on most of the principal committees of the Town Council and recently has been prominent as representative for Croydon on the board of the Crystal Palace trustees. It is largely through his efforts that plans have been prepared for the reopening of the Palace grounds as a sports and recreation centre.

Col. Gibson first came to Croydon in 1908 and from 1914 to 1918 he was the Commanding Officer of a Company in the Royal Engineers. He was wounded and spent eleven months in hospital.

Soon after the outbreak of World War II, he was given leave of absence by Croydon Town Council for the duration of the war to enable him to rejoin the Forces. He took a commission in the Royal Engineers and went to France, where he was quickly promoted from the rank of captain to major. In 1941 he was promoted from Deputy Commander to Commander in the Royal Engineers with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

IN DUNKIRK RETREAT

Colonel.

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During the fateful German advance and the Dunkirk retreat in June, 1940, Col. Gibson brought his unit back from Rheims after an exciting journey via St. Malo, with a loss of four officers and 91 men from the original company.

Both Col. Gibson and his wife were on active service in World War II. Mrs. Gibson, who was in the A.T.S., was on the staff of Lady Lawrence.

Colonel Gibson is one of the senior members of Croydon Rotary Club and he has always been prominent in the social life of the town.

He serves as a member of the South West Regional Hospital Board and the Croydon Group Hospital Committee. He is a Whitgift Governor and chairman of Croydon Council Planning and Development Committee.

In his spare time Col. Gibson is a keen golfer, and a member of Croham Hurst Golf Club.

COUNCIL TRIBUTE

A tribute to the work of Col. Gibson was paid at Monday's meeting of Croydon Town Council by Alderman L. A. Aston, chairman of the Finance Committee, who said: "I am sure we owe a debt of gratitude to Col. Gibson for his efforts in bringing into public use a substantial area of land at the Crystal Palace. I hope he will continue his efforts and see that ultimately a building is put on the site worthy of the town of Croydon and the surrounding district."

FIRE BRIGADE