

MAJ. WHITAKER COMMENDED BY ARMY OFFICER

Former Lindsay Soldier Doing Excellent Work in Charge of Sea Coast Battery.

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Many Lindsay friends will be interested in reading the following

article from the Globe and Mail concerning the inspection by a British officer of a sea coast battery, which has been in charge of Major E. G. Whitaker, who for some time was a resident of Lindsay and served successfully with the reserves and



Major Whitaker

later in the active service unit in Lindsay, Cobourg, and is now on the eastern coast. The article:

A Royal Canadian Artillery Base on the Atlantic Coast, Nov. 30.—High up on a granite crag which dominates the approaches to a strategic harbor is this heavy anti-aircraft post, manned by fighting soldiers from most of the Provinces of the Dominion. Its glistening brand new guns can do double duty raking the skies or searching out landing craft or tanks for miles along this vital coastal area.

Hewn out of the solid rock, in cracks and depressions below the skyline, are dotted the battery's messes and barracks. Great shattered chunks of granite everywhere mark how dynamite charges have riven the surface of the crag to level off the positions for the gun emplacements.

Perhaps nowhere in Canada is one closer to the war than in the Atlantic Command, and yet a strange feeling of security and peace—perhaps it is confidence inspired by these fine men and their weapons—strikes you during a visit

Commanded by a grey-hatched artillery veteran, Major E. G. Whitaker, of Lindsay, a native of Toronto, the battery is constantly on the alert twenty-four hours in the day. Screened as it is from the view of any enemy on land or sea, it constitutes a vital link in the chain of defences which encircle an important harbour and sea port.

A tortuous road, hacked out through the rock, winds up several hundred yards from the shore. Over it have come the guns and their carriages, other equipment and supplies, and the giant tractors which pulled the ten-ton pieces up almost perpendicular cliffs to the gun emplacements.

A recent visitor to the battery Colonel J. G. Muirhead, D.S.C. I.I.C., a British artillery officer who organized the anti-aircraft defences of Tobruk during the long siege, whistled with admiration when he climbed to the peak. Just completing a tour of artillery positions all over North America, he described this one as "the toughest gun site I have ever seen."

Every man in the battery is trained in Commando work—and well he might be. At night, when action stations are called, he must be able to make his way without even the glimmer of a flashlight at top speed from his barrack house to his position, over rocks and gorse and broken ground that tax one's balance and leg muscles at the best of times.

A solitary aircraft spotter is always on duty. Equipped with a log sent from R.C.A.F. headquarters every morning, he checks off all regular flights of Air Force and civilian planes. Bombardier Mike Wolfe of Hamilton, who takes his turn with the binoculars, can tell you exactly what aircraft is coming when all you can see is a dot in the sky or a faint hum of motors. Any unexpected aircraft, not listed on his flight schedule, gets special attention from the spotter, and the entire battery can be called to action in a few seconds.