

Gift - parcels to soldiers

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In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will close hoping my small effort to describe Independence Day has interested you, and on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank you one and all for your fine attendance."

A splendid home made Supper was served, a great undertaking to satisfy nearly 500 people. Very special thanks are due to the Organisers of the entertainment Mrs. Gionetti and Miss Bernold. The magnificent effort in organising the function is clearly shown in the profit returned which amounted to £60. This money is to be divided between the Lowgarth W.D.E.U., the Lowgarth Farwell Committee and the Soldiers' Parcels Funds.

On behalf of the Committee,

Miss I. Bernold.

AUCKLAND SOCIAL SCUTTLE!!!!

Although War Clouds hover around Switzerland, Auckland celebrated another year of her Independence. If, by some misfortune, you weren't able to attend, let me tell you what you missed.....

You missed a large, cosy, room decorated with flags and posters, with a roaring fire, filled with homey people, a sprinkle of youthful laughter, from the descendants of the Swiss populating New Zealand, a wonderful supper, wine and song, but - these were just a few of the things that helped to make our social go with a swing. We had some yodels sung by the younger generation, we must give them credit, you would think they had been born in Switzerland, and at least you could see their heart was in the songs they sung. We had yodels by the older generation, you could imagine yourself sitting on the sunny slopes of the mountains, deep in thought, amongst the Edelweiss and the sweet smelling mountain flowers, thinking of the times when you have called the cattle home yourself. I do declare that someone threw off about the hats women wear today - maybe he was just a little jealous - or lucky - that a little bit of straw and a little bit of felt didn't sit perky like, on his left ear and obstruct his vision. Other humorous items were provided by one of our ladies; an interlude of song was rendered by a charming singer, accompanied by a gifted pianist. Talent ran high amongst the tiny tots, one danced her way into your heart and another favoured us with a song which was exceptionally well sung. All of a sudden the lights went out - and out of the eerie blackness two pink lights started dancing. This was a club swinging number provided by one of the boys. Those who had been indulging in the cider saw more than two - I guarantee. Supper was very daintily arranged and everyone was feeling at home and partook freely. The girl waitresses in national costume, were called upon for returns of tea and coffee. I want to say a big "TANKS" for our one man orchestra. Does he realize how important he was and how he was appreciated, not only by the dancing enthusiasts, but by the whole jolly gathering. To the tune of his accordion, happy voices sung and laughed, while youthful feet danced the light fantastic.

I turned in tired but happy, slept long and peaceful and dreamt sweet dreams of Swiss chalets - did you -- or did you miss it?

B.R. HALTMEYER. HON. SEC.

GIFT - PARCELS TO SOLDIERS.

Some 6 or 8 months ago your Committee despatched 10 Gift-Parcels to sons of Swiss Compatriots serving with the N.Z. Forces overseas. It was considered that such a gesture would meet with the general approval of all our members. We know that, not only the recipients, but the next-of-kin as well are greatly appreciative for these small gifts, which after all are only a small and insignificant token of goodwill towards our fine Boys, who gave up home, position and comfort.

A number of acknowledgments reached us recently from some of our young friends, and it is with some pride we give you the following extracts:

From Pte. W. L. Elmiger: "A short note of thanks for the much appreciated parcel of tinned food etc., which reached me in perfect condition. I also get an odd copy of the "Helvetia" posted from home, so I am quite aware of the good job the Society is doing. Thanking you once again, etc."

From Werner Ungemuth: "I should be pleased if you would convey to your Society my appreciation for the comfort parcel which has just arrived. The kind thought behind it will not be forgotten. I am glad my health is Al and trust the same can be said of yourself and all friends. Thanking you again, etc."

From George Giacometti: "I am taking this opportunity of thanking you very sincerely for the parcel sent by you on behalf of the Swiss people. The contents were in perfect condition and I assure you were highly appreciated. Once again my heartfelt thanks for your thoughtfulness. Sincerely yours, etc."

From Wally Ungemuth: "Today, on returning from leave, I found a parcel from The Swiss Benevolent Society waiting for me. I wish to thank the people of the Society for this most welcome gift. I have just spent a day in Rome on leave. The morning and afternoon were taken up with tours to St. Peters, the Colosseum and other places of historical interest. To see the place properly would take over a week of which at least three days could be spent in St. Peters. In one of the Halls of the Church, I saw a Swiss Guard dressed in the famous colourful uniform designed by Michelangelo. We could not loiter on these tours as there were other parties seeing the sights, therefore I could not fall out and have a chat. I won't forget my visit to this beautiful city. Well, thanks once again, etc"

From Pte. M. Cattin: "I wish to thank the Swiss Benevolent Society for the parcel sent to me in the Pacific. It arrived in perfect condition before I began my return journey. I am now home again on furlough and can assure you that parcels were always greatly appreciated by us during the long months spent in the Islands. Thanking you again, etc."

From Don Doerflinger: "Just a few lines to express my appreciation for the parcel I received from you recently, the contents of which were in perfect order."

Although some of the Boys have been drafted home recently, others are still overseas, and we intend to send further comforts as soon as ever possible. Will those compatriots having sons or relatives serving overseas, please communicate with the Secretary immediately, giving full addresses.

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THE CANONISATION OF NIKLAUS VON DER FLUE.

All conditions for canonisation laid down in canon law having been fulfilled, the canonisation of Niklaus von der Flue will take place in due course, i.e. after the war, in the traditional solemn manner in St. Peter's at Rome.

The "Osservatore Romano" has published the letter of thanksgiving which the "postulator" of the canonisation, Dr. Paul Krieg, Chaplain of the Swiss Guard, has addressed to the Pope. In this letter Mon. Krieg expresses the satisfaction of the catholic Swiss population that Brother Klaus who is held in veneration by all of them, is now to be numbered with the saints, and feels sure that the Swiss of other denominations will also share these sentiments. Mons. Krieg outlines in his letter the efforts which have been made through the centuries and which have now been crowned with success. But he modestly refrains from mentioning his own untiring efforts in this direction.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR GIFT OF WOOLLEN WEAR.

It is nearly three years ago since the last dispatch of woollen garments for the Swiss Soldiers Relief Work left New Zealand, but even after such a long time there are still letters of thanks coming in which prove how very welcome these gifts were. The following is a translation of part of a letter which was received recently from the family of a Swiss soldier with four small children, whose breadwinner has been ill for a long time: