

Acknowledgement for gift of woollen wear

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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:

"We wish to express in this letter our heartiest thanks for the greetings which came to us from so far away. We would have loved to have the donor who knitted the "Ohrenkappe" amongst us, so that she could have seen with her own eyes how delighted our small boy was, when he was presented with this garment. "This is something I have wished for a very long time for my skiing", he exclaimed, and when he was shown the picture of the Botanical garden which was enclosed, he felt very proud indeed of his benefactor..."

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In view of the fact that the head of the Vichy-French Government, Marshall Petain, apparently is in captivity, the Swiss Government have recalled the Swiss Minister at Vichy, Dr. Walter Stucki. On the other hand, the Vichy ambassador at Berne, M. Paul Morand, has declared that his mission has come to an end as he is completely out of touch with Marshall Petain and Pierre Laval.

Numbers of German soldiers have fled into Switzerland over the borders near Geneva, and have been interned.

The precipitate military events in France have induced the Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army to mobilise additional troops to defend the Swiss frontiers. The borders most exposed are in the Jura mountain region from Geneva to Basel. The Swiss radio confirms the arrival of allied troops at the borders of Switzerland near Geneva. The Swiss message emphasizes the importance of the fact that the country is no longer surrounded by only one side of the belligerents.

SWISS TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRITAIN & U.S.A.: Following the liberation of the French region of Savoy bordering on Switzerland and the arrival of allied troops on the Swiss borders near Geneva, Switzerland has concluded new trade arrangements with Britain and U.S.A. As soon as it is technically possible, Swiss exports to countries of the allied nations and imports from there will again be facilitated. Swiss radio expressed satisfaction at the re-establishment of physical contact with both sides of the belligerents. It is hoped that this will also bring about improvements in the Swiss supply position.

CO-OPERATION OF SWITZERLAND IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE: In a public speech in May, Swiss Federal Councillor Etter said "Switzerland is prepared to co-operate, according to her ability, in the material and moral reconstruction of the European nations and the community of nations, after the war. The question of how our economic strength can be made available for material reconstruction is, at the present time, the subject of deliberation. It is our duty to define what possibilities we can offer for the material and moral reconstruction of the family of nations".

SOCIAL SECURITY: New progressive social legislation will play an important part in the deliberations of the forthcoming September Assembly of the Swiss Parliament. In a recent address, the Social Democrat member of the Swiss Federal Council, M. Ernst Nobs, declared that his colleagues in the governing body of the Federation, belonging to other political parties, were in full accord with him regarding the issue. Although experiments made in this field in other countries would not be overlooked, it was the consensus of opinion that in Switzerland a solution had to be found which was in keeping with the spirit of the Swiss people and the economic fundamentals of the country.

REFUGEE PROBLEM IN SWITZERLAND: The Swiss radio declared that the refugee problem in Switzerland is one of the most important with which the country is confronted. At the beginning of 1944 there were 70,493 civilian refugees in Switzerland. This invasion is raising many political and economic problems. Up to now the Swiss Federal Government has spent about £NZL 700,000 for the support of these refugees and this sum does not include a number of large grants advanced by private welfare organisations.

ALIEN CHILDREN RELIEF: Children's Relief Organisations in Switzerland are preparing to take into their custody many more of these little foreign guests in need of help. Alien children up to the age of 14 will be admitted into Switzerland without exception, in cases where their lives and health are in danger.