

# Interned flyers ski and study in Swiss camp

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On the other hand, melioration works in agriculture, the increased cultivation plan and also the national defense works are occupying a large number of workers.

Finally, the Swiss Army which is vigilantly guarding our independence also keeps a considerable number of men under arms.

The prices during the past three months have remained almost stable and the general cost of living has increased by only 0.9%. Since the beginning of war, Swiss tourist traffic has greatly changed its face. In this connection, it is interesting to learn that still in April, May and June 1937, the number of foreign tourists totaled 245,000 persons and that in 1944 this number has only reached 18,000.

The Swiss railways have continually seen the number of passengers increase during the first six months of this year. They have transported 95.9 million people, i.e. 9 million more than during the first semester of 1943. Freight traffic on the other hand has diminished by some 587,000 tons during the same period.

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#### SWISS SYSTEM FOR MILITARY TRAINING.

When President Roosevelt recently put to the public the problem of postwar military training for the nation's youth, polls had already shown the public favoring such a proposal by a majority of nearly 2 to 1.

Below follow excerpts from the leading editorial in the New York Journal-American of August 25, entitled: "The Swiss System".

"What the American people truly and wisely want and need is a constructive and wholesome and democratic system of military training for all youth, which can be depended upon to maintain high physical, mental and moral standards and which can be relied upon to maintain an adequate and constant and competent reservoir of citizens prepared and trained for the defense of their country.

Fortunately, there is such a system, long established and efficiently functioning in one of the real democracies of the world, as the Hearst newspapers have often noted in the past.

It is the successful and democratic Swiss System.

With this system, the democracy of Switzerland has kept out of the two greatest wars in history which have raged all around her.

The safety of Switzerland has unquestionably been in the preparedness of the people. The peace of Switzerland has been the reward of her preparedness. And yet Switzerland has never been a military nation. The Swiss people have never been a military people.

Since the American people have become almost universally agreed upon the need for compulsory military training, let us be sure that we adopt a system that will protect and preserve our American democracy and not destroy it.

We have no better example before us, for the attainment of this essential and vital objective, than the beneficial example of provident Switzerland."

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#### INTERNEED FLYERS SKI AND STUDY IN SWISS CAMP.

Life in Camp Maloney, where several hundred American aviators are interned in Switzerland, is described in a report recently received in New York from the neutral representative of the War Prisoners' Aid of the World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A. The camp was named for the first American aviator to lose his life on Swiss soil.

Dorothy Dunbar Bromley writes in the "Herald Tribune":

"The men live in a converted hotel, the Nevada Palace, on the edge of the town of Abelboden. They hike, climb mountains and ski and coast in the wintertime. Their Swiss skiing instructor is a professional. This last winter they used the rink in front of the hotel for skating.

The camp life is planned so that each hour of the day is taken up. The mornings are given to study and lectures, and the afternoons to sport, laboratory work and hobbies. The Americans themselves have helped convert the hotel into a camp. They made furniture in the carpentry and woodworking shop for the two club lounges, one for the officers and the other for the non-commissioned officers. They built bookcases for the library and tables for the typing and mechanical drawing classes. An artistic signboard of their own design now spans the entrance to the grounds.

Three practice rooms for musicians have been installed on the top floor of the hotel, two of them with pianos, where music students may work without disturbing their comrades. The men also have a well-equipped photographic laboratory and another for radio construction and repair.

Professor A. Velleman, of the University of Geneva, has been engaged as director of education. He is assisted by Captain Lloyd Free of the American Legation in Bern. Professor Velleman teaches and lectures; the other instructors are members of the interned group.

Most popular course is typing, which was attended by twenty-seven men when the war prisoners' air representative paid his visit. Twenty-five men were taking mechanical drawing; twenty, French; seventeen, German; seventeen, accounting; fifteen, carpentry, and ten, piano. Classes with a somewhat smaller attendance were being held in mathematics, agriculture, American history, photography, radio, saxophone, trumpet and accordion. A machine-shop practice class with ten men enrolled had to be abandoned for lack of necessary equipment.

Since the men are required to take classes filling three hours each morning, and the range of courses is limited. Some have had to study subjects which were not their first choice. But all of the men were found hard at work. They admitted they were making profitable use of their time. Most of the courses will be integrated into the American Armed Forces Institute's program and the men will receive credit in American colleges and schools.

The men see motion pictures two nights a week in "Mac and Ben's Alpine Theatre", named for the two internees who run them off. They have chess tournaments and other indoor games. An old English chapel, which was serving as a hay barn, was about to be converted into a gymnasium, by special permission from England."

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#### SWISS NOW LIFT BLACKOUT.

Berne, Sept. 12.- Faced with the growing danger of a serious incident as the battle grows hotter in the Belfort Gap, the Swiss Federal Council, in an extraordinary session this morning, decreed the lifting of blackout restrictions throughout the country, effective as of tonight.

The measure was first introduced in November, 1940, after Axis accusations that Switzerland's lights were guiding British aviators to north Italian objectives and it has been in effect ever since.

Today's measures followed four days of serious frontier violations, almost without interruption, during which American planes bombed and strafed Swiss railroad stations and long-distance express trains, fortunately without causing any loss of life.

The Federal Council also drew up a firmly worded note, which has been dispatched to the Swiss Legations at Washington, London and Berlin, reporting the repeated violations and demanding that adequate steps be taken to protect Swiss aerial neutrality in the future. (The New York Times.)

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