

Catholic Church service in commemoration of the Swiss national day

Autor(en): **C. S.**

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welcome to this country and patriotic greetings from our gathering. We wish him every success in his new and responsible post and look forward to having the honour of his visit to our Colony.

R.....R.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST IN LIVERPOOL

The fifth Bundesfeier under conditions of war, presented us with a similar problem as last year and we solved it in a similar way.

For the Swiss living in or near Prestatyn the Consulate arranged for afternoon tea in the garden of "Holmesdale", the Consul's Bungalow, and Mrs. L. J. Faivre, the chancellor's wife, received the guests. Amongst these was our senior Swiss lady, Mrs. Steffen from Basle, now 85, who simply longs for the day when Swiss Air will fly her back to her native town. With her daughter, Mrs. Cheetham senior, and her granddaughter-in-law, Mrs. Cheetham junior with her little boy Christopher, four generations were represented. His father, Captain Cheetham is away with the Anti-Aircraft gunners. The day was a perfect summer day and the hills and coastline of North Wales looked their best. We sent a message of good wishes to our new Minister, good wishes for the success of his Mission, but good wishes also for the safety of himself and his collaborators now that London is in danger day and night from flying bombs.

In Liverpool, Mrs. Macquarie and Mrs. Davidson had arranged a pic-nic on Bidston Hill, a ridge on the Wirral peninsula, with an extensive view over the Mersey and Dee, Liverpool Bay and the hills of North Wales. It is a ridge of sandstone with pine trees and heather and on it stands the astronomical and meteorological station of the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board. In that party was included Mlle. Bähler who has succeeded in reaching the age of 87, which makes some of us look quite young by comparison. Friend Troxler of Bold Street sent to the party a real Swiss "Torte" and with the other good things provided, they fared very well and the outing was voted a great success. However, the main thing was to keep in contact and to feel we must stand together however disruptive the war may be, and these two ladies from Schaffhausen and Geneva, the organisers of this little fête deserve our gratitude. The Swiss in London, in danger as they are, were in the mind of the party and a small sum was sent to the Rev. Mr. Pradervand for any one needing help. If that help is needed on a larger scale I feel sure if an appeal was made it would meet with a good response from the Swiss Colonies in the north. We have not forgotten what air raids are like, although our recollection is of night raids only.

E.M.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT THE SWISS CHURCH

A joint service in French and German was held at the Swiss Church, Endell Street, W.C. 2, on Sunday morning, the 30th July. It was very well attended by members of the Colony, and the newly arrived Swiss Minister, M. Paul Ruegger, was present.

Rev. M. Pradervand opened the service by reading the well known pact of 1291. Its impressive beginning:

"In the name of God", shows that the founders of the Swiss Confederation framed their laws in the fear of God. Rev. Pradervand then spoke of the danger through which this land is passing, as a result of bombardments by pilotless planes. This does not prevent us from turning our thoughts for a few moments to our homeland which we have not seen for five years. We are thankful to God that it has been spared the horrors of war. We pray that God may protect it in the future and guide its leaders through the difficult periods, both economic and military, that lie ahead. We have also reason to thank God that our land has been able to render help to the suffering nations. As a little island surrounded by countries which have seen the ravages of the war, it sends relief, through the Red Cross in Geneva. This help is given in the spirit of the Cross, and we, as the people of the Cross, realise the divine implication. The Cross reminds us that liberty in its highest form is only found in the spiritual realm, founded on the promise of Jesus Christ that if the Son of God makes us free, then we shall be free indeed.

Rev. Pradervand then spoke on a passage taken from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossian 3.16: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." Our great reformer, Calvin, was an outstanding man of God's Word. He once said: "It pleased God by a sudden conversion to make me obedient to His Word." There was the secret of his great personality: Obedience to the Word of God. This word gives *Life*, and they that come to Jesus Christ will have life abundant. It is also a Word of *Peace*. In a world without peace the peace of Christ will sustain us. It is further a Word of *Love*, and how necessary it is that it should dwell in us richly, and find expression in our Colony.

With faith in the Word of God, the future will be faced courageously and with confidence. Of inner conviction we can then join in the Swiss Psalm and sing:—

Through the wild and stormy night,
Thou dost shield us with Thy might,
Omnipotent Saviour,
Lord of all.
Humbly in our God confiding,
Conscious of His love abiding.
Yes, we feel and understand
That He dwells in our land.

W.F.

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

It is perhaps not generally known that the Swiss Catholics of London's place of worship is their local English Catholic Parish Church, and, not having a Church of their own, special services which unite them like f.i. the one in commemoration of the Swiss National Fete, have to be held where hospitality is obtainable. This of late had been at St. Peter and St. Edward in Palace Street, Victoria, but this Church having lately sustained damage, it was uncertain if repairs would be sufficiently advanced to make it usable by July 30th. Fortunately this turned out to be the case, but only just in time for invitations to be sent out in the last minute. Under these circumstances and

the well-known other impediments, the Committee was gratified to see an attendance better than could be expected and everybody was very pleased to see the Community honoured by the presence of His Excellency the new Swiss Minister and Madame Ruegger, accompanied by Monsieur Girardet and Colonel Bon. The Swiss colours adorned the altar and the Swiss flag was displayed around the pulpit. Father Lanfranchi, going up to the altar to officiate intoned the Schweizerpsalm: "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" sung by the choir and congregation, to the accompaniment of a harmonium, replacing the damaged organ (evidently also regarded as a military object). His impressive sermon touched the Christian as well as the patriotic cords of his audience and in spite of the short notice and all other difficulties, the choir gave their best to embellish the hour, and a well qualified soloist, ably accompanied, added a much appreciated contribution to the harmonious atmosphere. The service ended in a note of thanksgiving for the preservation of our dear country with the hymn, well known there and here: "Grosser Gott wir loben Dich".

C.S.

PERSONAL

A luncheon was offered by our new Minister, M. Paul Ruegger, on Wednesday, August 9th, at the Dorchester, to the Swiss Economic Delegation, on completion of their mission. From the list handed to the press we notice the presence of the American Ambassador, Officials from the Board of Trade engaged in the deliberations, and the colleagues of the Minister at the Legation; also honoured with an invitation had been Dr. G. G. Kullmann, Col. C. E. de Watteville and Dr. P. de Wolff.

* * *

The chief of the London Delegation of the International Red Cross Committee has now entered upon his functions at the Pall Mall offices. He is Col. C. E. de Watteville; one London paper describes him as a genial, witty man and we should like to add that he has the great fortune of being the brother of one of the most accomplished hostesses of the social world, Madame C. R. Paravicini. Of course, a de Watteville requires no introduction in London but the Colonel finds himself in the company of another trusted friend, M. Paul Ruegger, with whom he was serving as Military Attaché when the latter was our Minister at Rome.

* * *

We have recently been shown a letter from an old friend of ours, Mr. B. Bretscher, who in the far gone days took an active part in the London Colony as a committee member of the S.M.S. He is now in New York after a lengthy stay at Bermuda. All his three sons joined the British forces and the youngest one, Eric, aged 23½, has now been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice whilst on R.A.F. operations.

* * *

The Wolverhampton "Express & Star, August 14th," reveals that General Eisenhower's chef at his French headquarters is a British born Swiss, Private H. P. Hug, of the Royal Catering Corps. Before the war he was chef at a leading London Hotel and he follows in his father's footsteps, who is well-known in the catering trade and who is in business at Blackpool. The French say "La soupe fait le soldat" and Private Hug's "Spatz" certainly seems to have done the trick.

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HOUSEKEEPER wanted by Swiss business couple, out all day. Simple continental cooking. Suburb of North London. Write Box No. 58, SWISS OBSERVER, 23 Leonard Street, E.C. 2.

GOOD WAGES, comfortable home offered to capable Cook General. Apply direct to Mrs. G. Baker, "Portway," Beaconsfield (Bucks.), or 'phone for information to Mrs. Borel, Hampstead 2217.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Unione Chretienne de langue française (French speaking Y.M.C.A.) 9, Soho Square, W.1, Reunion chaque mardi à 5.45 p.m. Invitation cordiale à tous.

Tuesday, September 26th.—London Swiss Philatelic Society.—Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1. Official part at 5.45 p.m. sharp, afterwards "Swopping."

Saturday, September 30th, 1944.—Unione Ticinese.—Seventieth Anniversary, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W. 1. Details later.

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