

Swiss defence news

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SWISS DEFENCE NEWS

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

Following the "Mirage Affair", various new military appointments were made. The major ones have already been reported. Further appointments which came into effect on 1st January are:

The Swiss Defence Commission, chief advisory organisation in questions of military defence attached to the head of the Federal Military Department, consists of the following eight voting members: Federal Councillor Chaudet as Chairman, Corps Commander Frick (Chief of Training), Corps Commander Gygli (Chief of General Staff), Corps Commanders Dubois, Ernst, Zueblin, Uhlmann and Studer.

The following high officers have been promoted:

Colonel Theophil Mosimann to Commander of Field Division 3. Readers will remember Col. Mosimann from his stay in London as Military Attaché from 1957 to 1962.

Colonel Fritz Maurer to Divisional Commander of Field Division 8. Colonel of General Staff Hans Wildbolz will become chief of planning, though he will for the time being command the Panzer Regiment 8.

Brigadier James Thiébaud and Brigadier Eduard Hensel to commanders of Frontier Brigades, and Colonel Ferdinand Bietenholz to Chief of Staff of Field Army Corps 4 (rank of Brigadier).

Colonel of General Staff Otto Meyer to Brigadier in charge of a "Réduit" Brigade. Colonel Denis Borel and Colonel of General Staff Kurt Bolliger to Chiefs in the General Staff Section.

Corps Commander Jakob Annasohn who resigned his post in connection with the "Mirage Affair" has been appointed by the Federal Council to study questions of needs in a possible total war as it would affect Swiss defence.

MILITARY BUDGET

In the federal budget for 1965, military expenditure is estimated at 1,523 million francs which is 32 million francs higher than the budget for 1964 and actual expenditure in 1963. Current expenditure is estimated at 898, administration 30, training 253, providing material 257, buildings and establishments 10, purchasing and keeping of horses 12, running of military establishments 246, activities outside the service 18, various 72 million francs.

VARIOUS

The Federal Council has asked the Federal Assembly for various credits for the purchase of land for military purposes: aircraft works Emmen 1,535 million francs, additional credit for the extension of a wartime airfield 1,078 million francs, further grant for the extension of the military establishment in Chur, various individual credits 42.41 and unforeseen 15 million francs.

There is still a great deal of opposition to a military establishment in the Franches Montagnes, and discussions continue.

The first "Swiss" Mirage III—2303 flight took place on the military airfield of Emmen where it had been assembled.

The automatic rifle will henceforth be issued to all recruits and non-commissioned officers in training of all units except the Medical Corps. The decree of 1960 by

which a number of units were to receive the "Sturmgewehr" has been altered accordingly.

The "Swiss Branch of the International Organisation of Objectors to Military Service" organised a quiet demonstration in front of the Federal Houses of Parliament in Berne. The police foiled the arrangements completely by taking the thirty demonstrators into custody.

[A.T.S.]

ATOMIC PROJECTS IN SWITZERLAND

The management of the Bernese Motive Power Company has announced that it intends to build a nuclear power station in the proximity of a big sub-station, on the banks of the river Aar, some 7½ miles to the west of Berne. The power station, for which a site of some 330,000 sq. ft. has already been set aside, would have a power of 250 million Watts, produced by a single group of machines. Taking into consideration not only the actual construction work, which will take four years, but also the preparatory planning and preliminary safety measures, the planned nuclear centre could be expected to start operating in 1971.

[O.S.E.C.]

PROGRESS IN FISH-BREEDING

Trout breeding can only be carried out successfully if it is rationalized to offer a high degree of efficiency with small manpower requirements. In particular, the eggs have to be hatched in very pure water, rich in oxygen, at a fairly low and very precise temperature, all of which raises numerous technical and economic problems for fish-breeders. Making use of the latest scientific advances in this field, a specialized Swiss manufacturer recently put on the market a new hatching cabinet fully satisfying the required conditions of economy and reliability. This cabinet contains a number of hatching trays fitting one on top of the other, which represents a great saving of space. The water, brought to the required temperature by a heating or cooling system, flows through a tube situated in the middle of the tray, spreading outward and upward from the centre to the edges, runs out through openings situated round the edge of the tray, trickles down the sides and drips from a central point into the tube of the next tray. In this way, the water, which loses a little oxygen when in contact with the eggs, recovers it while flowing in a very fine film over the sides of each tray, so that ten trays can be fitted one on top of another in each cabinet, making it possible to hatch some 100,000 trout eggs at a time. As the cabinet is closed, the eggs are protected against outside effects and pollution. Any number of "Euvag" cabinets can be fitted side by side, with a central water heating and cooling device or a single unit with its own water conditioning device. Either way, the space taken up by these hatching cabinets is very small, which simplifies the work of supervision, the trays moreover being removable; in addition, the consumption of water and, consequently, electricity is very small, about one-tenth the quantities previously required; only approximately 1.8 litres a minute is needed for a cabinet with space for 100,000 eggs. The supply of water is automatic, for all pressures between 0.2 and 12 atmospheres, and the precise setting of the temperature makes it possible to lengthen or shorten the hatching period to satisfy practical requirements.

[O.S.E.C.]