

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 10 (1944-1945)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Swiss now lift blackout
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942742>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 08.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

"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."

.....

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.)

.....