

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 10 (1944-1945)  
**Heft:** 6  
  
**Rubrik:** Subscription fee

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The Swiss Medical Mission to Normandy in France has left Switzerland at les Verrieres after having received their instructions from Dr. Raymond, chief of the medical staff of the Swiss Red Cross. This mission has been organized in the framework of the "Swiss Gift to War Victims" for which action a nation-wide money collection has just been started in Switzerland.

Last Sunday, the Winter Army Championships came to a close in Montana. General Guisan, Commander in Chief of the Swiss Army spoke a few words to the competitors. At the present time, he said, it is not only the armor and the motor that count on the field of battle but also the personal value of the men, no matter what their armament or their grade may be. The General stressed the high quality of the physical preparation of our soldiers and officers.

On the occasion of the collection in behalf of war victims which will be taken up next week, on a scale unknown heretofore in Switzerland, the Post, Telephone and Telegraph Administration has permitted the usage of blue and not green remittance blanks for the first time in history. This blue bulletin is attached to the little booklet devoted to the "Swiss Gift for War Victims", which is to be distributed in all Swiss homes. This means that about 1.5 million copies will be distributed.

A few days ago, Switzerland's activity as protective power of Italian interests in Great Britain has come to a close. The task has now been transferred from the Swiss Legation in London to Count Nicolo Carandini, the Italian diplomatic representative who recently arrived in the British Capital. Italian citizens residing in the United Kingdom and Italian prisoners of war will therefore no longer be represented by Switzerland but by the Ambassador of the Bonomi government.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE: Payment of the 1944-45 fee has been exceptionally slow up to the present. We shall include special circulars with the "Helvetia", with the expectation that these reminders will not be left unheeded.

Please remit to either the Secretary; to the Treasurer, Mr. W. Ungemuth, Clarence Street, Northcote, Auckland; to Mr. A. Peyer, 48 Moa Road, Auckland, W.3; to Mr. John Steiner, Eastport Road, Waihou; to Mr. C. Gebert, P.O., Opotiki; or to Mr. E. Dickenmann, P.O. Box 386, Wellington.

We also wish to solicit the goodwill of those members who are willing and able to donate more, apart from the nominal fee.

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