

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 14 (1949)  
**Heft:** 2

**Artikel:** "Swiss National Defence - today and tomorrow" [continued]  
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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942873>

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It is interesting to note that, at the present time, the Swiss citizen is much more characteristically a Bernese, a Genevese, a Zuricher, a Basler, etc., than were ever the French in their century-old Central State, or the Germans, with the exception perhaps of the Bavarians. But, perhaps, in thirty or forty years, this internal migration of the Swiss population will already have resulted in the present strong Cantonal loyalty becoming transformed into an all-embracing feeling of love and loyalty to the Confederation as a whole. A change is now evolving under the influence of economic factors, which it is hardly possible to stop.

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"SWISS NATIONAL DEFENCE - TODAY AND TOMORROW."  
By: Peter Dürrenmatt.

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V. PECULIARITIES OF THE SWISS MILITIA SYSTEM.

The Swiss Militia is something quite special within the framework of the various modern military systems. Its particular character is responsible for the existence of a number of peculiarities in the organisation of its military service, which are unknown in other armies. To begin with, we would like to mention the nature and manner of the principle in accordance with which our general compulsory military service is carried out. This principle is conceived in so general and democratic a manner that it does not allow of any exceptions or any facilities in respect of any citizen capable of bearing arms. Every Swiss who is found to be apt for military service must attend an identical school for Recruits, whatever may be his social or financial position. Recruiting is carried out in such a way that only those who are suffering from physical or mental disabilities are dispensed from military service. The future officer or N.C.O., has to attend the same preliminary courses as the soldier and he trains in the company of comrades who will, perhaps, serve under his command at a future date. It is the personality of the man, rather than the rank he carries which will have the greatest influence on the troops under his command. The absolute equality which exists in the first period of military training through which everyone must go - and which is known as the "recruits school" signifies also that the Militia system fulfills a most important social task. For the School of Recruits, as we said a moment ago, brings together people of all classes and professions; educated men and labourers, workmen and farmers, merchants and craftsmen, the sons of big business men and those of their employees - and because they are set at learning the same lessons, and must undergo the same physical hardships, they, also, at the same time learn to know and respect each other. In this sense the recruits school is an essential factor in the democratic education of the citizen.

Another peculiarity of the Swiss Militia system is the intensity of the work accomplished. This is a thing which never fails to strike the foreign observer. The four months spent in the school of Recruits or the three weeks demanded by refresher courses, necessitate a very careful and thorough employment of this short time. Mornings and afternoons, as well as a couple of nights per week, are devoted to military instruction. It is only in this way that it is possible to attain in so short a time the results which are so surprising to the foreign observer.

The Swiss Army possesses neither decorations nor Generals. The rank of General is only applicable to the Commander-in-Chief and only in the case of a General Mobilisation, when the country is in a state of so-called "Active Service." In peacetime, it is the Federal Council which is invested with the supreme authority in military matters, an advisory council of high-ranking military experts being available for consultation. Commanders of Brigades, Divisions and Army Corps are ranked simply as "colonels"; in order however, to designate their specific function, they are styled, in accordance with their grade, as "Brigadier Colonel", "Divisionary Colonel" and "Colonel Corps Commander." These designations remain in use even when their possessors are transferred to other military

functions, as for example, to the General Staff. The appointment of a Commander-in-Chief is made by the Federal Council. The appointment of a General and of the Chief of the General Staff, when the Army is on active service, is a matter which is decided by the Federal Assembly. The absence of any form of decorations and of high ranks, is due to the particular attitude which prevails as regards military matters in this country, where the soldier is considered to be subordinate to the civilian and where any form of ostentatious display is heartily disliked for a democracy whose army is purely defensive and has not taken part in any wars for a long time. If military displays do occur occasionally, this only happens as a result of some external necessity. Thus, during those years when National Socialism was looked upon as being a great, imminent danger, the people demanded military parades and displays, because for them the will to be free and the spirit of resistance was embodied in their Army. In peace-time however, all such demonstrations are avoided. And this shows a further peculiarity of our system, namely, the practical manner in which our military instruction is directed. Drill is cut down to a minimum and - by the way - even this minimum is criticised by our public opinion. Modern warfare demands that the greatest care should be expended on the training of the military technicians, in order that they may be thoroughly conversant with the use of mechanised weapons. It must be stressed, however, that it is only possible to curtail drill in the Swiss Army to such a minimum because of the very high standard of education which exists in the country and the good upbringing which the generality of recruits have had in their homes.

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#### SUNDRY NEWS.

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The Federal Military Department has submitted to the Government a proposal to acquire another 100 Planes of the "Vampire" type. These planes have proved very successful and satisfactory.

On the labour market, due to the cold weather, there is a marked increase in the number of unemployed, the increase concerning mostly the Building trade. The total number unemployed at the end of December 1948 was 10,857 compared with 3,807 in November.

As communicated by the Praesens-Film AG., the traditional Review of film productions by the New York Press, resulted in the Swiss film "die Gezeichneten" being placed among the best productions of the World. The "New York Times" lists it among the ten best English-speaking films.

In Geneva, the first International School for Business Managers was inaugurated - it is called "Centre d'etudes industrielles" and the age of the "students" ranges from 25 to 40 years and they all occupy responsible posts in Industry.

Dr. Paul Egli, of Uzwil (St. Gall) has been nominated Professor at the Japanese University in Tokio.

A Poster (St. Moritz) of the St. Gall designer, Werner Weiskoenig, has achieved outstanding success at an International Exhibition in Vienna.

A number of Swiss factories participated in the construction of the first Spanish Television Station in Barcelona.

According to the newspaper "New York Star" the performances of a Swiss Conductor, Ernest Ansermet, in the United States, has proved such a success, that he will not be able to evade accepting the invitations for a second tour of the U.S.A.

The Swiss Commercial Air-lines are celebrating their 30th Anniversary. New