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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The current fuel shortage has evidently even affected reindeer-drawn sleighs as Father Christmas arrived this year to our party, gamely mounted bareback on a black horse with two attractive assistants alongside to make certain his gallant steed didn't suddenly decide to bolt.

The setting was Mr and Mrs Fuhrer's property at Ohariau Valley outside our new clubroom (courtesy of Mr and Mrs Fuhrer). The weather was perfect, not even a gentle zephyr stirred the air! — and many children and their parents awaited Father Christmas around a gaily decorated Christmas tree. We were very pleased to have with us our ambassador, Mr Corti and Mrs Corti and also Mr and Mrs Gelin and their charming daughter.

After Father Christmas had safely dismounted, the children sang carols to him and then a few children overcame their awe to recite and sing songs.

At last came the exciting moment the children had been waiting for, of receiving one of the colourfully wrapped gifts underneath the Christmas tree. Each child also received a bag of sweets, nuts and fruit and also a delightful Gritibänze made by Mr Hans Tresch.

Father Christmas then presented the cup for the best junior in the shooting competition held earlier in the year to Michael Tresch and also presented the medals which had been awarded to club members.

Alas, for poor Father Christmas, as while he had been busily engaged with giving out presents and medals, someone had taken his horse and he had to take his leave on foot.

By this time everyone had quite an appetite and had soon set about barbecuing their sausages, steaks, etc. and partaking of the delicious bean and potato salads, very generously provided by Mrs Corti. Later, coffee and cakes were served to round off the meal. Some people tested their skill on the kegelbahn and others gathered outside to sing carols around children holding lighted candles.

Inevitably came the time for departing and the end of a very enjoyable Christmas party.

— P. W.