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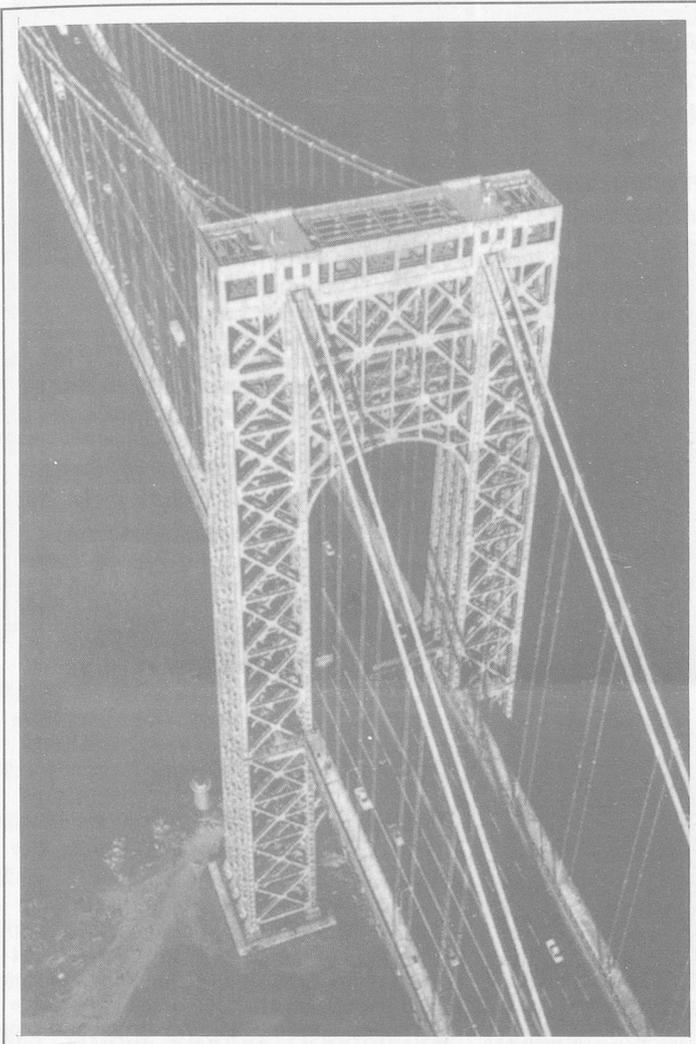
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Part of the famous George Washington bridge in New York.

MOST BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.

In the eyes of many engineers and architects, including Le Corbusier, the most beautiful bridge in the world is the George Washington bridge over the Hudson River connecting the city of New York with the State of New Jersey.

What makes this bridge even more interesting for us Swiss is the fact that it was designed and built by a compatriot, Othmar Ammann.

Born in 1879 in Feuerthalen (Schaffhausen), Othmar Ammann arrived in the USA in 1904 after finishing his studies at the "ETH" in Zurich. There he joined an engineering firm specialising in the construction of bridges. He was involved with the construction of the Hell Gate bridge, the last of the railway bridges to be built in New York. But the bridge that made Ammann famous worldwide is the George Washington bridge with its revolutionary design which was opened in 1936.

Ammann also acted as consulting engineer for the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco which could not have been built without the experience gained from the construction of the George Washington bridge. The Golden Gate bridge opened in 1937.

Ammann continued to design and build many more bridges over the years and his final work came in 1964, just one year before his death, with the opening of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge connecting Brooklyn with Staten Island (it is the bridge which is being crossed at the beginning of the traditional New York Marathon).

With a middle span of 1298 meters, it is just 20 meters longer than the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco and thus still holds the world record for the longest span.



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