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Swiss Federal Shooting Festival Aarau

Every 5 years the "ESF" takes place somewhere in Switzerland. This year, it was the region of Aarau which was chosen as a venue. 4 shooters from the Auckland Swiss Club, Ernst Lanz, Marcel Rüedi (President), Henry Werffeli (Rifle Master) and Othmar Storchenegger travelled halfway round the world to compete. 2 shooters, also from the Auckland Swiss Club, Hans and Ronny Enzler, were already in Switzerland holidaying there for some time. They were competing in the Swiss Abroad Competition only.



The Auckland Swiss Club Team

The shooting adventure started on Wednesday 30th of June. After Marcel collected Henry, Ernst and Othmar, we drove to the Brünig Indoor Shooting Sports Centre in Lungern. It is the first civilian subterranean 300m shooting range (worldwide unique). Each of us used 50 shots to test and fine tune the guns. Marcel and Henry shot with the Karabiner and Ernst and Othmar with the Sturmgewehr 57. Henry had some problems with his gun, as the gun seemed to have its own mind at times. Grab a Tui, Henry !

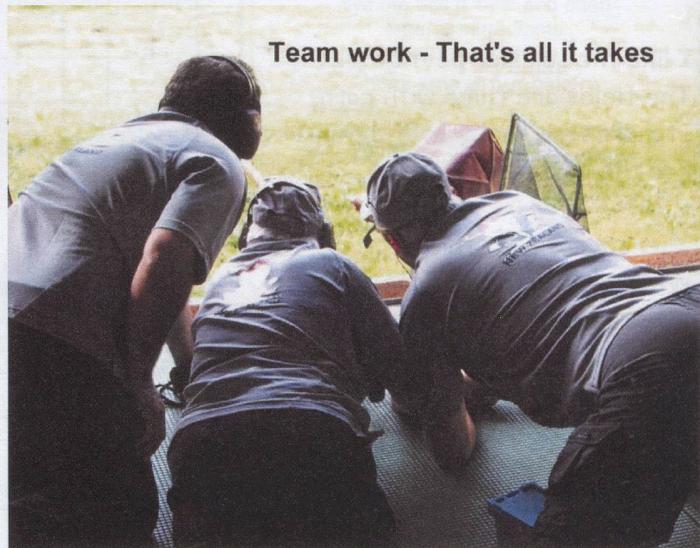
After the shooting practice, we drove to Brienz, where we stayed overnight.



An impressive Entrance to the Competition

Well rested, we drove to Bern. On the way, we stopped in Thun and visited the museum at beautiful Thun Castle. The visit of the new "Bärengraben" in Bern was a must. Finished in October 2009, the bears now live in a 6000 m² park along the banks of the River Aare. They can still access the large bear pit, now a historic monument. After wandering around the old town and eating lunch, we visited the Swiss Rifle Museum (Schützenmuseum).

Later in the afternoon we drove to Rapperswil, the "ESF" Shooting Centre, to collect our shooting booklets and to check and seal the guns. Henry was determined to get to the bottom of his gun problem by consulting the gun specialists. After a thorough check and clean of his gun by the problem solvers, Henry finally seemed to get the confidence back.



Team work - That's all it takes

On the 2nd of July, the four of us met at the shooting range in Suhr Obertel. We had 2 targets reserved for us in the afternoon. The weather was beautiful and the temperature 33 degrees. There was a lot of sweat, even so we did hit the target. Marcel couldn't get hold of sand bags to support his gun. Instead, he bought a little tripod. His Karabiner jumped for joy with every shot, not so Marcel. Othmar wasn't happy with the sights of his Sturmgewehr after the 1st competition and decided to use Ernst's, which had a "Ring Korn" and was shooting better results ! Henry and Ernst seemed to be "as happy as Larry".

The medal count of the day was as follows:

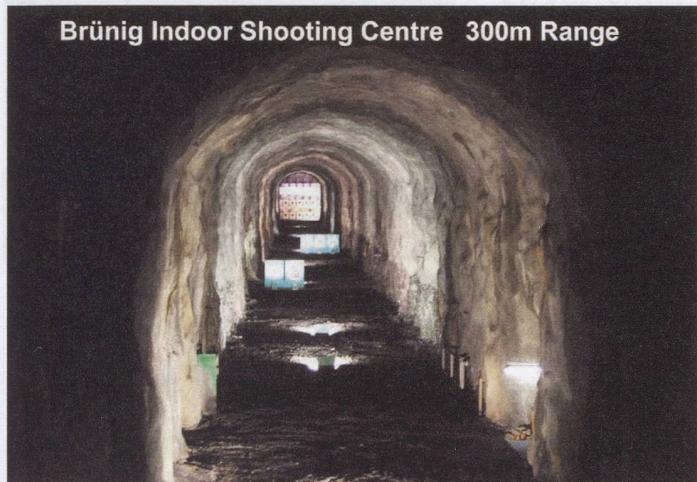
Henry:	1 medal "liegend Meisterschaft", 1 medal "4-fold Kranz"
Ernst:	1 medal "liegend Meisterschaft", 1 medal "single Kranz"
Marcel:	1 medal "single Kranz".
Othmar:	1 medal "triple Kranz"

Eidgenössisches Schützenfest "ESF"

The 3rd of July was the big day. All Swiss Abroad gathered for the big shoot at Suhr Obertel. 222 shooters from 21 clubs competed for honors. Everyone had 10 shots onto a A10 target (max 100 points) plus 5 sighting shots. We got excellent support from Sylvia Enzler and Trudi Fill who kept their fingers crossed. Our uniform, T-shirt and cap, was very popular and most photographed of all the shooters.

After the shooting, we all got together in the marquee and had a well-earned lunch followed by speeches and the Prize Giving.

Outstanding and standing out was Ernst Lanz. He was 5th overall with 93 Pts !



Rankings:

5th	Ernst	93 Pts
34th	Othmar	88 Pts
39th	Henry	88 Pts
77th	Ronny	85 Pts
188th	Marcel	68 Pts (due to jumping tripod)
201th	Hans	64 Pts

Ernst, Othmar, Henry and Ronny got the "Swiss Abroad Competition" medal. Congratulations!

The Auckland Swiss Club was 5th of all the competing clubs. Well done. There is some room for improvement next time.

The following day on Sunday was the parade through the old town of Aarau. Ernst, Henry, Marcel and Othmar participated. It was agreed that the one with the lowest score had to carry the flag. Marcel proudly was flying the flag. It was nice to see the old town of Aarau from the middle of the road. Lots of people lined the streets.

After the parade, we met with the departing Ambassador to New Zealand, Beat Nobs and wife, for a drink and chat.

The next "ESF" will be held in Raron/Visp in the Canton of Wallis from the 15 June - 12 July 2015.



Facts around Eidgenössisches Schützenfest:

- 43'000 competing shooters (37'000 guns and 6'000 pistols)
- 2430 competing shooting clubs
- 21 clubs from overseas
- 15 % women
- 3,5 Mio cartridge cases
- 3500 volunteers

A Happy Rifle Master

