

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1939)

Heft: 923

Rubrik: Home news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 11.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 20—No. 923

LONDON, 29 JULY, 1939.

PRICE 3d.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION

on TUESDAY AUGUST 1st, 6.30 p.m.

at ST. PANCRAS TOWN HALL, EUSTON ROAD.



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: *National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève* and *Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale*.)

FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND'S DEFENCE MEASURES.

With ever-increasing tension and threats of war around her, Switzerland is taking unprecedented measures to safeguard her neutrality and to defend her soil.

At the same time the population is watching the international situation with more anxious interest than has ever been shown before.

The dominant question is whether Switzerland can defend herself against an attack by a major military nation.

The defence of the country is bound up with two factors which are now nowhere questioned. First, the territory is small and compact, and its defence, therefore, a straightforward matter; secondly, it is the firm belief of every Swiss that in the initial stages of an attack upon her Switzerland would be compelled to defend herself unaided.

A high Swiss military authority, Colonel Frick, has recently published a report examining the prospects of Swiss defence. His conclusion is that the country is particularly well-placed to defeat attack by mechanised forces, especially in the north.

The Swiss banks of the Rhine, and all the bridges, are exceedingly well-equipped against attack by tanks; even Basle, he adds, is in a stronger defensive position than Madrid. No tank could hope to escape the light field-guns which are a feature of the Swiss defence.

As for air attacks, recent experience in Spain shows that their chief use is as an instrument in the "war of nerves" — an instrument to which civilian populations rapidly become accustomed and which thereafter loses its effect.

Colonel Frick is convinced that war from the air "can never bring to their knees a people who have the will to defend their soil." The chief danger to any country in war-time, he considers, lies within its own borders.

FIRST-AID CONFERENCE.

The fifth International Congress for Life Saving and First Aid to the Injured has opened in Zurich. Twenty British delegates are attending this congress. The president of this conference is Dr. H. Schaer of Zurich. 25 countries are represented.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS IN SWITZERLAND.

Twenty-three members of the Architectural Association are at present in Switzerland on a fortnight's tour.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On Monday last, July 24th, five million visitors had passed the turnstiles since the opening of the Exhibition.

SWISS EMIGRANTS.

During the first six months of this year, 1,407 Swiss have left their country to settle abroad. Last year for the same period the number of Swiss emigrants was 896.

SWISS HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION.

The Swiss Himalayan Expedition, led by Mr. Andre Roch, succeeded for the first time in history, in ascending the summit of the Dunagari (7,060 metres).

GOLD SNAP IN SWITZERLAND.

Since Monday night, Switzerland has been under the influence of an unusually cold spell and a drop of temperature of about 10 degrees was recorded in the lower regions. Snow is falling over the Alps above 4,500 ft. level. At the Jungfrauoch the temperature dropped on Tuesday morning 10 deg. 54 deg. was recorded at Locarno and Lugano and 46 deg. at Interlaken.

NEW SWISS GLIDING RECORD.

M. Max Schachenmann, of Oftringen, has beaten the old gliding record of 208 kilometres by flying from Olten to a spot near Munich, a distance of 200 kilometres.

SWISS BANK AGENCIES IN U.S.

The Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union de Banques Suisses have made plans to set up agencies in New York.

SIR MALCOLM CAMPBELL FOR SWITZERLAND.

Sir Malcolm Campbell is expected to arrive at Lake Halwil (Aargau) about August 14th to make another attempt on the world water speed record. Sir Malcolm's plans for the attempt will depend upon the political situation prevailing on that date.

Herr Fritz Schmidt, President of the Swiss Motor Boat Federation will be in charge of the organisation for the attempt.

AN AIR CRASH.

A "Swiss Air" liner, flying on the route Vienna-Zurich, crashed near Konstanz aerodrome. Three Austrian passengers and three Swiss members of the crew were killed.

The three Swiss killed were: Walter Ackermann, the well-known pilot and author of several books on aviation, M. Hans Lips, aged 43, employed by the company since 1928, and the radio-operator Anton Mannhardt, born in 1908 and member of the "Swiss Air" staff since 1929. The machine, a Junkers aircraft, developed engine-trouble and from a height of 40 metres, suddenly dived, burying itself deeply into the ground.

AMERICAN RUNNERS FOR SWITZERLAND.

A team of American athletes will compete at Zurich on the 12th August. They will arrive in London on the 7th and on the 27th August will match their strength against an Hungarian team in Budapest.

FEAT OF BRITISH MOUNTAINEER.

An outstanding mountaineering feat has been accomplished by Mr. Hardel Dole, a 48-year-old London business man — a solo climb of the Untel-Gabelhorn, 11,150 ft. high, a difficult peak in the Matterhorn region.

It is believed that no Englishman before him has climbed the peak alone, while few professional Swiss climbers have done so.

A few days earlier the London alpinist had climbed, with a guide, the Dufour peak of the Monte Rosa, highest point of the Swiss Alps.

FROM ZURICH TO BOMBAY ON A BICYCLE.

Dr. Jean Melois, of Zurich, has arrived at Sofia after thirty-five days cycling. He hopes to pedal to India, via Plordiv and Constantinople. We wish our enterprising compatriot the best of luck in this attempt.

INJURED RACING DRIVER PROGRESSING.

Hopes are now entertained on the recovery of M. Armand Hug, of Lausanne the well-known racing driver, who was critically injured recently while practising for the Grand Prix Automobile d'Albi.

BODY OF SWISS ALPINIST DISCOVERED.

The body of Mr. Henri Maurer who disappeared last April with his fellow-alpinist Mr. Werner Lattman, has been discovered on the

Italian side of the Grieshorn (Gothard). Both were engineers from Zurich.

HOTELIER NOW OWNS GLACIER.

After many years of expensive litigation, Mr. Hermann Seiler, well-known Swiss Hotelier, who controls the Glacier du Rhone Hotel, Gletsch and other important Swiss hotels, is now undisputed owner of the Rhone Glacier itself.

ANOTHER MOUNTAIN TRAGEDY.

A snow cornice collapsed under the weight of three members of a party of ten Swiss alpinists who were ascending the Weisshorn (14,804ft.) One of them, Herr H. Weiss, of Winterthur, aged 34 and married, was killed and the two others, Herr Gottfried Geyer, of Zurich, and Albert Wolfensberger, of Winterthur, were seriously injured.

ST. MORITZ LAWYER KILLED.

Dr. Andrea Seiler, 34 years-old St. Moritz lawyer, crashed at high speed in his car into Silvaplana Lake, near St. Moritz, and was drowned. The dead man was the son of Mr. Hermann Seiler, proprietor of the famous Seiler Hotels at Zermatt.

NUDISTS EXPECTED IN SWITZERLAND.

The fifth International Congress of Nudists will be held on a large woodland estate on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel. Nudists from every country in Europe will attend. Readers of the S.O. will surely wish them better weather than we are having at present.

LA FETE NATIONALE A L'EGLISE SUISSE.

Chers compatriotes,

Une fois de plus, notre peuple va célébrer avec joie et reconnaissance sa Fête Nationale, et les Suisses de l'étranger seront heureux de pouvoir s'associer à ce bel anniversaire.

L'Eglise Suisse de Londres désire marquer cette grande date en célébrant un culte patriotique en français et en allemand. Ce culte, qui sera présidé par les pasteurs des deux communautés, aura lieu à 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, DIMANCHE 30 JUILLET, à 11 heures. Il sera embellé par des chœurs de la Swiss Choral Society.

Ne manquez pas d'être des nôtres le 30 juillet.

LE CONSISTOIRE DE L'EGLISE SUISSE.

DIE BUNDESFEIER DER SCHWEIZERKIRCHE.

Liebe Landsleute,

Wieder wird unser Volk mit Freude und Dank die Bundesfeier begehen und die Auslandschweizer sind glücklich sich diesem Nationalfeiertag anschliessen zu dürfen.

Die Schweizerkirche in London will diesen Tag besonders feiern durch einen patriotischen Gottesdienst in französischer und deutscher Sprache.

Dieser Gottesdienst, den die Pfarrer der beiden Gemeinden leiten, wird in der Schweizerkirche in

79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

stattfinden und zwar am

SONNTAG, den 30. JULI, um 11 Uhr.

Die Swiss Choral Society wird die Feier durch Ausführung verschiedener Chöre verschöner.

Erscheint zahlreich am 30. Juli.

Die Kirchenflege der Schweizerkirche.