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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The failure of the postal authorities to deliver any mail from Switzerland since last week makes it impossible to compile any reliable news from our own country. We are informed that the Swiss postal service to this country, which so far operated via Lyons, may be re-instated at any time. In the meantime we should be pleased to hear from any reader who is in the habit of listening in to any of the Swiss broadcasting stations and who has the good luck of enjoying a fair reception.

Very little news appeared in the English press about our country. Units of allied troops, estimated altogether at some 50,000, have crossed the frontier along the Jura and have been interned. A satisfactory reply promising full reparations has been received from the British Government with reference to the aerial bombardment earlier this month when fatal casualties were reported from the region of Geneva. — Feeling throughout the country seems to be more confident and a partial demobilisation is said to be in contemplation.

REPATRIATION OF SWISS.

In consequence of recent developments it has been found advisable to suspend the preliminary arrangements announced in our issue of June 15th with reference to a special convoy to Switzerland. All the same those wishing to return should make the necessary application without delay.

As it may be some time before this conducted party can be fixed, our compatriots should not leave their present employment; should anyone have to look out for a new vacancy it is important to strictly observe the "Aliens Movement Restriction Order." Only such employment can be accepted which is provided for in the English visé on your passport or is previously sanctioned by the Home Office. If you change your residence the local police both at your old and new place has to be notified; if there is a change in employment a call at the Labour Exchange producing papers of identity is essential.

MAILS TO SWITZERLAND.

The Postmaster-General has announced the temporary suspension of the mail, parcel-post and printed matter services to Switzerland.

The radio is the only means by which we can get into touch with business friends or relatives in our country, the ordinary post office rate for messages being 2½d. per word. There is, however, another service which is more economical and which may appeal to those readers who wish to convey urgent communications. It is called "Night Letter Telegram" and the charge is 2/7½ for 25 words (incl. address) and 1½d. for each additional word. Messages must be in French or English and can be handed in at any post office during the day for delivery the next morning.

GREAT BRITAIN AT WAR.

Impressions by a "Neutral."

What a privilege to live in London in these stirring times! London, the seat of the mother of parliaments, the heart of a great Empire and the hub of the World.

Nine months of war have left their mark. Looking back one can see the cumulative effects of events. The declaration of war itself was a mere thunderstorm and did not really rouse the people. It required a series of catastrophies like Norway, Holland and Belgium to act as roaring tempests and to make the crowd sit up, whilst the entry of Italy into the war and the Capitulation of France had the effect of an earthquake, shaking up everything and everybody and awakening the energies of all and sundry.

And now the lion roars. In September he merely yawned. Later he got angry and put his claws on the

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 2 Juillet à 7.0 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P.F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité

Graf Spee and the Altmärk, whilst at Narvik, Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk he showed his mettle. But now he really roars and woe to his enemies when he is ready to pounce, supported by a whole pride of lions from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Let there be no doubt about it, this country has now become the last bulwark in the defence of Liberty, Freedom and Civilisation. In the words of Pitt, England will have to save herself by her exertion and the World by her example.

It is now a contest of endurance, not only between military forces but between nations of men and women. Victory can only be won by morale, energy, endurance and will power. From all one can see and hear there should be no doubt about the outcome of the struggle, however bitter and protracted. National stubbornness and the practical genius of the people will prevail. Pedigree will count and the Bulldog breed should come out on top.

Mixing with the crowd and listening to what it says leaves one with the conviction that the spirit of the people is sound. In fact to find out what common people and the man in the street are doing acts like an inspiring tonic.

They have a firm belief in the justice and righteousness of England's cause, absolute trust in the Navy to upset Hitler's appcart, and a 100 to 1 certainty that the Army and Airforce will give Hell to the Dictators. At first it was hoped that it would be a fairly easy job; what with the blockade and the Maginot Line.

However, these illusions are gone now and everybody realises that they are in it up to the neck and that it is a question of sink or swim and do or die. But there is no sign of fear, despair or panic, the trust in the Army, Navy and Airforce is stronger than ever, fortified by what happened at the River Plate, Narvik, Calais and Dunkirk.

And there is plenty of evidence that both the Homeland and the Empire have put their backs into the fight. Gone is the "it can't happen here" frame of mind. Gone are the half measures; 100% action and 100% output are the order of the day. People realise that to come under the German yoke would be no joke and are taking good care to see that it does not happen.

Much as the Britisher hates regulations, restrictions and regimentation he is now quite willing,

for the duration of the war, to suspend many of his liberties and to submit himself to disciplinary measures. He realises that without discipline and organisation the war will never be won and that bows and arrows are useless against a modern Frankenstein.

"Go to it" is now the motto, both in the industrial army and the fighting forces. It is realised that the Maginot Line mentality cannot win the war and that the old maxim "attack is the best mode of defence" is as true as ever.

But the real driving power behind the tremendous effort is the resolve that "Britains never, never shall be slaves." The soul of Great Britain has never submitted, and will never submit, to brute force. Hitler will find that besides tanks, planes and battleships he will be confronted with superior forces, such as the spirit of Man, nurtured in centuries of freedom and liberty, proud, unflinching and unconquerable. With France's capitulation it is realised that the tragedies of nations are not their defeats on the battlefields but their self-betrays.

The world will now be witnessing the greatest siege in history, with Great Britain turned into an Island fortress. Let there be no mistake about it, the great Amphibian will fight hard, strike hard and emerge victorious.

Whilst the civilian population will stay put, Hitler will find to his cost that the Army, Navy and Airforce have no intention to remain inactive. On the contrary he will soon find Great Britain to be a veritable hornets nest, with swarms of aircraft emerging day and night and stinging here and there and everywhere like angry wasps or fighting like eagles clawing down their prey. Alternatively, Great Britain and the smaller Islands surrounding her will adopt the tactics of the Octopus, the long arms of the navy seizing and destroying enemy ships and sucking up submarines. Then again, the great amphibian will stretch out its tentacles, feeling for weak spots where the army can disembark and grip at the enemy's vitals.

As mentioned at the beginning, it is a privilege to live with a great people in these stirring times and to be permitted to share its sorrows and tribulations. The World recognises that if Great Britain falls Christian civilisation, Justice and Liberty will vanish from the earth. Whatever happens, we can feel sure that the British Commonwealth and Empire will do their duty and acquit themselves in such a way that, in the words of Mr. Winston Churchill, History will say "This was their finest hour."

F. I.

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Shall I behold you once again
Ere death must surely lay me low?
To call my hopes and longings vain
Disturbs my mind like threaten'd blow.
Your snowy peaks attract me still,
Your streams and lakes my mem'ry hold,
Open then your doors now closed
Spread wide your mother-arms and I will
Enjoy true peace yet once again.

"Over Seventy."
(J.J.E.)