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Army

General Guisan, in an Order of the Day to the Army, said: "The war again threatens to approach our country. We might see ourselves induced to increase our defensive measures from one day to the next. Our efforts of the past four years have not been in vain. With determination, we are looking forward."

* * *

The army command has issued a warning that it is a punishable offence to wear army uniform when not actually on military service; cloth rationing has prompted soldiers and members of the auxiliary services to don military garb in civil life.

Traffic

"Modern Transport," August 14th reports that both the Canton and town of Zurich are studying the possibility of developing the aerodrome at Dubendorf. It is expected that runways 2½km. long will be built for transport planes; the plan of a new airport is also being studied. The Canton of Geneva has considerably extended its airfield at Cointrin. A concrete runway 1km. long by 50 metres wide is being constructed and will ensure the take-off of larger planes. An air station is being built. The Canton and city of Berne are also studying a new airport plan, the future of which they are trying to ensure by reconciling it with the Swiss Federal plan for an inter-continental airport. The town of Lausanne is about to begin work on the building of a new airport at Ecublens; the site chosen is stated to be ideal and the installation will meet the requirements of all kinds of air traffic. The Basle authorities are thinking of building an airport where the Hard Forest now stands. Runways 1½km. in length could be built on this site.

On account of pressure on our space the "News at Random" have had to suffer an unavoidable curtailment.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY FEDERAL PRESIDENT CELIO ON AUGUST 1st, 1943.

(English version issued by the B.B.C.)

The flag of the Confederation and those of the Cantons are already flying in the twilight. From over our hills the church bells will ring out a joyful anthem for us. The mass of our citizens will take part in commemorating the wise and brave men who founded our country 652 years ago. Beyond our frontiers, other banners have been raised. Other bonfires are being lit — but tragically. Other bells are ringing — but mournfully. Elsewhere, crowds gather too, but in fear. Can I express better the emotion which fills us then in these simple and clear words: "Praise be unto You, Kind Providence! Thank you, generous ancestors, for giving us so privileged a Fatherland! More than in the past let it live within us, with our conviction that all the discipline of the Swiss soldier and all our renunciations do not sufficiently pay for the happiness which we enjoy, in comparison with the sacrifices, the discipline and the misfortune of others. Realising this to-day, we repeat our oath."

The war, which has spread from the Russian plains to the African coasts, swings back more and more against our Continent which has been set on fire. Will it accomplish its utter destruction? I do not know. One thing, however, I do know: that we are living in the midst of a giant fortress, free, but surrounded by the burning rings of fighting peoples. It must be understood that the hope of peace, the hope that it is either imminent or at least approaching, is premature despite recent events. The longer this war, the more we must improve our military, political and economic strength of resistance. As to military resistance, we are lucky enough to have a good — I should almost like to say, an excellent — defence organisation, if it were permitted to use superlatives in military matters. As far as our military resistance is concerned, we are prepared for any eventuality. For this I must address a word of recognition, of praise and gratitude, to the general, officers and men of our beloved army. Politically: we may say that we possess the respect of all peoples. This is the reward of a healthy, correct conception and a watchful complete observance of neutrality. I wish to impress upon you the following thought. While the nations at war honour their fatherland by heroic fighting, neutral countries do the same by adhering to an honourable neutrality. The position in the economic field is the same. Modern, improved and revised methods of fighting extend the war to the economic field also. Every day which passes tells on our reserves. But as we refuse to believe that the powers which, even before the outbreak of war, recognised Swiss neutrality might fail to take it into account to-day in the economic field, we do not succumb to pessimism, but maintain our confidence and our hope.

People of Switzerland, remember that the greatest and most secure wealth of your country's economic resistance is based on your reason, on the work of your hands, your respect of the law, your thrift and your hard soil. You understand me and you will act accordingly and avoid destruction.

Confederates, soon the shadows of night will spread over our country. In our homes there will be peace and silence. Tomorrow at dawn, God's resplendent sun will show us that our world has remained intact — our houses, our fields, our schools, hospitals, churches and factories. The whole country is intact (sic). Faced with this vision — sweet for us, but tragic for others — I promise with you to become something better, more human and just. Thus we shall have rightly celebrated the country's anniversary and justified to ourselves and other nations the fact that Switzerland still deserves to survive. Long live the Fatherland!

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