

Repatriation of Swiss from the Dutch East Indies

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REPATRIATION OF SWISS FROM THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

On Wednesday, the 12th December, 1945, forty-two Swiss, men, women and children, arrived at Waterloo Station on their long journey back from the Dutch East Indies, via Singapore, Bombay, Suez and Southampton.

They were the forerunners of about four hundred Swiss who, during the war, were stationed in the Dutch East Indies, where they had to undergo terrible hardships, first during the Japanese invasion and later on when the Indonesian revolt broke out.

The names of the arrivals are:

Mr. and Mrs. Ambühl, from Wattwil; Mr. and Mrs. Berger, Langnau; Mr. and Mrs. Flachs and two children, Ennet-Baden; Mr. and Mrs. Hertach, Näfels; Mr. and Mrs. Kappeler, Frauenfeld; Mrs. Keller and child, Winterthur; Mrs. Meyer and two children, Zurich; Miss Muller (taken to hospital in Southampton), Herisau; Mr. and Mrs. Lanz and two children, Roggwil; Mr. and Mrs. Quidort, Schaffhausen; Mr. and Mrs. Ruf and two children, Buch a Irchel; Mr. and Mrs. Schaffner and two children, Samaden; Mr. and Mrs. Sigg and two children, Winterthur; Mr. and Mrs. Fuchslin and two children, Brugg; Emelie Vischer, Basle.

The party was received at Waterloo Station by M. Mordasini and M. Magnin, from the Swiss Legation, and Mr. P. Moehr, Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club.

Temporary, and unfortunately inadequate, accom-

modation had, at the last moment to be found at a rest centre in the Clapham district, and it is due to the commendable efforts of Mr. A. Bon, that within short notice, proper living quarters were found in Hill Street, W.1.

It is to be regretted that the Colony in London was not informed beforehand of the arrival of our compatriots, but fortunately a few members of the London Colony, recruited poste haste, put their services at the disposal of our countrymen.

Mr. Flachs, who did most wonderful work throughout the journey, was in charge of the party, and it is from him we heard that the journey home had taken two months. He also informed us that our countrymen have lost everything they possessed. Some of the stories told were heart rendering. One little girl, Emile Vischer, twelve years old, lost both her father and mother, who were brutally murdered by the Japanese. She was taken good care of by Mrs. Keller, a member of the returning party, and was flown by Swissair to Basle together with ten others of the party on Sunday, 16th, December. The remainder of our unfortunate compatriots have left by special train on the 19th of this month and it is comforting to know that all will be able to spend Xmas in our country.

One and all expressed their deep gratitude for the wonderful assistance which they had received from the British authorities, who provided planes, ships, food and clothes for them, in fact, Mr. Flachs has told us, that without this help, none of the party would be alive to-day. One lady member, with tears in her eyes, said: "The British were simply wonderful."

We, on our part, express herewith our sincere thanks to the British authorities for the kindness and help which they have given to our unfortunate countrymen.

In spite of all the hardship and privations our compatriots have endured and bravely borne, they were in splendid spirit and all were looking with courage into the future. Let us hope that a kind Providence will help them to forget their sad experiences and that they will be able to start a new and successful career back home. The majority of the party were employed by the Shell organisation.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Monthly Meeting, combined with a Xmas Dinner, of the City Swiss Club, took place on Thursday, December 20th, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, who was the principal guest, addressed the company on "Current Topics." A full report will be published in the next number.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We intend to go to press on January 25th, 1946, and take this opportunity of thanking the following Subscribers for their enlarged subscriptions:—

B. Sandmeyer, H. Ott, J. Donat, Schweizerbund, F. Isler, J. Stettler, Mrs. Cheetham, F. Kung, B. Frauchiger, A. Spargnapani, J. Davies, P. Bessire, J. Buchi, Miss C. Meyer, V. Gay, H. Schenkel, Mrs. A. Dimier, F. Beyli, E. Wiedmer, E. Kiesel, O. Gambazzi, Ch. L. Chapuis, A. Wegmuller, A. Schmid, T. Erb, Miss M. Dapples, F. G. Sommer, J. U. Schefer, John Veglio, F. M. Gamper, R. J. Keller.



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