

**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:** - (1946)

**Heft:** 1050

**Artikel:** Greetings to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689787>

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they beset our people at home directly and impose extremely heavy sacrifices upon them, are as nothing, compared to the all important fact that Switzerland, that lovely, beautiful country of ours, is safe and independent.

Therefore when we Swiss celebrate the 1st of August let us be aware of the deep significance attached to that unity and independence which we celebrate. Let us take renewed hope that one day it may be possible to celebrate this festival of achieved unity and independence on a much larger scale. Let us hope that the world at large will finally realise that salvation will come only when the various units come together, that improvement will be possible only when the various forms of warfare in which the various countries are engaging in to-day, have ceased and when in their stead there is Peace and Goodwill, Unity and Independence.

We all have learnt from the lips of men like Winston Churchill, the late President Roosevelt and Lord Cecil, and others qualified to form an opinion on such matters, that FEAR is the greatest stumbling block to disarmament and to the efforts that are being made to abolish trade barriers, so irksome at present, in other words, to the bringing together of the nations into one harmonious, and therefore independent, whole.

May not they look at the history of Switzerland, they that fear?

Swiss history will teach them of fears that brought about wars and other disturbances throughout the growth of the Swiss Confederation. At the same time, the Switzerland we know to-day, will teach them, how utterly unfounded those fears were, how infinitely better off the various, formerly individually independent members of the Confederation are to-day, now that their former individuality has been merged into the greater sovereignty embracing them all.

"All is well." Let us pray that this signal may flash into the future not only from the eternal mountains of our beloved Switzerland, but from all the beacons right throughout the whole world!

And meanwhile, on the 1st of August, 1946, let us send our affectionate thoughts across to our dear homeland, commune with our people and celebrate with them, and let us thank God and invoke His further blessing on the land of our fathers.

ST.

#### CONCERNING REGISTRATION OF SWISS CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

The Office Suisse de Compensation have been charged by the Swiss Authorities with the registration of claims which Swiss nationals have outstanding against Germany and Austria. The Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1, would be pleased to assist any national from Switzerland or Liechtenstein who wishes to register his claim, and to provide him with the relative forms.

Applications in connection with this matter can also be addressed to the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2, who are likewise in possession of the necessary sets of forms, and willing to give the persons concerned any help they may need.

#### SWISS MISSION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A Mission sent by the Federal Military Technical Service, has recently been in London, paying a return visit for a Mission sent to Switzerland, a few months ago, by H.M. Ministry of Supply.

The Mission was composed of the following gentlemen:

Colonel Brigadier de Wattenwyl, Chef du Service technique du Département militaire fédéral; Lieut.-Colonel F. Stauffer, Director of the Federal Armaments Factory in Berne; Captain R. Walthard, Assistant Director of the Swiss Ordonnance Aircraft Factories; General-Staff Captain Gubler, of the Section of Infantry.

The object of this Mission was to purchase the latest up-to-date war material, especially Aircraft, as well as Radar equipment. A number of the de Havillands "Vampires" machines have already been bought, and negotiations have taken place for the purchase of further heavy aircraft.

The Swiss officers, whom we had the pleasure of interviewing, expressed their appreciation for the kind reception they had received from the British authorities, which enabled them to pay visits to various important factories in the country. During their stay in London they had the opportunity to watch an important shooting contest at Bisley.

On Friday, July 12th, they were entertained by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, at the Dorchester Hotel, and on Sunday, July 14th, they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmid at "Westfield," Hatfield, Herts. They returned to Switzerland by air on Friday, July 19th, 1946.

#### GREETINGS TO THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

On the occasion of a visit to Switzerland, we had the pleasure of meeting Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, late Swiss Minister in London, and Madame Paravicini, at Oberhofen, Lake of Thun, where they live now in retirement.

Both the Minister and Madame Paravicini have asked us to convey their sincere greetings to all their numerous friends in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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