

**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:** - (1952)  
**Heft:** 1189

**Artikel:** The Lynmouth and Lynton Catastrophe  
**Autor:** Bernath, Erwin  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692852>

### **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:** 04.01.2026

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

# The Lynmouth and Lynton Catastrophe

In our last issue, of August 29th, we published a letter, addressed to the Rt. Honourable Winston Churchill, Her Majesty's Prime Minister, by Monsieur E. Bernath, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., expressing, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people, deep sympathy for this National Tragedy.

Monsieur Bernath has received the following reply from the Prime Minister:

PRIME MINISTER

10, Downing Street,  
Whitehall.  
August 26, 1952.

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires,

I was greatly touched by the message of sympathy from the Swiss Federal Council on the terrible flood disasters in this country, conveyed to me in your letter of August 19.

May I ask you, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires, to inform the Federal Council how much Her Majesty's Government value their message and of my intention to bring it at once to the notice of those families who have suffered.

Yours sincerely,  
Winston S. Churchill.

Monsieur Erwin Bernath.

Swiss Chargé d'Affaires,  
Swiss Legation,  
18, Montagu Place,  
London, W.1.

at the same time we published an Appeal to the Colony, in full agreement with the Swiss Legation, for financial help.

As many of our readers were still on holiday, when this Appeal was launched, we herewith reproduce same again:

## AN APPEAL TO THE COLONY.

When early last year the news reached us of the terrible avalanche disaster which occurred in the alpine regions of our country causing great damage and loss of life, our English friends at once showed their sympathy in the tragedy which had befallen our brethren at home. A great many letters were received by the Legation and by our office expressing sympathy with the victims.

As will be remembered an Appeal to the Swiss Colony was made through our paper for help and a considerable amount was collected. Amongst the donations to this Relief Fund were many small and some quite large contributions from our English friends, although no help was invited from them.

Now a terrible disaster has befallen this nation, with loss of many lives and causing serious material damage, and on behalf of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, we express our deepest sympathy to the population of Lynmouth and Lynton.

Sorrow knows no boundaries, the misfortune of one member of the human family is the concern of all and to show our solidarity in a more tangible way, we have decided to launch an Appeal for financial help for those who have lost their homes and their bread winners. This Appeal has the full support of the Legation and donations can be sent to the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1. (Cheques should be made out to the following order: Swiss Legation, "Flood's Fund"). Each contribution will be acknowledged.

We, therefore, invite the members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain to generously support this Appeal, remembering that on a similar occasion, our English friends so kindly came to the aid of our people.

And, please, do not forget, who gives quickly, gives twice!

The Editor.

*Donations should reach the Swiss Legation not later than Thursday, September 25th, 1952, when the list will be closed.*

## Spend a Weekend or Holiday by the Sea at HOVE, SUSSEX

### DUDLEY HOTEL

NEAR SEA AND SHOPPING CENTRE  
80 ROOMS — 30 BATHROOMS  
Tariff sent on request  
LARGE GARAGE AND LOCK-UPS  
Telephone: HOVE 36266  
Managing Director: F. KUNG (Swiss)

ALL ROOMS with  
Running Water, Central Heating  
and Telephones

Self-contained Suites and  
Rooms with Private Bathrooms

Continental Cuisine

*Restaurant and Cocktail Bar open to Non-Residents*

### Sackville Court Hotel

OVERLOOKING THE SEA  
50 ROOMS — 30 BATHROOMS  
Tariff sent on request  
LOCK-UP GARAGES  
Telephone: HOVE 36292  
Manager: W. WALTER (Swiss)