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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION
"Grümpelschiessen" Dinner at the Glendower
Hotel, on Friday, November 30th, 1956.

Amongst the many Swiss Societies in London the Swiss Rifle Association enjoys no mean reputation. Rifle shooting is one of the principal and most popular sports in our country. There is not a Sunday throughout the year when one does not hear the noise of rifle shots emanating from the many shooting ranges all over Switzerland.

For many years now the Swiss Rifle Association has practised this sport, first at the Hendon shooting range, and afterwards at Bisley Camp. Several times in the past the Association has successfully competed at various Federal Shooting Competitions in Switzerland.

Once a year our "Scharfschützen" lay their rifles aside and meet at a "social" on the occasion of "prize-giving" day. This is one of the many functions in the Colony to which everyone looks forward with pleasant anticipation. Not only is it an occasion when one meets old friends (shooters and non-shooters), but the "Grümpelschiessen" dinners have become famous for their sumptuousness, and this year was no exception.

* * *

The dinner, which was attended by over sixty members and visitors, was preceded by cocktails, after which the company sat down to a generous Menu consisting of Soupe à L'oignon, Suprême de Sole Frite, Sauce Gribische, Filet de Boeuf Pique, Haricots Verts au Beurre, Pommes Noisette, Volaille Rotie, Coeur de Laitue, Fruits Glaces Chantilly, Fromage et Biscuits, Café, and the Chef of the Glendower Hotel deserves full marks for his fine cooking.

The Chair was occupied by H.E. the Swiss Minister, in the capacity of Honorary President, and amongst the official guests were: Lt. Colonel W. Koch, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation, Major Talbot Smith, Mr. Goodridge, and the Secretary of the Surrey Rifle Club, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Towards the end of the dinner the Swiss Minister proposed the Toasts to H.M. the Queen, and to "La Suisse"; both Toasts were suitably honoured.

This festival being an informal affair, speech making does not occupy a conspicuous part, and I therefore do not intend to give any of the addresses *in extenso*.

Mr. Alfred Schmid, the popular President of the Association, extended a hearty welcome to H.E. the Swiss Minister and the guests. Looking around he remarked that this annual dinner seems to be better frequented than the practice shooting at Bisley. He mentioned that the committee has given serious thoughts with regard to the often small attendance, and even the idea of getting the members to the Surrey range by helicopter was studied! In the end, however, it was decided that each member who brings one or more of his colleagues to the shooting range should be presented with one or two packets of playing cards.

The President then informed the company that unfortunately Major Weber, who had held the post of Assistant Range Officer, was shortly leaving this country, and he thanked him for the valuable services he had so efficiently rendered. He also read out a

congratulatory telegram received from the former Chief Range Officer, Mr. Willy Fischer.

Mr. Schmid was followed by the Swiss Minister who said that he received orders from his wife to attend the dinner for the reason at least of receiving a "consolation prize", to which, by the way, he was



THE SWISS MINISTER IN ACTION.

fully entitled, considering that he took part in the shooting as the picture above proves.

Monsieur Daeniker continued by pointing out the importance of rifle shooting which should not be underrated, and congratulated the Association on the excellent shooting results they had achieved during the last year.

Mr. Talbot Smith of the Surrey Rifle Club, to which the Swiss Rifle Association is affiliated, rendered thanks on behalf of the guests for the hospitality they had enjoyed, saying that if all nations would get on as well as our two countries did, what a happy world this would be.

Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President, paid a sincere tribute to Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer — who was unfortunately prevented from attending owing to illness — for the many services he had rendered, wishing him a speedy recovery; he also extended on behalf of the company heartiest thanks to Mr. A. Schmid for the excellent dinner provided, saying: "he is not only an efficient President, but also a fine Hotelier."

The prize-giving then took place under the direction of Mr. F. Suter, and the following results were announced:

Best Average of the year: Mr. Peter Fischer 53,562 pts.

Highest score of the year: Mr. Josef Hess 58 pts.

Challenge Cup Winner: Mr. Marcel Bucherer 313 pts.

Runner up: Mr. Peter Fischer 310 pts.

Grümpelschiessen: Mr. Josef Hess 53 pts.; Mr. Marcel Bucherer 52 pts.; Mr. J. C. Wetter 49 pts.; Mr. Peter Fischer 48 pts.

Handicap Competition: Mr. Jack Wetter 60 pts.;

Mr. Willy Rüeger 58 pts.; Mr. Marcel Bucherer 57 pts.; Mr. J. C. Wetter 57 pts.

Lt. Colonel W. Koch, Mr. J. Hess, and Mr. P. Fischer won medals in the Competition amongst Swiss Rifle Societies abroad.

Shortly before midnight this enjoyable evening came to a close, an evening where good comradeship and sportsmanship were such a happy feature, and I wish to thank the "Scharfschützen" for having enabled me once more to be present in their midst.

ST.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

In the metrical form of Th. Hardy's "The souls of the slain".

(And may the sacrilege be forgiven.)

The coming of Christmas he pondered,
Alone on the hill,
As the fields he surveyed,
Many-furrowed and with snow inlaid.
What would please and surprise his good woman? he
wondered
As men sometimes will.

On the choice of gifts he stood musing,
Gifts useful and bright,
Fit for a farmer's wife,
Something to last her throughout her life,
Till his mind, through the darkness of planning and
choosing,
At last saw a light.

No longer should folks, slyly nudging,
Describe him as mean.
He'd confound them this time
For now, attaining to heights sublime,
He would give her, this Yuletide, the outlay not
grudging,
A threshing machine.

J.J.F.S.



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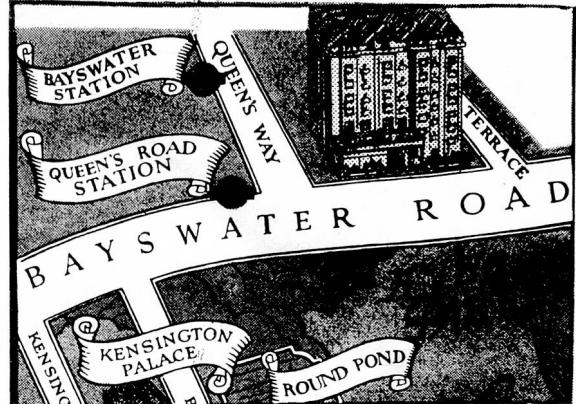
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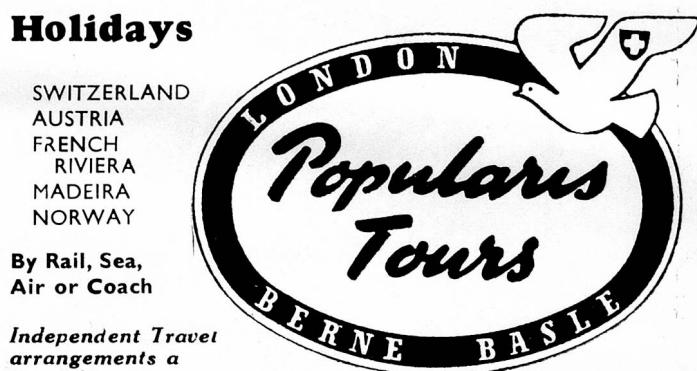


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