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**THE SWISS AMBASSADOR WITH THE
"SHARPSHOOTERS"**

The by now famous "Grümpelschiessen" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, a yearly event to which everyone always looks forward with pleasant anticipation, took place on Friday, 2nd December, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, the headquarters of the Association.

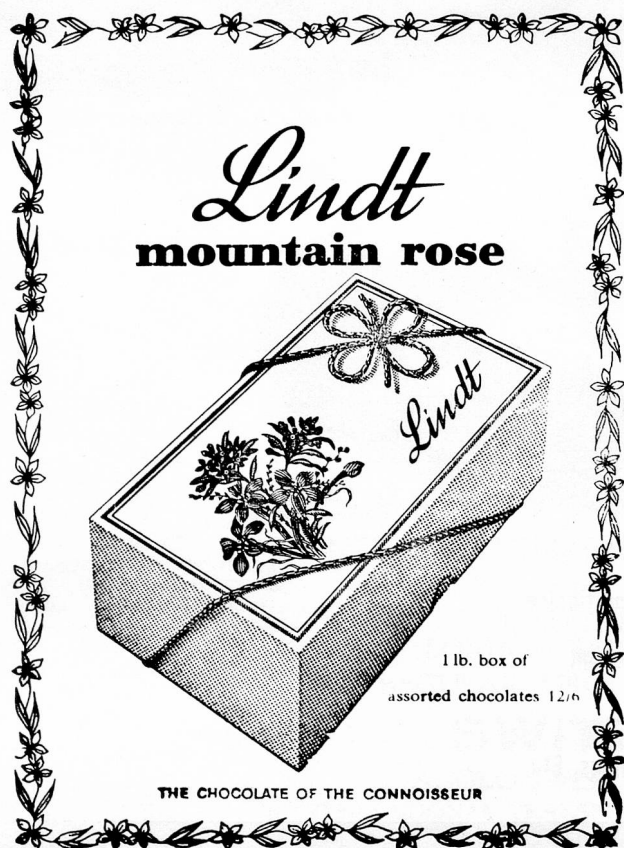
This dinner brings together not only the members who shoulder a rifle, but also those who do not put their fingers to the trigger, but put them into their pockets instead, in order to loosen the purse strings, and so help the Association's exchequer.

During the last shooting season the weather had not been very kind to our "Sharpshooters"; rain, and often almost a hurricane, swept over the Siberia range at Bisley, making things far from agreeable. But this was all forgotten on that memorable Friday evening. There was certainly a different atmosphere prevailing, an atmosphere of geniality and good comradeship, kindled by an excellent dinner for which the chef of the Glendower Hotel deserves every credit. It consisted of Saumon d'Ecosse Froid, Sauce Mayonnaise, Soupe à L'oignon, Crouton au Fromage de la Gruyère, Escaloppe de Veau Pannée, Nouilles aux Tomates Concassées, Boutons de Bruxelles au Beurre, Pommes Parisienne, Salade Verte, Coup Glacée aux Fruits, Fromages Suisses, Café.

Towards the end of the dinner, Mr. Alfred Schmid, the popular president of the Swiss Rifle Association, proposed the Toasts to H.M. the Queen, and "La Suisse", and then greeted the various guests, amongst them H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker (Honorary President of the Association), who had just returned from a two-month inspection tour of "deepest Africa" — looking fit and well — and Monsieur J. J. de Tribolet, First Counsellor of Embassy, Colonel Theophil Mosimann, Military and Air Attaché, Dr. M. Vogelbacher, First Secretary of Embassy, two representatives of the Surrey Rifle Club, Dr. Hugo Rast, and Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer".

In his short address the president said that the seven shooting meetings at Bisley were fairly well attended in spite of the long distance from town, and the unfavourable weather conditions. The results obtained, he said, could be considered very good. He specially congratulated Mr. Joseph Hess, who scored in one of the competitions 97 points out of a possible 100 (applause). Mr. Schmid voiced his pleasure by saying that the Association was able during the present year to enrol an appreciable number of younger members. He thanked the Swiss Ambassador for his continuous support, the representatives of the Surrey Rifle Club for the hospitality extended to the Association at Bisley, the Federal authorities for the supply of Swiss army rifles, and the non-active members for their helpful contributions.

The Swiss Ambassador, in thanking the Swiss Rifle Association for the invitation extended to him, said that he had felt somewhat embarrassed to come to the dinner, not having fired one single shot at Bisley this year. Monsieur Daeniker mentioned that although he enjoyed plenty of sunshine whilst he travelled in Africa, he had no opportunity to shoot when visiting the various Swiss Societies.



Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President of the Association, congratulated the family Schmid for the excellent dinner provided, saying, amidst laughter, "It is what we all expected, and what we also expect in future". He expressed the members' gratitude to the Range Officers, Mr. M. Bruderer and Mr. Peter Fischer, for their duties so well executed, and Mr. Magnin, the Honorary Secretary and keeper of the "cash box", for his painstaking and efficient services. He voiced regret at seeing Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer", for the last time attending the "Grümpelschiessen" in his official capacity, expressing the hope that he will nevertheless be often seen on future occasions. Striking a sad note, Mr. Wetter told the company that Mr. Peter Odermatt, one of the oldest members of the Association, was seriously ill, and asked the Secretary to send him a telegram wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. Magnin then announced that, as was customary, the Society would like to present the various guests and supporters with a little "Christmas Cheer" in the form of bottles of wine, spirits, cigarettes, poultry, boxes of chocolates, etc. It is this *geste* which does credit to the shooting fraternity.

This is a unique feature, and I wish this generous custom had been adopted by other Swiss Societies. Having for over thirty years attended the numerous social events of the Colony, both in London and the provinces, I would by now — if I had put the bottles in store — have amassed a considerable number of bottles of one kind or another, which would, on my retirement, have firmly established me as a wine merchant!

The prize-giving and announcing of the results of the various competitions then took place, and the following results were given by Mr. Magnin:

Challenge Cup: Winner, Peter Fischer (312 points); Runner up, Peter Brunner (308 points). *Major Talbot Smith Presentation Cup*: Winner, Marcel Bucherer (54 points); Runner up, Peter Fischer (52 points). *Handicap Competition*: Winner, Fritz Burgunder (60 points), Peter Fischer (57 points), Jack Wetter (56 points), Francis Magnin (56 points). *"Feldschiessen"*: Winner, Peter Fischer (80 points), Marcel Bucherer (78 points), Fritz Keller (78 points), Jack Wetter (76 points). *Lausanne Shield* (Competition for Swiss abroad): Winner, Marcel Bucherer (68 points) (1959 result), H. E. the Swiss Ambassador (67 points), Joseph Hess (67 points). *Zürcher Spezialstich*: Winner, Peter Fischer (54 points), Marcel Bucherer (52 points), John C. Wetter (52 points). *St. Gallen Fernwett Schiessen*: Winner, Marcel Bucherer (90 points), Peter Fischer (88 points). *"Grümpelschiessen"*: Winner, Peter Fischer (56 points), Marcel Bucherer (53 points), Felix Ansermot (51 points), Adolf Schmid (48 points).

The "Gabentisch" this year was generously supported, and presented a marvellous sight. No less attractive was the exhibition of silver cups and plates, laurel wreaths, shields, diplomas, etc., which had been won over a number of years, either in this country or in Switzerland.

Many medals were distributed, too, and some of the members could have easily competed with the ill-reputed "Feldmarschall Göring".

One of the guests, on departing, said to me in good old "Schwyzerdütsch" that it was "a sau guete Abig",

and I fully agreed with him. Everybody seemed to be happy and contented, full of praise and "full otherwise". Indeed, the "Sharpshooters" are good company and one always feels at home in their midst.

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SIXTY EXTRA SWISSAIR FLIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

To cater for heavy holiday and winter sports traffic over Christmas and New Year, Swissair is to operate 60 extra flights from the U.K. to Switzerland between 16th December 1960 and 16th January 1961. This is the highest number of extra flights ever offered by Swissair during this period.

Of the extras, 43 will go from London to Zurich, 15 from London to Geneva and 2 from Manchester to Zurich. Among them will be 22 reduced fare night tourist flights.

Some extras will be flown by Douglas DC-8 and Caravelle jets.

Peak day will be 23rd December, when including its scheduled services will be offered by Swissair. This is by far the highest number of seats offered by the company on services leaving this country on a single day. Among the extras that day will be two DC-8 services carrying 120 passengers each. Almost 900 seats to Switzerland will be available the day before — 22nd December.

THE EDITOR OF THE "SWISS OBSERVER" HONOURED

On the occasion of the 95th Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which took place on 18th November 1960, it was announced that Mr. A. Stauffer has been elected by the committee Honorary Vice-President of the Club for "services rendered to the Club and to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain". (Mr. Stauffer was elected a "Membre Honoraire" of the City Swiss Club in 1957.)

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Roast Aylesbury
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