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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

"GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN" DINNER

I have lost count of how many "Grümpelschiessen" dinners of the Swiss Rifle Association I have attended, first as Editor of this paper and after my retirement as Press Reporter. All I remember is, that every one of these annual reunions has left me, and I am sure all those who have taken part in one of them, with nothing but happy memories. Of all the many social festivities of Swiss Societies, which are held throughout the year, this *rendez-vous* of the shooting fraternity is undoubtedly the most "gemütlich" one. There is no red coated toast-master, announcing in a stentorian voice the arrivals of Lords and Excellencies, nor are there any long speeches made, it is in fact a simple and homely affair.

This year's dinner, held on Friday, 22nd November, at the Glendower Hotel, the headquarters of the Association, was again a great success, no less than seventy-five members, guests and friends attending. The dinner was, as usual, an excellent one, and came fully up to expectations. It was preceded by perhaps an over long cocktail party, so that when it was announced that "dinner is served" there was quite a rush to take up the allotted seats.

The dining room presented an animated picture, immediately behind the presidential chair was placed the banner of the Swiss Rifle Association, which on so many occasions has been proudly carried through the streets of some of the cantonal capitals at home; it was adorned with the silver laurel wreath which the competing team won at this year's Federal Shooting Competition in Zurich. The top table was loaded with the many trophies which the Association has won in many hard fought competitions, conspicuous amongst them being the beautiful pewter jug which the team won in Zurich.

In one of the ante-rooms the eye beheld another display namely the "Gabentisch" which contained a splendid variety of goods and substantial cash prizes. There were bottles of Wine, Whisky, Gin, Sherry, Champagne, Port, boxes of cigars, cigarettes, chocolates, a big York Ham, etc., etc.

Towards the end of the dinner, the popular president of the Swiss Rifle Association, Mr. Alfred Schmid, proposed the Toasts to H.M. the Queen and "La Suisse", followed by a short address in which he welcomed the various guests. There was quite a large contingent present from the Embassy, namely Messieurs J. de Stoutz, F. Ansermoz, E. Tosio, F. Magnin, F. Burgunder and Dissler.

Mr. Schmid thanked H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, who, by the way, is not only the Association's Honorary President, but also an active member who had often been seen at the Bisley shooting range, for the continual interest he had taken in the Society. Striking a sad note, he announced that it will be unfortunately the last time that His Excellency will preside over a "Grümpelschiessen" dinner, as he is shortly returning to Switzerland on his retirement from the diplomatic service. Mr. Schmid wished him good health and happiness for many years to come. (*Applause.*) In conclusion, the President thanked most sincerely the contributing members for their help, which he said "is much appreciated", and declared that the last shooting season was an excellent one in every aspect.

The next speaker was the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, who received a vociferous ovation on rising. He said that it was a sad occasion for him to bid farewell to the Swiss Rifle Association, where he had

spent so many happy hours, and which will always remain a treasured memory. He paid a warm tribute to Mr. Schmid and his family for the generous support they have always given to him and Madame Daeniker whilst *en poste* in this country.

The Ambassador congratulated the Association for the splendid result obtained in Zurich. He thanked them for the wonderful present (a Louis XV writing table) which was presented to him and Madame Daeniker on the occasion of his retirement, to which the Association was a contributor. "We shall always remember the generous donors when looking at it or using it", he said. In conclusion, he proposed a toast to Mr. and Mrs. Schmid and family, which was heartily responded to.

The last speaker was Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President, who gave a short and interesting account in connection with the visit of the S.R.A. team to Zurich, saying that the team obtained fourth rank out of sixteen competitors from Swiss Rifle Clubs from abroad (first Paris, second Brussels, third New Jersey, U.S.A.) "a very satisfactory result", he declared. The prizes, a silver laurel wreath and a magnificent Pewter Jug, were well merited. In addition, individual medals (Kränze) were obtained by Messrs. P. Fischer, J. Hess, M. Bucherer, F. Magnin, O. Grob and J. C. Wetter. Mr. Wetter also referred to the many social events, amongst them the First of August celebration on the Bürkli Platz, the *cortège* through the gaily decorated streets of Zurich, a luncheon in the large "Festhütte", and a cruise on the lake of Zurich offered to the Swiss competing teams from abroad.

In concluding his short address, Mr. Wetter expressed on behalf of the members sincere thanks to Mr. F. Magnin, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Association for the always efficient and devoted services he had rendered, to the range officers and to the family Schmid for their generous hospitality.

The presentation of the prizes then followed under the able direction of Mr. Magnin. The top prizes, as usual, went to the crack shots, Messrs. Peter Fischer, M. Bucherer, J. Hess, and J. de Stoutz. The Challenge Cup was presented to Mr. Peter Fischer and the Dr. Daeniker's Senior Cup was presented to Mr. J. Hess by the Ambassador amidst applause. A number of members also received medals, and presentations were made to non-shooting members, and guests. Even the Press Reporter was not forgotten. A substantial hamper, was given to the Ambassador with best wishes.

Another "Grümpelschiessen" dinner thus came to an end, an evening of mirth and good fellowship, and all those who attended left the Glendower Hotel not only loaded with cups, bottles and presents, but also with "Sweet Memories".

ST.

Press Reporter S.R.A.

RESULTS

Highest Score attained during 1963 season: Peter Fischer, 58 points, J. de Stoutz, 57 points. *Dr. Daeniker's Cup*: J. Hess, 141 points, winner, J. de Stoutz, runner up, 138 points. *Challenge Cup*: Peter Fischer, 318 points, winner, M. Bucherer, runner up, 304 points. *Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup*: Peter Fischer, 58 points, winner, runner up M. Bucherer, 52 points. *Grümpelschiessen*: J. de Stoutz, 57 points, J. Mauerhofer, 54 points, Peter Fischer, 54 points. *Handicap Competition*: M. Bucherer,

54 points, P. Fischer, 54 points, Adolf Schmid 53 points. *Lausanne*: J. Hess, 69 points, F. Ansermoz, 68 points, Peter Fischer 67 points. *Zurich*: P. Fischer, 56 points, M. Bucherer, 55 points, H. Meyer, 52 points. *Einzelwettschiessen Schweiz. Schützenverein*: Peter Fischer, 92 points, M. Bucherer, 88 points. *Radiowettschützenfest*: Jack Wetter, 50 points, F. Ansermoz, 43 points. *1962 Feldschiessen*: Peter Fischer, 88 points, J. Hess, 81 points, M. Bucherer, 78 points, F. Magnin, 77 points, R. Zürcher, 72 points, J. C. Wetter, 72 points. *1963 Lausanne*: J. Hess, 69 points, F. Ansermoz, 68 points, Peter Fischer, 67 points. *1963 Zurich*: Peter Fischer, 56 points, M. Bucherer, 55 points, H. Meyer, 52 points. *1963 Einzelwettschiessen Bern*: Peter Fischer, 92 points, M. Bucherer, 88 points. *Radiowettschiessen*: Jack Wetter, 50 points. *Surrey Rifle Association Silver Medal*: Alfred Schmid.

WEBSTUEBLERS ERKLAERUNG

"Seppi, loos", said dr Guschti Webstübler zum Seppi Webstübler; "do isch scho verschieden Mool 'Grümpelschisse' im Swiss Observer gschdande. Was heisst das?"

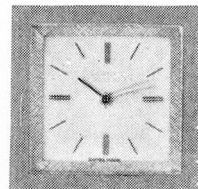
"Bisch e Dubel", said dr Seppi zum Guschti, Me gseet scho dass Du erfolgrüch vom Gymnasium entloh worde bisch. Aber ich, ex-Specialklässler, weiss was das heisst. Loos, i will dr's erklääre."

"Wenn dr Hoornodleverein vom Spalequartier uf dr Märtplatz abe goht und Grossrööt zämmeschiesst wenn si zum Roothuus usekemme, das isch Grümpelschisse. Begriffe?"

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[O.S.E.C.]



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