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"GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN" DINNER



J. C. WETTER,
President,
Swiss Rifle Association.

If my memory serves me correctly, I believe the Annual Dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, also called "Grümpelschiessen" (What a mouthful!), which took place on Friday, 20th November, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7. — the headquarters of the Association — is about the thirty-third of its kind. (The Swiss Rifle Association was founded in 1923, but during the last war, and some time after, no annual dinners were held.) At one time the ladies were asked to this annual feast, which included dancing. In recent years, however, the ladies were "dispensed with" for a reason unknown to me.

Whilst at one time I was enrolled on the active list, attending shooting practices both at Hendon and Bisley, I cannot claim to have added much to the success of the Association. The only thing I have done — and have done well — has been to regularly partake of the sumptuous repasts placed before me. Shooting at a range is not devoid of some risks, and to avoid any possible "casualties", I laid down my rifle and took up my pen instead. My fellow members, rightly or wrongly thought, that I would be less of a security risk as "Press Reporter", and now for many years I have described these dinners which mark the "cease fire" on the Bisley "battleground".

In order to kindle the right "Stimmung" cocktails were served, until it was announced that dinner was served. On the way to the dining room an opportunity presented itself to have a look at the "Gabentisch", which contained an amazing variety of goods and cash prizes.

The dining room presented an animated picture. Behind the presidential chair the fine banner of the Association was placed. The top table was embellished with innumerable silver cups and other trophies which had been won in many hard fought competitions.

Once again the *Chef* of the Glendower Hotel is entitled to put a feather in his cap for the excellent dinner he had prepared, which came, as usual, fully up to expectations.

Towards the end of the dinner the Toasts to H.M. the Queen and Switzerland were proposed by the President and duly honoured.

The speeches which followed were — as usual on these occasions — short and to the point. Mr. J. C. Wetter extended a hearty welcome to the company, and especially to H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Beat de Fischer, Honorary President of the S.R.A., who for the

first time was attending one of the gatherings of the Association, voicing also the gratitude on behalf of the members for the support the Embassy has continually given to the Society. He expressed the hope that His Excellency would one day come to Bisley to see the riflemen "at work". (*Applause*). The President then greeted the official guests, Colonel Werner Koch, Military and Air Attaché at the Embassy, a representative of the Surrey Rifle Association, Dr. H. Rast (personal guest of the President), and Mr. A. Stauffer, Press Reporter, and former editor of the "Swiss Observer". (From the Embassy were also present Messieurs Ansermoz, Tosio, Burgunder, Brunner and Diessler.) Mr. Wetter then read a telegram of good wishes from Monsieur Armin Daeniker, former Swiss Ambassador in London. The loud applause which this announcement evoked testified how much this *beau geste* was appreciated. He also mentioned that he had, whilst in Switzerland, an opportunity to meet Colonel Gygli, at one time Military and Air Attaché at the then Swiss Legation in London, and now Chief of the General Staff of the Swiss Army, an old friend of the Swiss Rifle Association, who wished to be remembered to the Association's members.

The President conveyed his and the members' heartiest congratulations to the veteran member Mr. Peter Odermatt, who had recently celebrated his golden wedding anniversary. He mentioned that at the last General Meeting, Mr. Alfred Schmid, for fifteen years President of the S.R.A. had been elected Honorary Past-President with a seat on the committee. He paid a sincere tribute to Mr. Peter Fischer, Vice-President, who shot at Bisley a maximum sixty points (six tens), which he termed a "rare and splendid result". Mr. Wetter thanked the range officers for the good services they had rendered, and especially Mr. F. Magnin, Honorary Secretary, for his always painstaking, efficient and devoted work. In conclusion he expressed to the family Schmid his appreciation for the generous hospitality the S.R.A. always enjoys at the Glendower Hotel. The President's short address was greeted with much applause.

The next speaker was H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Beat de Fischer, who on rising received a great ovation. He thanked the members for the cordial welcome, which had just been accorded to him on his first visit to the Swiss Rifle Association, and for having elected him Honorary President of the Association, an honour, which he said, he greatly appreciated. He mentioned, that he considered the S.R.A. one of the most sensible organisations of the Colony, and a high symbol of our army. He spoke of the problems the Swiss Army is at present confronted with, and of the importance of self-discipline "to reach the target" in all undertakings. The Ambassador briefly touched on the actual differences with the E.F.T.A., and in conclusion wished the Association every success for the future. Monsieur de Fischer's interesting oration was loudly cheered by the entire company.

The Ambassador was then asked to present the following silver cups: the *Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup* to Mr. Marcel Bucherer, the *Ambassador Armin Daeniker's Senior Cup* to Mr. J. C. Wetter, the *Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup* to Mr. J. C. Wetter.

The distribution of the prizes followed under the able direction of Mr. F. Magnin, Honorary Secretary, amidst great excitement. The top prizes, announced with almost monotonous regularity, went this year again to Messrs. Peter Fischer and Marcel Bucherer. Various members received medals and gifts, and presentations were made to non-shooting members. (Continued on page 51302.)

This concluded a most enjoyable evening in the pleasant company of our friends of the shooting fraternity, an evening of good comradeship and good cheer, and everyone left the hospitable Glendower Hotel loaded with cups, bottles and prizes and happy memories.

A. STAUFFER,
Press Reporter, S.R.A.

RESULTS

Highest scores attained during 1964 season: Peter Fischer, 60 points; Marcel Bucherer, 57 points. Minister Paravicini's Challenge Cup: Marcel Bucherer, 326 points (record); Peter Fischer, 324 points. Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup: John C. Wetter, 148 points; Josef Hess, 147 points. Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup: John C. Wetter, 53 points; Marcel Bucherer, 52 points. "Grümpelschiessen": Marcel Bucherer, 55 points; Peter Fischer, 53 points; Jack Wetter, 52 points. Handicap Competition: Marcel Bucherer 53 points; Peter Fischer, 52 points; Adolf Schmid, 51 points. Einzel-Wettschiessen Schweiz. Schützenverein: Marcel Bucherer, 92 points; Félix Ansermoz, 89 points; Peter Fischer, 86 points; Francis Magnin, 85 points; all received medals. Feldschiessen: Marcel Bucherer, 81 points; Peter Fischer, 78 points; Joseph Hess, 77 points; Lucien Jobin, 76 points; Joseph Wetter, 76 points; Max Lustenberger, 75 points; Francis Magnin, 73 points; all received medals. Obligatorisches Schiessen: Peter Fischer, 94 points; Marcel Bucherer, 94 points; Francis Magnin, 93 points.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Every Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — meets at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. All Ticinesi welcome. The "Corale" rehearses from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Tuesday, 15th December, 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — MUSICAL EVENING — "Swiss Composers through the Ages".

Tuesday, 15th December, 7.30 p.m. — ADVENT EVENING (German-speaking community of the Swiss Church) — c/o Mrs. Grant, 192 Court Lane, S.E.21 (New address to be reached by bus 12, 185 or 176 to Lordship Lane).

Wednesday, 16th December — City Swiss Club — CHRISTMAS DINNER — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Thursday, 17th December, 4 p.m. — CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (with Holy Communion) — c/o Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell, Hyde Cottage, Cross Keys, Sevenoaks. (German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church.)

Thursday, 17th December, 6.30 p.m. — SOUPER-CHOUCRUTE POUR LES JEUNES — Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Friday, 18th December, 7 for 7.30 p.m. — "Schweizerbund" — CHRISTMAS DINNER — Montana Hotel, 67 Gloucester Road, S.W.7.

Saturday, 19th December — Swiss Club Manchester — CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Sunday, 20th December, 3 p.m. — FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION — Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2. (French-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

Sunday, 20th December, 4 p.m. — FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION — St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Bank, E.C.3 (German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church). Children welcome. Old people or anybody unable to walk should apply in good time so that they can be collected by car.

Thursday, 24th December, 8 p.m. — CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE with Holy Communion — St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Bank, E.C.3. (German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

Friday, 25th December, 11 a.m. — CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE with Holy Communion — Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2 (French-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

Friday, 25th December, 11 a.m. — CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE with Holy Communion — St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Bank, E.C.3 (German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

Sunday, 27th December, 4 p.m. — CHRISTMAS SERVICE of the Swiss Catholic Mission — HOLY MASS at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off Victoria Street), S.W.1. — After Holy Mass, SWISS CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S PARTY at the Club Hall. Tea, Gifts for Children and Entertainment.

Thursday, 31st December, 7 p.m. — NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE — St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Bank, E.C.3 — followed by GET-TOGETHER at the Vicarage, 1 Womersley Road, N.8 (German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

Thursday, 31st December, 8 p.m. — NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE with Holy Communion — Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2 (French-speaking Community of the Swiss Church).

1965 JANUARY:

Saturday, 2nd — 2.15 p.m. — SWISS CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY — Victoria Hall, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1. Please apply ENT. 1346.

Wednesday, 13th — 7 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, 21st — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — ANNUAL FILM SHOW.

Tuesday, 26th — City Swiss Club — MONTHLY MEETING AND DINNER — TALK by Mr. Armin Baltensweiler, Executive Vice-President of Swissair, on "Supersonic Transport".

Saturday, 30th — Swiss Mercantile Society — ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE — Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Sunday, 31st — 7 p.m. — LECTURE "Hammer und Sichel unter dem Kreuz" by The Rev. Marcel Dietler — his experiences in meeting Christians in the Soviet Union (illustrated with slides).

FEBRUARY:

Thursday, 18th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — OPEN MEETING — Madame Sophie Wyss — Her distinguished Musical Career.