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*May 25th.* The Church Bazaar was staged at the Foyer Suisse, Bedford Place. Advertising the event in the Swiss Observer of May 11th, "Mariann" wrote: "There will be a number of stalls where many useful as well as attractive things can be had for little money. You will be able to find pretty fancy goods, home-made cakes, toys for the children, some useful articles for the men as well as babies' things and stamps . . . We are sure that everyone who will be at the Foyer Suisse will spend a very pleasant afternoon and take home some happy memories as well as perhaps a handsome parcel".

*June 7th.* Pagani's was once again occupied by Swiss company. The City Swiss Club enjoyed a customary good meal, despite rationing, and saw a film on Canada.

*June 16th.* The traditional "Charity Sermon" was held in the churches at Endell and Gresham Street. The services were ministered with a thought for our poorer compatriots. Both pastors reminded their congregations of the needs of the Swiss in distress in the Colony and at home and called for their generosity towards the Relief Fund.

*June 22nd.* After a Swiss Mercantile Meeting in which the eventuality of using Swiss House as a relief shelter for the Swiss made homeless by the war was discussed and viewed favourably, Mr. Oscar Grob described his recent trip to America. In the words of Mr. Walter Burren, who in those days already sent regular and crystalline reports of S.M.S. meetings to the Swiss Observer: "Mr. Grob vividly described his journey to the Metropolis of the New World and the overpowering impression which New York's skyline made on him. He related his numerous experiences, such as a heat wave of 105 degrees in the shade, travelling in overcrowded underground railways and a visit to the Swiss Pavilion at the New York's World Fair. He found the Americans very hospitable and helpful. We heard of the organisation of

modern banks, the Social Security system, life in a modern factory town and numerous other matters of outstanding interest".

*July 3rd.* The City Swiss Club peers held a particularly patriotic meeting on this day. As usual "Pagani's went out of their way and produced what may be termed a "gorgeous peace time dinner". The evening was spent in listening to an exposé by the President, Mr. Louis Chapuis, and a subsequent discussion on the newly-created Swiss Relief Centre. The Committee of this charitable body were present and appealed for support. The response was immediate and magnificent, some members subscribing as much as 100 guineas.

*19th July.* The Nouvelle Société Helvétique also discussed the Swiss Relief Centre and noted with satisfaction that more than £900 had been donated by the Colony. Mr. Gottfried Keller then portrayed the military situation, speaking on the improvement in Anglo-Russian relations and a recent Anglo-Japanese agreement over the Burma Road. He also described his visits to a Fighter Command airport and a military garrison town.

*27th July.* This was the day when the 1st August Celebration should have been held. The war, unfortunately, precluded the event.

*28th July.* A 1st August Service was held in common by the French and German-speaking Swiss communities at Endell Street.

The period of which the colony life has just been described saw the creation of the *Swiss Relief Centre*. As the war had halted the normal life of the Swiss Mercantile Society's school of English, the premises at Fitzroy Square became vacant, and, after much talk of letting them to the Legation, Monsieur Thurnheer decided that they

should be used as a clearing centre where Swiss residents bombed out of their homes could find a temporary shelter. Residents could indeed rely on no help from Switzerland in those unsettled times. At the request of the Minister a committee was formed for the purpose of organising this Relief Centre in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Society. The President of the Swiss Relief Committee was Monsieur Thurnheer and the Legation Delegate, Monsieur Charles de Jenner. The Chairman was Mr. L. Chapuis and the other members were Mr. A. F. Suter, Mr. Anton Bon, Mr. W. B. Sigerist, Mr. J. J. Boos, Mr. Ch. Chapuis, Pasteur Pradervand and Mr. T. Ritter. Although the Legation received a subsidy from Berne, this was not enough to equip the new Centre. An appeal was launched to all Swiss residents who were in a material position to help in cash or in kind and the response was such that, within a month of its inception, the Centre was equipped with 30 beds.

In early June, Mr. A. Stauffer printed an official memorandum listing all the "must nots" of aliens in Britain. There was an impressive list of places in the British Isles where they were not permitted to go. They were also forbidden to possess an array of usually inoffensive articles, including maps, sea-going crafts and cameras. This produced an open letter of contradiction by Mr. A. Borel, who had taken the trouble of checking this "camera provision" with the police authorities and had learnt that disposing of cameras was not an *order*, but just a recommendation addressed to the aliens in Great Britain. A relieved letter from Mr. Charles Fer, who made a living by importing Paillard cameras, was published in the following issue.

The first 6 months of 1940 were marred by the deaths of a few prominent Swiss in Great Britain. Among those who departed, were Mr. Alpina Bolla, Mr. Heinrich Diener and Mr. E. A. Scheidegger.

**M A T**

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