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THE SWISS BEAT

CHARLES THE BOLD OF BURGUNDY

This year Switzerland is commemorating the victorious battles against Charles the Bold of Burgundy five hundred years ago. In Murten and Grandson, where the battles took place, an extensive programme of celebrations has been arranged.

In fact, Murten will be marking not only this anniversary but also its own beginnings some 800 years ago as one of the towns founded by the aristocratic Zähringen family. In addition to the official commemoration ceremonies, the festivities will include a Zähringen weekend, from 16th to 18th May, with parades, folklore entertainment, stalls and dancing.

From 11th to 13th September there will also be a Burgundian weekend, with folklore groups from Burgundy, Nancy and Grandson, combined with a popular festival for French-speaking Swiss, a Fribourg evening and other attractions. The celebrations will include several town festivals and a Battle of Murten commemorative shooting match.

A further attraction will be rallies on foot, starting from some fifty places, with open-air history lessons. The marches will be open to individuals, families and groups who can spend the night encamped in front of Murten, a reminder of Charles the Bold's historic

encampment of tents with stalls and a market.

The march dates are: every weekday from 17th May to 11th June and from 28th June to 9th July, and on some weekends.

Grandson, on the Lake of Neuchâtel is staging in its castle — which dates from the year 1000 and is Switzerland's biggest medieval fortress — concerts with ancient instruments and theatrical productions while weapons from the Burgundian wars will be on view in one of the museum rooms.

On the first weekend in July the streets of the little town will be turned into a medieval market.



Grandson, on the Lake of Neuchâtel, Canton Vaud is surrounded by vineyards and rich orchards. Photo by courtesy of SNTU.



A view of the medieval town of Murten (canton Fribourg) outside whose walls the Confederates vanquished Charles the Bold of Burgundy in 1476. Picture by courtesy of SNTU.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following couples will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. F. Burri on 2nd May and Mr. & Mrs. R. Senn on 18th of the month.

Mr. A.C. Boller (Sait-Prex) will be 77 on 8th May, and Mrs. A. Sommer will have her birthday on 15th May. The same day, Mr. E. Huber will be 61. Mrs. K. Grob will have her birthday on 18th May, and Mr. J. F. Luethi (Biglen, BE) will be 65 on 22nd May. Mr. W. Schedler will have his 72nd birthday on 24th of the month, and Ambassador A. Weitnauer (Berne) will celebrate his 60th birthday on 30th May. Mr. A. Zullig will be 69 on 30th of the same month.

Mr. L. Portman celebrated his 83rd birthday on 13th April.

Best wishes and congratulations to all concerned!



SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(a company limited by shares, incorporated in Switzerland)

Principal London Office
99 GRESHAM STREET,
P.O. Box No. 114,
LONDON EC2P 2BR
Tel. 01-606 4000

West End Branch
SWISS CENTRE,
1 NEW COVENTRY STREET,
LONDON W1V 8BR
Tel. 01-734 0767

(Savings Account facilities available)

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