

# Letters to the editor

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# The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

As one of your regular subscribers, I feel I should not let you get away with your comments about conscientious objectors in your December issue.

I do not know whether, by any chance, you heard the Radio 4 talk yesterday evening "The Loneliest Man", and read the two pages in the Radio Times on "Memoirs of Non-fighting Men", of which I enclose a copy for your convenience, which I hope you will be interested to read. So, I am afraid, by your calling Military Service, National Service, you seem to forget that Switzerland is supposed to stand out from other countries as the Island of Peace or the Playground of Europe. This is surely much more in accord with the "Rütli-schwur".

As a matter of fact, as a conscientious objector, I myself deserted from the Swiss army in 1915 when I was serving at the Airola Fortress, and afterwards started my own business in 1920 with my English wife (née Scott) as Scott Bader & Co, which still exists and flourishes today. It is, however, not merely a traditional business but a common ownership community in the spirit of superseding capitalism with its war-like structure.

Perhaps I might refer to the article which your predecessor published in your paper on 10th January, 1975, giving a report of a talk by Prof. Hollenweger to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in London. You will see from the article that Hollenweger is in full support of our activities and surely any sensible man must strive for peace rather than war!! Isn't it about time that instead of Military Service, Civil Service should be instituted, particularly in Switzerland, and I am glad that there is now at last a beginning for this change to become reality? I hope that therefore it is not Military Service that is National Service but non-violent Civil Service for the good of everybody.

Might I also refer to the book by Jean Ziegler, as per paper herewith, putting the case of the conscientious objector in Switzerland quite well, I think, and perhaps you will be good

enough to include this book amongst the recommended literature in your Journal.

Ernest Bader,  
Scott Bader Company Limited,  
Wollaston,  
Wellingborough,  
Northamptonshire NN9 7RL

## A Cri de Coeur

Sir,

I would like to make contact with Swiss people living in Nottingham. I am a student at the School of Physiotherapy here but my home is in N. Wales. My father is English but my mother is Swiss and it is through her that I have learnt Swiss-German and been able to see Switzerland.

I spent many happy months working in an hotel there in 1975. However I now have little contact with Swiss people in this country and I would be very happy to hear from any who live in Nottingham or nearby.

Unfortunately there is no club for Swiss people here and Leeds is a bit far away!

I would hate to forget my Swiss-German and besides it would be lovely to talk to someone about Switzerland especially if they feel about the country, the way of life and the mountains, as I do.

Deirdre Birch,  
6 Burlington Rd.,  
Sherwood,  
Nottingham

## ON THE FRONT PAGE

The village of Guarda (GR), of which a delightful detail is shown on the front page, recently won a Heimatschutz prize of Sw.Fr. 10,000. Read more about it and about some communities celebrating anniversaries about now on pages 22 and 23. Picture by courtesy of SNTD.

## SWISS CHURCHES

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PASTEUR: Frank Orna-Ornstein, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Tel: 01-346 5281.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, SW1P 2HA, every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTER: Pastor Paul Jungi, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Services at 6.30 p.m. for Catholics and Protestants. See notice-board in house for details and location.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222 2895.

## ARE YOU A YOUNG SWISS?

Do you know the biggest Swiss happening in town? The SWISS YOUTH CLUB, 48 GREAT PETER STREET, LONDON S.W. 1.

Every Sunday from 4 p.m. onwards the Swiss Youth Club under the auspices of the Swiss Churches in London is staging a "get-together" with a variety of happenings. From 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. "do-it-yourself" entertainment followed by an ecumenical Church service for those who wish to participate.

At 7.30 p.m. a communal dinner party opens a night of dancing and talking (In Schwizerdütsch). Refreshments are served at the bar by Club members.

Looking forward to seeing you!  
Committee of the Swiss Youth Club.