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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 "Rütlischwur".

As a matter of fact, as a conscientious objector, I myself deserted from the Swiss army in 1915 when I was serving at the Airolo 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 SNTO.

For Information, Advice or Help
contact the

SWISS WELFARE OFFICE
for young people

31 Conway Street London W1P 5HL
telephone 01-387 3608

Underground Stations:
Great Portland Street
Warren Street

SWISS CHURCHES

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse,
79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches
a 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
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Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48
Great Peter Street, SW1P 2HA, every
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MINISTER: Pastor Paul Jungi, 1 Womersley
Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southwark
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. on-
wards 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 ecu-
menical 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). Refresh-
ments are served at the bar by Club
members.

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