

Birthdays and anniversaires

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2895.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

On 1st March, *Mr. F. G. Sommer*,
of 3 The Chestnuts, 66 Harestone Valley
Road, Caterham, Surrey, will have his
85th birthday.

On 9th March, *Mr. René Marchand*,
of 16 Hochrain, 2500 Bienne, Switzer-
land, will also celebrate his 85th birthday.

We wish both these old and faithful
readers the best of health and many more
years of happy retirement.

The following readers, too, are
celebrating birthdays in the near future:

Mr. E. Hardmeier will be 89 on 3rd
March, and Mr. L. Meier will have his
88th birthday on 5th March. Mrs. L.
Gradmann will be 79 on the 8th of the
month. Dr. H. W. Egli will be 78 and Mr.
R. Chappuis 81 on 17th March. Mr.
H. Vonwiller will have his 83rd birthday
on the 20th of the month, and Mr.
Albert Ferber will be 66 on the 29th.
Mr. R. Senn will celebrate his 66th birth-
day on 30th March.

Many happy returns of birthdays
and anniversaries to all concerned, in-
cluding readers of whose birthdays we are
not aware.

PAUL BESSIRE, 80

On 20th March, Mr. Paul Bessire, of
28 Cumberland Road, SW13, will reach
the grand age of 80, in very good health
and spirits, we are glad to report.

Paul Bessire, one of six children,
was born in Bienne, where he went to
school and later to the *Ecole de Com-
merce*. He came to this country 62 years
ago, and some three years later he started
his own business here and it has devel-
oped into a firm of general export and
import of some standing. The supply of
mica to the Continent was one of his
successful lines. In the war he was com-
pletely bombed out and had to start all
over again. He did this with courage and
enterprise and worked up a fine business
in industrial diamond tools and exports
of electrical accessories. He is still active
in his company.

Right from the early days in Great
Britain, Paul Bessire took a lively interest
in the Swiss Church and in the mid-
thirties, as a member of the Consistoire,
he was in charge of renovating the Foyer
Suisse in Bedford Place, an offshoot of
the Swiss Church. Many of our com-
patriots in London will recall that the
Foyer, too, was bombed in the war. He
became a member of the City Swiss Club
in 1920, he is now an Honorary Member.
He is a member of the Swiss Mercantile
Society and supports the Swiss Rifle
Association. He joined the Nouvelle
Société Helvétique, of whose Council he
was a valued member for many years.

At a City Swiss Club event in the
early twenties he met Antoinette Schup-
bach of the Neuchâtel branch of the old
Emmental family, whose father was
General Manager of the Crédit Lyonnais
in London and later President of the City
Swiss Club. They were married in London
in 1930. They have two married daughters
and four grandchildren.

On the front page

*Cross-country ski-ing will certainly
give you a hearty appetite as the
two people on the front cover have
found out. A bowl of good soup
will see them through until the next
meal. Story and more pictures on
pages 14 and 15. Photo by courtesy
of SNTD.*

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:
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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.