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# The Swiss Observer

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

Founded in 1919 by Paul F. Boehringer

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Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street (2nd  
floor), London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222  
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:*  
*Great Portland Street*  
*Warren Street*

## 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.