

Restrictions affecting aliens

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Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1940)**

Heft 968

PDF erstellt am: **19.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692791>

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RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING ALIENS.

The following correspondence between the Secretary of the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Minister has been handed to us for publication.

31st May, 1940.

The Swiss Minister,
Swiss Legation,
18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I confirm my letter of the 2nd inst. in connection with our suggestion that the Legation may publish full details of restrictions affecting our compatriots, and, whilst I regret having to disturb you on this matter when I know you are so fully occupied at the present moment, I would esteem it a favour if the Legation could give me some information which I could communicate to the next meeting of the City Swiss Club which takes place on Tuesday next, the 4th prox.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Believe me, Monsieur le Ministre,

Yours truly,

City Swiss Club.

* * *

June 4th, 1940.

Dear Mr. Bingguely,

I have received your letter of May 31st concerning the restrictions affecting the alien population in England, and will endeavour to give you the information of which I spoke. I may add that this Legation has already been in touch with the Home Office, without however eliciting any additional explanation up to date.

Nevertheless, I am quite ready to submit any question which may not yet be clear to any of your members, to the Home Office, if you will kindly advise me of the particulars.

I am fully aware of the fact that these restrictions may cause a good deal, and sometimes even serious, inconvenience to many of my compatriots. It is, however, in the interest of every Swiss and of the whole Swiss colony, that all should strictly obey the orders of the authorities, so avoiding trouble and unnecessary work to all of us.

The Legation is quite willing to study any cases of serious hindrance to trades or professions, but they would not be able to intervene in cases where merely personal conveniences were at stake — i.e. in the case of automobiles, when the place of business or profession can be reached as well by train or 'bus.

The Swiss colony in Great Britain has enjoyed for a very long time a broad minded and lenient hospitality from His Majesty's Authorities. At the present time, when Great Britain is at war, we must show our gratitude for this hospitality by showing understanding of the situation and by being loyal to our hosts.

Yours truly,

W. THURNHEER.

* * *

MEMORANDUM.

I. a. In an Order entitled "The Aliens (Protected Areas) Order, 1940" (No. 468), which came into force on April 15th, the following areas were established:

The Humber Area;
Part of Lincolnshire,
The Harwich Area,
Part of Essex,
The Medway, Thames and Dover Area,
Kent (outside the Metropolitan police district),
The Portsmouth Area,
Part of Sussex,
The Plymouth Area,
The North of Scotland Area,
The Orkney and Zetland Area.

- b. Into these areas no Swiss shall enter or remain without the permission in writing of the registration officer of a district situated in whole or in part in the protected area.
 - c. Swiss who were ordinarily resident in one of these protected areas before April 15th will have to apply to the registration officer of their district in order to obtain permission to remain there.
 - d. These prescriptions do not apply to Swiss travelling from the United Kingdom to a place outside or vice versa, i.e. if a Swiss wishes to travel from London to Paris, he is not obliged to apply for permission to cross one of the protected areas, provided he does not interrupt his journey.
 - e. A Swiss residing in one of the protected areas shall not have in his possession or use any camera or other photographic apparatus, or any telescope, field-glass or similar optical instrument or any nautical chart, without the permission of the registration officer of his district.
 - f. If a Swiss residing in one of the protected areas receives a visitor of another than British nationality, he must inform the registration officer of the district on the arrival of his foreign visitor, giving the full name and nationality. He shall equally inform the registration officer on his guest's departure.
- II. a. By Order No. 720 entitled "Alien — Restriction" which came into force on May 11th, Swiss residents in the following countries or county borough in England shall report in person every day at the police station:
- (i) the administrative countries of — Cambridge; Durham; Essex except the part within the Metropolitan Police District; Huntingdon; Isle of Ely; Isle of Wight; Kent except the part within the Metropolitan Police District; Parts of Holland, Lincoln; Parts of Lindsey, Lincoln; Norfolk; Northumberland; Rutland; Soke of Peterborough; Southampton; East Suffolk; West Suffolk; East Sussex; West Sussex; York, East Riding and North North Riding;
 - (ii) the county boroughs of — Bournemouth; Brighton; Canterbury; Darlington; Eastbourne; Gateshead; Great Yarmouth; Grimsby; Hastings; Ipswich; Kingston-upon-Hull; Lincoln; Middlesbrough; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Norwich; Portsmouth; Southampton; Southend-on-Sea; South Shields; Sunderland; Tynemouth; West Hartlepool, and York; etc.

- b. By the same order Swiss persons shall not make use of any private motor vehicle or bicycle, and shall not be out of doors between the hours of 8 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning without the permission of the registration officer of his district.
- III. By an Order which appeared to-day (June 4th, 1940) the protected areas will be extended as follows: (Protected Areas Order No. 857):
- The Tyne and Blyth Area,
The Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Area,
The Portland Area,
The Falmouth Area,
The Severn Area,
The Milford Haven Area,
The Mersey Area,
etc.
- IV. An Order which came into force yesterday (June 3rd, 1940) and which is applicable to all Swiss residents within the United Kingdom, prescribes the following restrictions in respect of the foreign population in Great Britain.
- a. No alien shall have in his possession or under his control a bicycle, motor vehicle, sea-going craft or air-craft.
- b. Unless authorized by a police permit, no alien shall be absent from his ordinary place of residence between 12 midnight and 6 a.m. within the Metropolitan police district of London and 10.30 p.m. and 6 a.m. in any other districts in the United Kingdom (except the special prescriptions in the protected areas).
- c. All foreign visitors in private houses have forthwith to be reported in writing to the nearest police station immediately on arrival.

Exemptions from these prescriptions can only be obtained by application in writing to the nearest Police Station.

Exemptions are only granted if the applicant can prove beyond any doubt that this exemption is absolutely necessary for the carrying on of his trade or business.

Application should not be made for the mere reason of convenience. A compatriot who used to reach his business by motor-car can in most cases reach it by underground or 'bus equally well. Such a compatriot should not apply for exemption.

If however the particular character of the trade (e.g. a tradesman who cannot carry on business without a delivery van) demands exemption, the necessary application may be made.

Persons whose trade or profession compels them to be out of their houses after the curfew hour, such as doctors, waiters and so forth, are equally entitled to apply for exemption.

Persons wishing to visit theatres, attend dinners, etc., are not entitled to apply for exemption.

In the interest of the Swiss community in London, it is extremely important that such application should be avoided.

- V. Aliens Restriction Order No. 754, dated May 21st, applies only to aliens who have entered or enter the United Kingdom after May 9th. This order prohibits aliens from having certain ma-

terials in their possession or under their control without the written permission of the registration officer of their district. The following are the materials involved:

1. Any explosive or any material intended to be used for the manufacture of an explosive.
2. More than three gallons of inflammable liquid.
3. Any motor car, motor-cycle; sea-going craft or aircraft.
4. Any camera or other photographic apparatus.
5. Any map drawn to a scale larger than four miles to one inch.
6. Any nautical chart.
7. Any document intended for the use of members of any armed force; or
8. Any such document describing or depicting any ship, aircraft, vehicle, weapon or equipment of a kind used by the armed forces of the Crown, or any such list of persons in His Majesty's service, as is for the time being specified for the purposes of Article 9a of the Aliens Order by an Order of the Secretary of State.

SWISS LEGATION,
June 4th, 1940.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS IN WARTIME.

By Dr. MEILE,

General Manager, Swiss Federal Railways.

("Modern Transport," 1.6.40.)

Wartime operating conditions were imposed upon the transport undertakings of Switzerland simultaneously with the mobilisation of the Swiss army. From the moment, transport of all kinds came under the direct orders of the Commander-in-Chief, the Director of Movements being responsible for the efficient operation of transport and being the chief military authority so far as the technical aspects of railway operation are concerned. Generally speaking, it may be said that it is only where military transport is directly concerned that the Swiss Federal Railways come completely under the control of the military authorities. In other respects, the administration of the undertaking is maintained in the same way as in peacetime. Thus, the railway administration continues to be responsible for financial and commercial

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