

Letters to the editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There has been a good crop of letters this month. They are always welcome so please keep them coming.

WGS

Sir,

I read with interest your article on the card game of "Jass" on page 20 of January 1977 issue. We have a pack of German Swiss cards but do not have the rules of the game. I would be most grateful if you could let me know where we could obtain the rules in English, or even better, if you could send us a copy. My Swiss wife and I really enjoy your magazine.

E. D. Green,
7 Woodstock Road,
Broxbourne, Herts.

We thank Mr. Green for his kind remarks about our paper. His is the second request from a British reader for the rules of Jass — preferably in English. Mr. Roger Bennison of 49 Londar St., Godmanchester, Cambs. also asked for them.

I must also admit, almost shamefacedly that I too would like to learn (I am a keen card player). To this end I have asked our friends at the Swiss Embassy to try to help and they have promised to try. But be warned, it is extremely unlikely that any rules have been published in English so if we are successful in tracking down some information it will probably be in German and/or French.

WGS

Sir,

I would like to add a word or two to your Article "Thoughts on Switzerland revisited" that appeared in your last edition, and, at the same time, remind the writer of the article that money, big cars and expensive holidays don't represent happiness for everybody.

Being of Swiss nationality, I certainly enjoy hearing or reading pleasant comments about my country or compatriots but I think that at least one important point in favour of Britain has been overlooked in the above-mentioned

article. The writer was lucky not to fall ill, have an accident or indeed have to visit the dentist whilst staying in Switzerland. May I remind him of the marvellous Social Security benefits we have in England? It costs at least Sw.Fr. 1,000 (£250) to have a baby in Switzerland, for example, excluding clinic costs, and about Sw.Fr. 400 (£100) to have a tooth capped!

In comparison, we have maternity grants and benefits etc! Surely such an important fact should at least be mentioned?

After all, life is not all that bad in Britain! What one doesn't have, one doesn't miss!

M. N. Holt Mrs.,
Officer's Mess,
RAF Wildenrath,
BFPO 42
W. Germany

Whilst thanking Mrs. Holt for her letter I think it only fair to the author to politely point out that the article did try to stress the quality of life in Britain and in no way tried to pretend that Swiss life was perfect.

WGS

Sir,

Having a Swiss wife and connections, I am interested in all things Swiss. I note in the February issue of the Swiss Observer a letter from Mr. Ernest Bader on conscientious objection to fighting. Probably 99 per cent of people consider war futile. General Guisan in the last war made it clear to the Germans that the Swiss would resist an incursion into their territory. It is more than probable, but for this, the Germans would have come. What would have happened if there had been then wholesale desertions?

Your correspondent perhaps might say "Better let them in and avoid bloodshed." But would it? What about further gas chambers for the Jews and regimentation of the Swiss for further German aggression. One feels with the utmost respect, that we have to face up to the facts of life, and not bury our heads in the ground like an ostrich.

Mr. Bader goes on to say that the structure of capitalism is warlike. An even

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