

114 tough scouts in search of a mountain

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FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

The "Comptoir Suisse" held every year in Lausanne is the great autumn event not only for this part of the country but for Switzerland as a whole, since it is another occasion, after the Swiss Industries' Fair in Basle in the spring, to get a comprehensive picture of Swiss production. The date this year will be 7th to 22nd September.

Interest far beyond the frontier has been roused in the "British Industrial Trade Fair" which is being organized in connection with the "British Fortnight" in the Zurich Hallenstadion from 2nd to 14th September. Following in the same setting will be the "Züspa", the 14th Zurich Autumn Show, from 26th September to 6th October.

114 TOUGH SCOUTS IN SEARCH OF A MOUNTAIN

With miniature Union Jacks stitched to their uniforms, 114 British scouts have been on a tough eleven-day trek across Switzerland — looking for a mountain to conquer!

Nothing as formidable as the Eiger or the Matterhorn, of course. Just one of the lesser giants of the Jura range, with a flat enough summit on which they could pitch their tents.

The boys, whose ages range from 15 to 18, have been crossing Switzerland in teams of two as part of a unique initiative and endurance test which could win them one of scouting's premier awards, the coveted Explorer Belt.

According to the rules, they were expected to climb two different mountains on their go-whichever-way-you-please hike from the Northern Swiss Rhine port of Basle to the lake of Geneva resort of Lausanne. They were given a list of six to choose from — Montoz, Chasseral, Weissenstein, Chaumont, Le Soliat and Chasseron. But they were only expected to pitch their tent for the night on one of them.

Mountaineering was, however, only one of many tasks they were called on to tackle. Before they left London they were each given a log-book detailing a large number of special projects, all of which would provide them with points towards the award of the Belt.

One was to talk to the leading inhabitants of a typical Swiss village and find out how it is run and what the people do.

They were expected to camp out on every night except one, which they had to spend with a Swiss family (and record the differences between that family's way of life and their own).

They were also instructed to study the Swiss educational system, to find out how the Swiss Parliament works (and why Swiss men are reluctant to let their women have the vote), visit a factory, learn how to make *fondue* and be prepared, at their interview with the judges on the last day of the expedition, to answer questions about such typical Swiss institutions as the Initiative and the Lands-gemeinde, sports like Hornussen, and historical figures like Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Pestalozzi.

They had to observe strict rules. Among the DON'TS they were expected to observe: to keep away from main roads, and to refuse all offers of lifts. There was no hiding the toughness of the expedition, and they were warned: "The course is strenuous, and the high standard required for the award of the Belt is attained by few." And they were reminded not to forget their good deed every day — "including one really worthwhile one".

One of the purposes of the test was "to get under the skin of a foreign country", and the log book they car-

ried with them, containing instructions in English and French (in case they needed to call on local people in an emergency), left them in no doubt as to what was expected of them.

"Explorer Belts are not easily won", it said. "They will only be awarded to those teams who have shown an exceptionally high standard of initiative, curiosity and resource, and have gained a real understanding of the people, way of life and problems of Switzerland."

(*Helvetic News Service.*)

EXPO 1964

The Embassy would like to draw the attention of our compatriots to the facilities that will be extended to those Swiss living abroad who visit the National Exhibition at Lausanne next year:

They will pay half price for admission tickets, and will further be entitled to make a free three-minute telephone call to their homes in the sector "La voie suisse". Single fare will be charged by the Swiss Federal Railways for return tickets valid for the journey to and from Lausanne within the country. The French Railways will grant a 20% reduction, as will also the Italian Railways, but in their case only from 30th April to 15th June and from 1st to 25th October; a 25% reduction will be made by the Spanish Railways, and 35% by the Swedish Railways.

To claim these benefits compatriots (including dual nationals) will have to produce at Swiss Railways booking offices, as well as at entrance gates to the National Exhibition and the "La voie suisse" sector, not only their Swiss passports but also the registration cards issued by the Swiss diplomatic missions abroad.

The organisers stress the advantage of visiting the National Exhibition in the less-crowded months of May-June and September-October, and of arranging charter flights and other forms of group travel for Swiss societies. The following calendar of Cantonal Days may also help in deciding dates:

Fribourg	Thursday	7th May (Ascension Day)
Vaud	Wednesday	13th May
Glarus and Zug	Friday	15th May
Ticino	Saturday	23rd May
Baselland	Friday	29th May
Uri		
Schwyz	Wednesday	3rd June
Unterwalden		
Baselstadt	Friday	5th June
Geneva	Tuesday	9th June
Zurich	Thursday	11th June
Lucerne	Friday	19th June
St. Gall	Friday	26th June
Valais	Monday	29th June
Solothurn	Friday	3rd July
Appenzell I and A-Rh.	Friday	10th July
Schaffhausen	Friday	28th August
Aargau	Friday	4th September
Berne	Friday	11th September
Neuchâtel	Friday	18th September
Thurgau	Friday	25th September
Grisons	Friday	2nd October

Further information can be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London W.C.2 (WHI 9851).