

The Union Jack in Zurich

Autor(en): **A.T.S.**

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Il devenait évident que notre conception de la défense, stratégiquement statique et matérialisée par la mise en place de la majorité de nos effectifs sur des positions dites "d'armée" ne pouvait plus nous permettre de poser à un adversaire des problèmes tels qu'il hésite à nous attaquer.

Il devenait donc nécessaire de prévoir une bataille de Suisse plus souple, livrable simultanément sur l'ensemble du territoire, singulièrement sur le Plateau, objectif premier d'un assaillant qui chercherait le traverser pour déborder sur un flanc son adversaire principal.

Admettre cette doctrine avait comme corollaire logique la création d'unités de bataille plus mobiles, disposant d'une plus grande puissance de feu et de choc.

Tels étaient les buts à atteindre en procédant à un nouveau remaniement de notre organisation militaire.

Précisions, pour être un peu plus complet que:

- l'aviation d'une armée se battant selon cette nouvelle doctrine devait être renforcée numériquement et qualitativement;

- la défense contre avions devait disposer d'un armement plus nombreux et plus efficace;
- les troupes frontières continuaient à remplir leur mission de protection de la mobilisation et de la concentration de l'armée, mais toutes mesures étaient prises pour les mettre à même de remplir mieux leur tâche par augmentation de l'armement — antichars et artillerie surtout —, de leur puissance effective par rajeunissement et de leur qualité combattive par des cours d'instruction plus fréquents;
- il a été constitué en outre un corps alpin chargé de la défense des Alpes et du front Sud, corps alpin dont les troupes, plus spécialisées à l'avenir, seront elles aussi mieux aptes à livrer la bataille qui leur est impartie.

Il est intéressant de relever que les études, discussions et approbation par le Conseil fédéral, les commissions militaires et les Chambres ont exigé un délai de six ans, comme pour l'organisation de 1951.

(à suivre.)

THE UNION JACK IN ZURICH

On 2nd September Mr. Erroll, President of the Board of Trade, opened Britain's big trade effort, the British Industrial Fair and Fortnight in Zurich. For two weeks products of over 800 British firms were on show and on sale. Mr. Erroll said at the opening ceremony that it was the starting point of a determined drive to raise Anglo-Swiss trade to even higher levels. The Fair was sponsored by the principal organizations of British industry including the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the Export Council for Europe, the Federation of British Industries, the National Association of British Manufacturers and the Trades Union Congress. Every effort was made to achieve the maximum possible publicity in Switzerland, the neighbouring countries and also in the United Kingdom.

Apart from the Industrial Exhibition there was a large-scale programme of events and attractions of a British character. Individual displays included fashions, hobbies and handicrafts, books, cartoons and pictures, replicas of the Crown Jewels and a show on the new Coventry Cathedral.

Lloyd's of London, exhibiting in Europe for the first time, demonstrated how they can devise policies to cover individual risks. There were demonstrations of British Traditions, and a 2½-ton cake made in this country was distributed to hospitals. A London double-decker bus plyed between the Exhibition Hall at the Oerlikon Hallenstadion and the Zurich main station. There was a British theatre group and jazz bands. Fortnum and Mason of Piccadilly were established at the Globus Store which had "adopted" Scotland and called itself "Mac Globus". Several well-known British personalities attended, and one of the highlights was the visit of the Lord Mayor, who made a State Visit in full splendour with all its pageantry and complete with London Policemen.

There were talks and lectures and press conferences and banquets. During the "Knabenschiessen", the junior shooting contest in Zurich, twelve British boys were invited to stay with Swiss families.

At the opening ceremony Federal Councillor Schaffner gave the official welcome from the Government, and the cantonal and municipal authorities were well represented. The pipes and drums of the Cameronian Highlanders played, to the delight of the guests.

Several events, especially some open-air concerts by

British military bands, were cancelled in view of the catastrophic blow Switzerland suffered through the tragic air disaster. The 75 bandmen of the Royal Junior Guardsmen Company gave a serenade to the hospital inmates of Uznach and Rueti and a concert at Rapperswil. It was their wish that a collection be taken in aid of the Humlikon orphans, which resulted in well over £200.

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Other Anglo-Swiss news concerns a new Swiss-British Company which has been established in Berne and whose business is Security (with a capital S). British armoured cars will be used for transporting valuables on Swiss roads.

In July over 50 British road construction experts visited Switzerland. They were particularly interested in the use of concrete for road surfaces in the new National Highways.

The recent overhaul of the road surface on London's famous Tower Bridge, which had never been completely redone since it was completed in 1894, gave rise to a number of very tricky technical problems. For reasons of weight, it was decided to abandon the idea of concrete and asphalt for resurfacing the roadway and to use wooden blocks once again instead. In order to make these wooden blocks adhere firmly and very quickly to their plastic foam foundation — heavy traffic requirements obviously calling for great speed in the work — the British engineers' choice finally fell on a quick-hardening epoxyde-based glue called Araldite, produced by a Swiss chemical products firm at Basle. So that the new road surface should not become slippery in wet weather, each block before being laid was covered with gravel glued in position by means of Araldite.

In July an exhibition of British art was opened in Berne. In August the Royal Irish Fusiliers gave a concert during the "Fêtes de Genève", the Flower Festival of Geneva, and at the "Fête de la Montre-Braderie" at La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the end of August, the "Young Guardsmen" who are on a tour of Europe took part.

Finally, "The Times" reported that the famous Swiss playwright, Max Frisch, at the International Drama Conference in Edinburgh suggested an approach to the Rockefeller Foundation to establish an international institute for translating drama and literature.

(Based on news from A.T.S., "Basler Nachrichten", O.S.E.C., and Swiss Bank Corporation Bulletin.)