

Brief news

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **4 (1938-1939)**

Heft 9

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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On August 1st., 1914, when the alarm was sounded in our valleys and the homeland called her sons to the flag, it was heart-stirring to see the manifest pride with which you came from all the quarters of the globe to protect your country in the hour of danger.

We all know that should your country call on you to-day you would respond to her appeal, for, wherever you may be, in your hearts you bear the image of a happy, free and eternal Switzerland.

Once more the horizon is clouded and peril is again lurking on our frontiers. In recent years we have reinforced our Army, and you have contributed considerable sums to the Defence of the Country Loan. But there is still another task before us - to secure the future of aviation in our country.

We possess, it is true, a small but highly qualified civil air service, and our military authorities are expending all their energies on the expansion of our air fleet. Our lack of pilots, however, is alarming. A glance at other countries shows us that nothing is being left undone to propagate the idea of aviation among the people. Young men are told over and over again: "Learn to fly!" The result is that thousands of pilots have been trained and will be followed by tens of thousands. That means in times of peace no less than of war an enormous number of men hardened by sport and ready and eager to give their services.

What are WE doing? We are at the back of beyond! If we do not wish to be lost, to be thrust away from the great air routes, if we desire in case of need to defend our democracy even from the air, there is but one possibility - to set to work with all the energy at our command and to call upon our people to make a decisive start.

A clear realisation that the unprecedented development of aviation in other countries places the Swiss people before a grave alternative, and the appreciation of the fact that we must, whether we will or not, take into account the powerful dynamic forces of international happenings, induced the leading organs of the Swiss Aero Club, with the collaboration of the Federal Air Ministry to constitute last year the PRO AERO foundation with the object of obtaining the necessary funds for a vigorous and immediate promotion of our civil aviation by means of a national collection. Only an action on a big scale comprising the whole nation can offer a guarantee for an accelerated mobilisation of the urgently required funds.

In May, 1938, the Swiss people showed their will in future to pay the attention to their aviation interests which is so urgent in these times. The financial result of the 1938 action enabled PRO AERO to support the sections and groups of the Ae.C.S. engaged in motor and gliding aviation as well as in building models, vigorously to promote the training of pilots and flying instructors, and to start a publicity campaign on a big scale in favour of aviation in Switzerland.

The net yield of the 1938 action amounted in round figures to 400,000 Swiss francs, of which more than 20,000 were donated by Swiss in other countries.

The present appeal is intended to induce our compatriots abroad to collaborate in this work, and we beg you to buy the "Pro Aero" badge which is made in our national colours with "Pro Aero" and the Swiss cross in gold. We shall be pleased to take your orders at 2/- a badge.

PRO AERO.

BRIEF NEWS:

Members are reminded that the annual Swiss-Ball in Manana will take place on June 21st. next. We understand that our Swiss Consul will attend.

We are pleased to report that our Banking Account is now £115.3.3

Jost Ribary: Anybody knowing the whereabouts of Jost Ribary is urgently requested to communicate with the Secretary or the Swiss Consulate, Wellington.

Tony Komminoth has disposed of his business in Christchurch, and has taken over Tea Rooms at Cheviot, Canterbury. A young lady from Goeschonen has come to New Zealand recently to marry Tony. We wish the young couple best luck and success in business.

We have much pleasure to enlist the following as new members:

Mr. K. Leuthard, Eltham: Mr. J. M. Amrein, Private Bag, Te Kuiti.

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to Secretary, W. UNGEMUTH, Clarence Rd., Northcote, Auckland, N.4.