

Collection for Swiss Soldiers

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COLLECTION FOR SWISS SOLDIERS.

It affords me great pleasure to once more express to all of my fellow-countrymen in N.Z., who have contributed to our collection for the Swiss Soldiers Relief Fund, my sincere appreciation and thanks. According to official statistics there are approximately 750 Swiss-born people living in N.Z., and if I am not mistaken, the membership of the Swiss Benevolent Society of New Zealand is about 130. Compared with such figures it is most gratifying to state that about 130 fellow-countrymen have made contributions and that the average individual contribution almost amounts to £2.0.0. Indeed, the total amount of the collection so far has almost reached £250. I say so far, because money is still dropping in either at the Swiss Consulate at Wellington or at Auckland in care of Messrs. Merz and Ungemuth, our untiring leaders of the Swiss Benevolent Society. For the sake of those, who have not had an opportunity as yet to make their contribution or who have not as yet made up their mind, we are not going to close the collection. The opportunity is still open for each and every Swiss in N.Z. to share with all of us, who have a right to be proud of our achievement, our pride. REMEMBER: The best part of the Swiss army is still mobilised and the financial burden is staggering. Switzerland is now cut off from imports and exports, food rations will become smaller and employment a dire problem. Thousands of Swiss soldiers, mobilised or demobilised, their wives and children, especially in the mountain regions, will depend on help, especially during the forthcoming winter months!

Before concluding, I also wish to extend my warmest thanks to the "Knitting Bees" of our Society, a number of our Swiss ladies, who have sent in beautifully knitted woollen garments, mostly made by their own hands.

And last but not least, thanks to all those who have not spared time and trouble of helping us to collect, as especially our friends of the Committee at Auckland and those of Waikato, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and Wellington.

I am also mentioning that approx. £220 of the collection has already been telegraphed to the Swiss Political Department for remittance to the Swiss Soldiers Relief Fund. The rest will be remitted the same way. But inasmuch as we hope that a number of our fellow-countrymen, whose names are not on the list of contributions as yet, are going to send in their contributions shortly, we have decided to wait a little longer until we make the second remittance. As to the woollen garments, they will soon be shipped via the Swiss Legation in Washington, U.S.A., to Switzerland.

WALTER SCHMID.

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The Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society wishes to express its great appreciation and the sincerest thanks, for the generous cash-donations made towards the fund for our Swiss mobilised Soldiers. The total contribution reached nearly £250, a fine result indeed. We are proud that the spirit of our compatriots is one of intense love for our Homeland, so splendidly demonstrated in subscribing liberally towards the appeal made by our Consul.

Nearly 130 of our compatriots in New Zealand contributed to the fund and your committee has much pleasure in publishing a complete list of the respective names. Incidentally, we appeal to all those friends, who are not yet members of the Society but have shown their interest and love in matters concerning our Homeland, to enrol promptly as members of our Society and be true to our old, old Swiss proverb: "All for One, and One for All." In the true spirit of our forefathers, we all should be united by a commune tie, and by so doing serve two purposes: relieve the distress of those deserving it, and coming closer together by doing a good thing.

E. MERZ, President.