

# The General's address on New Year's Eve

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threaten our comfort rather than our existence, we may suffer in the future from a lack of necessities and from all sorts of privations. Moreover, recent events have shown that, in spite of the most meticulous observation of our duties as a neutral state, we have unfortunately not been spared from actual war damage.

But we must not lose courage and confidence. As confederates we shall face our future lot with stout hearts and do our duty without grumbling. Increased production of everything - that is the solution of the problem for this year. By intensive cultivation of our soil we must make up for deficient imports of foodstuffs; we must adopt a planned war-economy and reserve for cases of necessity the supplies of raw materials imported in insufficient quantities. The whole nation will be obliged to carry out this task, obeying the call of a national duty.

Citizens! it is only in times of stress that the spiritual strength and the greatness of a people is shown. Let us endeavour to be worthy of our forefathers; let us strive to grow greater with the greatness of our appointed task. Let each one do his duty, faithfully, unweariedly, whatever may be his job or his profession.

The Federal Council puts its trust in the Swiss people.

Put your trust, citizens, in the Government. The Government cannot, it is true, relieve you of your heavy burden or spare you these hard trials. But it will take care that the sacrifices to be made are justly divided.

Today, on the threshold of the new year I call upon you all to be united and to work together. If there are things about which we differ in opinion, forget them. They are not essential. But stand firm together in all that unites us: in the love we bear our fatherland in our devotion to our fellow-countrymen.

Let us, therefore, so begin the new year: earnest, resolute, courageous and ready to make all sacrifices as one people. And a great hope shall journey with us - the hope that a kindly fate may soon bring us the fulfilment of the angels' cry: "Peace upon earth and goodwill to all men." -- for the good of all nations, for the blessing of humanity. And may God, who has visibly blessed our fathers, be with us too.

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#### THE GENERAL'S ADDRESS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Several times during the year just ending, I have taken the opportunity of speaking to you. I then urged you to be steadfast and to hold out. I appealed to your resolution, to your courage and perseverance, and stressed the confidence I had in you. In July, on the Rütli, - that sacred spot - I again expressed my unshaken determination to defend our country and my belief in the Army's power of resistance. Today on New Year's Eve I again speak to you. This is for me not only a duty, but a need and a joy. I feel compelled to address you and, doing so, would like to make this declaration. --

Our task is not yet ended. It still makes demands of every one of us, be he soldier or general. It still calls for hard and tenacious effort, physical as well as spiritual. An unwavering faith must inspire us in our task, that faith which is so needful to us and without which we are powerless. During this year we have seen war rage now near, nor far from our frontiers. In the last few months it touched our country in a new way: dwellings were destroyed and war claimed innocent victims among our people. We can understand the bitter feeling caused by this. We feel for the stricken families and share their grief. Today, on the 31st December of 1940, as on the 2nd September 1939, and on the 11th May of this year, we must be ready to fight for our Homeland at any moment.

Many of you had leave and were restored to your work and families. Today I speak not only to you soldiers on service, but to all militiamen on leave. In your period of leave make good use of what you have learnt during your military service. Let

your relations, let the whole country profit by it. Army service has strengthened your character, has taught you self-denial and true comradeship. Honour your Army, your superiors, your comrades. Be true to your country, help her to hold steadfast, do not tolerate defeatism. Set an example. God, who until now has protected our Homeland and preserved for us our precious freedom, looks kindly upon our courage, steadfastness and faith.

After the army I greet you too, workers in the war and munition factories. There you are serving our Fatherland as truly as the farmers in the fields.

But the sacrifices of its soldiers are not alone sufficient for a country that watches over its independence. The whole people must participate; and I think of you, women of Switzerland. I have already thanked you for your work on the farms, where you took the places of the men called up; in the factories, where you are toiling beside your menfolk or in their stead; in all other places of occupation and in your homes, where you are working bravely. I remember the women's auxiliary services which are doing their duty like soldiers. But this is not the sum total of your work. It is not enough to be brave and devoted. You must spur on your husbands, your betrothed, your brothers; you must be for them a constant help and encouragement.

Boys and girls of Switzerland! It is not merely a question of standing firm today. We must think of the future, we must look forward and prepare. We must think of better times, and with thought ever before us bring up a new and better generation that is fitted for defence and for peace. Our forefathers staked their lives for a free Switzerland. It is our duty to them to prepare a strong and virile Switzerland capable of performing her historical task in the coming New Europe. To that end we must have boys and girls who are trained, tested and full of courage.

The earlier in life our young people learn to make sacrifices for their country, the better will they ultimately fulfil their duties as men and women, as citizens, as heads of families. Boys and girls of Switzerland, I thank you for the proofs of confidence you have so often given. I treasure them, for they prove to me that you understand, that you are ready to serve.

Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men! Our task is a heavy one. The responsibility of your superiors, of your General becomes all the greater as we approach the end of the war. But this time of trial will not have been in vain if it reminds us why we live.

To our families, to our children, to our Country: Greetings!

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#### SWITZERLAND IS FULL OF LANDMARKS.

One does not need to travel far in Switzerland to find traces of medievalism.

Historic landmarks abound along the lakes, in the valleys, on the mountainside. Every region has its ruined castles and other picturesque feudal days, but among these relics of days gone by none are quite as unique from an artistic standpoint at least, as the two old covered bridges which span the Reuss diagonally at Lucerne.

Several modern bridges cross this river at regular intervals, but thousands of pedestrians who but a minute ago may have revelled in the fashionable displays of near-by shops never grow tired of patronizing either the Kapell or the Spreuer Bridge with their atmosphere of antiquity.

The Kapell Bridge was built in 1333 A.D. and recalls the time when the town did not possess a single house of stone, a feature which caused it to be nicknamed "the wooden stork's nest". As a halfway point stands the Wasserturm, an octagonal tower which originally formed part of the city fortifications. Once the safe deposit of the municipal treasury, it is now the storehouse for the town archives and documents.

A series of 77 triangular tablets is placed at regular intervals beneath the roof of this bridge. They are decorated