

# Switzerland is full of landmarks

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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

with scenes from Swiss history. Since these tablets show paintings on both sides, there are 154 scenes in all which have been carefully renovated on several occasions.

The other wooden bridge, the Spreuer or Mühlen Bridge, dates back to 1408. It was in the year 1611 that the Council of Lucerne decided to decorate this bridge with paintings in a similar manner as had been adopted with the Kapell Bridge.

The individual paintings were ordered and paid for by the patrician families of Lucerne and permission for their respective display was granted by the Council of Lucerne. While the coat of arms of the head of the house usually appeared at the bottom to the left, those of his wife were reproduced to the right and occasionally the two amorial designs were combined.

During the earlier renovations it sometimes happened that the verses underneath the pictures were changed and that the persons at whose expense the restoration was made, added their coat-of-arms to those of the founders. The most recent renovations on both bridges have been executed strictly on the basis of historical data.

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#### SWISS NEWS SUMMARY.

In their meeting of January 3rd., the Federal Council adopted a Decree authorising a special Defence Levy on all Swiss subjects who have emigrated since August 1939, in cases where a sum exceeding Frs. 20,000 was taken or is being taken abroad.

After discussion of the economic situation, the Federal Council has adopted the following resolutions:

- 1) To do everything in its power to foster the inland production, in view of increasing import difficulties.
- 2) To introduce compulsory labour organisation.

The first big job to be tackled is that of the extension of arable land and the meeting of labour problems arising out of it. The decision to introduce compulsory labour will chiefly affect unemployed persons who after passing a medical examination can be used for draining and cultivating the soil.

The Confederation is prepared to contribute between 30 and 50% of the cost of such works. Additional expenses will have to be met by land owners and the boroughs.

Towards the end of September 1940 the number of Wireless licence holders in Switzerland was assessed at 634,248. During December 5000 new licences were taken out: and the total increase during 1940 amounted to 40,888.

Since 1941 a fresh increase has been registered bringing the total number of licensees to 643,698.

A report of the Department for Public Economy, concerning old age pensions and social services recently came up for discussion by the Federal Council. The Government have a sum of Frs. 18,000,000 at their disposal for such purposes, covering the period up to December 31st. 1941. From then on up to 1945, the funds at their disposal will not exceed Frs. 12,000,000. This sum represents in part the income under the Old Age Insurance scheme and Frs. 4,500,000 are expected from the administration of the alcohol monopoly. The Federal Council have invited the Department for Public Economy to submit proposals as to how best use could be made of the available funds.

Customs Revenue: Customs Revenue in January 1941 show with 13,6 Million Francs a reduction of 6,8 Million Francs as against January of the previous year. In the same way the loss in December 1940 compared to the previous year amounted to 12,3 Million Francs. The comparison between the yearly income of 1939 and 1940 shows a reduction from 305,3 Million to 230,6 Million respectively.