

Message from General Eisenhower to the International Committee of the Red Cross

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The ceremony opened with the playing of the Swiss national anthem. The troops marched past to receive the salute of the General. First the cavalry, then the infantry in their gray uniform and black helmets, and finally the air corps. They carried the banners which they have been guarding for five years, their beloved white cross on a red field. The soldiers then formed a block in front of the Parliament to hear the farewell speech of the General, who in time of peace returns to the rank of the soldiers. After the General's speech, Federal President de Steiger expressed the thanks of the Swiss Government and people to the army and its General. "Today", he said, "the banners are neither torn nor covered with blood as in previous battles in Swiss history. Nor have they seen their guards sink beside them. Almighty God has preserved us from the horrors of war. Other armies have this time led the fight against tyranny and paid the price of freedom. This we must not forget." Glancing into the future, President de Steiger said: "Great tasks await us. The Swiss democracy, small as it is, will try to be a useful, independent and valuable member of the family of nations. When the victors assume new tasks for the well-being of a shaken world, our little country will show itself worthy of the respect of the nations." After the ceremony the flags of the Swiss army were deposited in the Parliament building. The crowd sang the national anthem and cheered the General as never a departing official has been cheered in this undemonstrative country."

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During the last parliamentary session, the Chambers approved a project of the Federal Council concerning the extension of our diplomatic service abroad. This project provides for the setting up of new Legations, especially in various countries of Central and Latin America, Canada, South Africa and Australia. Putting into practice this decision the Federal Council appointed Dr. Victor Nef as Swiss Minister to Canada. The ability displayed by Dr. Nef during his long stay in the United States as Swiss Consul General in New York is sufficient proof that in his new functions he will render valuable service not only in the diplomatic interests of Switzerland and Canada but also in their economic interests.

The Canadian Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs declared that his country greeted with satisfaction the creation of a Swiss Legation in Ottawa and that his government had agreed to the appointment of Dr. Victor Nef, former Swiss Consul General in New York to the post of Swiss Minister. He added that Canada lacking sufficient qualified personnel at the moment would wait for a while before sending a Minister to Switzerland.

The Federal Council furthermore decided to open a Swiss Legation in China, and appointed Mr. Henri de Torrente from Sion as Swiss Minister plenipotentiary to China. Minister de Torrente will hold a post which may become of paramount importance to our country. So far the Swiss Confederation has been represented in China by the Swiss Consul General in Shanghai who also acted as Charge d'Affaires. Minister de Torrente born in 1893, entered the Federal Service in 1922. Three years ago, he was appointed Minister and delegate of the Federal Council to commercial negotiations. In this function, Minister de Torrente participated in the preparation of the important commercial agreements which were recently concluded between Switzerland and a number of other countries.

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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS.

American Headquarters in Germany handed to Dr. Marti, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Frankfurt am Main, on October 1 a message signed by General Eisenhower. The following is the text of the message:

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
GENEVA SWITZERLAND

To you and your workers all over the world, on behalf of the Allied Expeditionary Force, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks.

Your humane effort has saved the lives of untold numbers of prisoners of war. You have kept open the channels of communication between the prisoner and his family. You have delivered important amounts of vital relief supplies, and maintained hope in the hearts of both prisoners and their families that, after this long and bitter war, they might be reunited.

For your task of mercy still to be achieved in other theaters, I am sure you will have the wholehearted co-operation of all the Allied Governments and of their Armies. The deep devotion of your workers will long be gratefully remembered.

(S) Dwight Eisenhower
Supreme Commander
Allied Expeditionary Force.

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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Pestalozzi Jubilee in 1946: After the collapse of European culture, there is a deep craving for the revival of human rights and social justice. The 200th anniversary of Henri Pestalozzi's birthday, which will be celebrated on the 12th January, 1946, will be an occasion to recall the outstanding work of this great Swiss educationalist and humanitarian, who was the founder of modern principles of education. An international Congress of men who have dedicated themselves to the study of Pestalozzi's work, and of educationalists from all countries, will take place in Switzerland. Great interest in this event is already being displayed in educational circles in the United States, the British Empire, China, and on the European Continent.

Swiss Model Schools for Germany: It is planned to open in South Germany a number of Swiss model schools and colleges, staffed with Swiss teachers. The plan is supported by the authorities of the French Forces of occupation. To begin with only carefully selected German children and young people will be admitted to these schools. The immediate object is to create exemplary education centres.

Swiss School Text Books for Austria: In Zurich, Switzerland, an educational relief association has been created with the object of collecting school text books for Austria. The Bernese State Council has agreed to a request by the authorities of the Allied Forces of Occupation in Italy, and the Italian Ministry of Education, for permission to reprint Bernese school text books for use in the German-speaking part of Italian South Tyrol.

Swiss Contributions to the International Red Cross: During the war the Swiss Government has granted to the Committee of the International Red Cross at Geneva NZ £7,250,000, while other sources in Switzerland have furnished another NZ £8,000,000.

American soldiers will be allowed to attend lectures at all the Swiss universities; about 2,500 such students are expected. They are not allowed to purchase watches or barter uniforms or parts of their equipment.

By the middle of this month about 50,000 American soldiers were spending their leave in Switzerland; their original pocket money of Frs. 150 has now been increased to Frs. 175 per month. The effect on our hotel industry seems to be in the nature of a temporary boom. The following report from Berne which appeared in the "Daily Mail" September 8th is to be believed:

"For the first time since 1938 Swiss hotels in all the big centres such as Bale, Zurich, Berne, Lausanne, and Geneva are packed to capacity.

A leading hotel-keeper today said he was unable to explain this phenomenon, especially as entry into Switzerland is still difficult.