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# HELVETIA



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in New Zealand

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WELLINGTON.  
DECEMBER, 1946.

FONDATION GENERAL GUISAN.

Compatriots and Friends,

All of you know what a difficult time the last 8 years has been for our small country - Switzerland. Many people regard it as a miracle that Switzerland was able to maintain her independence throughout the years of war. It must be admitted, however, that the conduct of her citizens and, above all, the preparedness of the army, were not without effect. Looking back the Swiss people realise the important part played by the army and wish to find a way to express their thanks to the armed forces represented by the Commander-in-Chief, General Henri Guisan.

Any Swiss citizen who has been a soldier in our army knows how civilian life is interrupted during the time of mobilisation. Apart from economic losses the soldier often suffers in health also on account of the hard conditions especially in the mountainous districts. Financial loss can usually be shown in figures and the necessary steps have been taken by official and private authorities to maintain a certain standard of living for those affected.

The same cannot be done where health is affected. Official help can provide the necessary medical treatment and financial assistance, but the latter is only sufficient to maintain a bare existence. A Committee has therefore been formed to collect and administer the "General Guisan Fund" which is to give real help to soldiers who are permanently or temporarily disabled and to demonstrate the gratitude of the Swiss people to the army.

The Swiss communities abroad have expressed the wish to join in this effort, and I feel sure that my fellow countrymen in New Zealand will share my opinion that too much cannot be done for those who have given so much to save our Homeland. I therefore enthusiastically support the appeal I have received and thank you in advance for your contributions, which will, I hope, be generous.

Needless to say, it will also be a matter of personal satisfaction when I can report a successful response in my consular district from my compatriots (and New Zealand friends of Switzerland).

To your "We Swiss in New Zealand thank General Guisan and the Swiss army" I can already say "The General and the soldiers of the Swiss army thank you", and so does

Yours sincerely,

E. THEILER

CONSUL.

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