

# Wafer-thin majority approves Swiss army reforms : Switzerland : a country well and truly divided over army reform proposals

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## Rosa Anna Maria Steinger

18. 4. 1919 - 21. 5. 2001

A dearly loved & loving wife, Mother,  
Grandmother & Great Grandmother



Rosa was born in Stratford on the 18/4/1919, to Carl and Wilhelmina Schumacher. She grew up at Cheal Road Ngaere, where she attended the Ngaere Primary School. Later Rosa was an active member of the Ngaere C.W.I. for six years.

Annual holidays with her sister Mina introduced Rosa to life in Springdale. A spot of matchmaking by Charly Steiner's sisters ensured she stayed. Charly and Rosa were married in the Stratford Catholic Church on June 17, 1944. Returning to No. 1 Road property, Charly and Rosa raised a family of three children; Bernard, Lorraine & Chris. Privacy during daily Party line phone calls to her sister, Mina, posed no problem to Rosa, they spoke in Swiss. Active in community affairs, Rosa belonged to both Springdale C.W.I. and Garden circle. Gardening was a passion and the source of much pleasure for her.

Rosa loved to dance & belonged to the Springdale Old-Time dance club. True to her heritage, both Swiss music and dancing provided much enjoyment too. She loved to go out and her ready smile and sense of enjoyment made her a popular passenger on many organized bus tours, while allowing her to venture to many places she would never have been otherwise. Her grandschildren brought her much joy and Rosa loved them wholeheartedly & she adored her great-grandchildren. The sewing machine is now silent, daily morning teas & Friday afternoons will never be the same for family & friends.

T.J.M.

Senior members of the Hamilton Swiss Club well remember Rosa as a member of the committee and willing helper together with her husband the late Charly Steiner during the 'Riverlea-years'. Our sincere sympathy go to Rosa's families.

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### Wafer-thin majority approves Swiss army reforms

*Switzerland: a country well and truly divided over army reform proposals*

In one of the closest votes for several years, the people of Switzerland narrowly approved reforms which will change the future role of the army. Final results from Sunday's referendum gave supporters of the reforms a two per cent margin of victory. The final outcome was in doubt until the very last of Switzerland's 26 cantons -the populous regions of Bern, Zurich and Vaud - announced their results. Turnout was 41 per cent. Voters were deciding on two proposals, which will allow Swiss soldiers to be fully armed when taking

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part in international peace-keeping missions, and permit Switzerland to take part in military training exercises with other countries. Broadly speaking, the results indicate that many parts of French-speaking

western Switzerland voted "no" to the army reforms, joining ranks with right-wing German-Swiss, spearheaded by the populist politician, Christoph Blocher. In general, the results also indicate a split between city and countryside, with Switzerland's urban population more in favour of the reforms. The defence minister, Samuel Schmid - speaking on behalf of the government - welcomed the result.

However, he said the narrow margin of victory meant there needed to be further dialogue on security policy with the Swiss population, and a new consensus had to be found. He said the government had not received a blank cheque to carry out army reforms. Some analysts say that, despite its victory, the outcome of Sunday's vote is a disappointment for the government, which had campaigned strongly in favour of both proposals.