

Letter box

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LETTER BOX.

H. C. Bristol — Pleased to hear that you happened to come across some copies of the S.O. at a Birmingham hotel and that it reminded you that a long time back you had omitted to renew your own subscriptions. We thank you for your cheque of 26/- which carries you to issue No. 1063, as we do not book more than two years in advance; the remainder will be a donation for which we are very grateful. We are sorry to say that the back numbers required are not available, as under our licence we are not entitled to print more copies than have actually been prepaid. We reciprocate your good wishes and hope to see you when the Birmingham Club "breaks out" again.

C. S. — We thank you for the interesting cutting; we had actually decided to refer to this matter in our last issue under the "News at Random," but the foreman printer deleted it (for lack of space, we believe and hope). This is what we wrote:

"A great publicity scheme has been let loose in the English press about three million tourists that are to visit this country annually. Dr. Walter A. Hunziker from the Swiss Touring Federation, has been invited to make contact over here with the Department of Overseas Trade and Travel interests. Dr. Hunziker is reported to have stated that 'the majority of the Swiss had expressed the wish to visit Britain to get better acquainted with the country that had aroused their great admiration.' We do not anticipate a rush just yet; living conditions (the standard of living) are very much better in Switzerland than in this country where the present restrictions and limitations are to continue, we are officially warned, for at least two if not five years. We hope that Dr. Hunziker has also warned his would-be tourists to England to include eggs, butter and confiture in their personal baggage. An interesting suggestion is made by the manager of the Workers' Travel Association to the effect that passports, visas and permits should be abolished and that an identity card should be sufficient for travel purposes; why not adopt the pre-1914 status when one could ramble about the whole of Europe (Russia excepted) without ever being asked to show a passport. It has always struck us how few Swiss visited Britain in normal times, most of them spent their holidays in sunny Italy; there are plenty of beauty spots in Britain but they are generally indifferently advertised, ignoring personal, cultural or historical associations, which after all perfect and memorize the attractions of a place. However, the meaning of this premature propaganda is that Switzerland wants English tourists and Britain Swiss gold."

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The following is the copy of a Letter, which has been sent to Mr. Wyss, who is the Steward of the Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, and whose son fell at Arnhem on September 19th, 1944.

2nd South Staffordshire Regt.,

Chisleton,

Nr. Spindon, Wilts.

September 19th, 1945.

Dear Mr. Wyss,

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that your late son has been awarded a posthumous mention in despatches for his gallantry and leadership in the battle in which he fell just a year ago to-day. The announcement should appear in the "London Gazette" in a few days' time. I have just been notified.

A posthumous award of a "mention" invariably means that, had the recipient survived, he would almost certainly have received a decoration. Unfortunately, only the V.C. can be awarded for an act which results in death, and V.C.'s are given very sparingly.

There is no doubt that your son thoroughly earned the award. He set an outstanding example of courage and determination in the face of overwhelming odds, and his actions certainly inspired others to carry on where he had left off. Everyone here is delighted that he has at last received recognition. I hope the fact will prove of consolation to you and your family.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) H. C. Block, Lt.-Col.,

Commander,

2nd South Staffordshire.