

Repatriation of Swiss

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REPATRIATION OF SWISS.

Parties of our compatriots are still arriving from the Far East, and since our last issue 110 more have reached this country. Nearly all of them, after a stay of a few days, travelled on to Switzerland either by air or by surface routes.

Since our last issue, the "Lalandia," the "Andes," the "Highland Chieftain" and the "Asia" have all reached Great Britain bearing Swiss repatriates. In each case the ship was met, and our compatriots received and welcomed, by Mr. R. Mordasini, Vice-Consul, Swiss Legation, and Mr. J. J. Huber, of the Swiss Legation, Special Division, who were again responsible for the task — complicated at any time, but particularly onerous in these days of priorities, labour shortage, etc — of finding suitable accommodation, organising onward transportation, arranging for the provision of rations, dealing with the vast quantities of luggage involved, handling financial matters, and generally advising and helping these people. As on former occasions, some of the repatriates from the Dutch East Indies had pitiful tales to tell of tribulations and privations, and it is hoped that within a short time of their arrival in Switzerland their health will be restored and the memory of the hardships they have endured effaced.

The largest party consisted of 65 men, women and children from Java and Sumatra who arrived at Southampton on board the "Andes" on March 1st. The "Lalandia," which had 16 persons on board from French Indo-China, docked at Hull on February 22nd. Among the party were M. Hans Hirsbrunner, the Swiss Consul at Saigon, and his family. The "Highland Chieftain" reached Southampton on March 14th, with a complement of 18 Swiss passengers from China. The "Asia" arrived at Greenland (Surrey Commercial) Dock on March 16th, with 8 Swiss on board. In addition, some passengers reached this country independently either from Singapore or South Africa.

NAMES OF ARRIVALS.

Mr. and Mrs. A. von Aesch, Grossaffoltern (Bern); Mr. and Mrs. W. Bruetsch and two children, Buettenhardt (Schaffhausen); Mr. and Mrs. R. Blattner, Kuettigen (Aargau); Dinkel, Ella, Eilken, (Aargau); Mrs. Doerler, Ch. and three children, St. Gallen; Mrs. J. Gerber, née Ray, Heriswil; Mr. F. Gross, Basle; Mrs. F. Grimm and two grandchildren, Trubschachen (Bern); Haechler, Hulda, Basle; Mr. and Mrs. H. Hirsbrunner and three children, Sumiswald (Bern); Mr. and Mrs. W. Hegar and three children, Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. M. Heger and three children, Blumenstein (Bern); Hösl, Hans, Glarus; Mr. and Mrs. Jenny, Langenbruck (Basel); Mr. and Mrs. Klaarmond, E.; Mrs. Koch and one child, Zurich; A. Kuhn, Turbenthal; Mr. and Mrs. Keller, J. and two children, Walzenhausen (Appenzell); E. Langhart, Oberstammheim (Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. G. Lapaire, Fontenais Villars (Bern); Mr. and Mrs. Leuthold and two children, Wadenswil (Zurich); K. Leutenegger, Horben-Sirnach (Thurgau); Mr. and Mrs. Luetzelschwab, Kaiser-augst; Fanny Lott, Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. E. Lenzlinger and one child, Zurich; Ph. Magnin; Mr. and Mrs. Meister, Dachsen (Zurich); Ch. Meyer, Biel (Bern); Mrs. Mueller, Elisabeth, and three children, Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. H. Mauerhofer and three children, Trub (Bern); E. Mueller, Ob. Engstringen; Mr. and Mrs. Nydegger, W., Wahlern (Bern); Mr. and Mrs. B. Preisig, Schwelbrun; E. Pfenniger, Zurich; W. Reimann, Wald (Zurich); Mrs. F. Roth and two children, Ruesch; Bennie Speicher (Appenzell); J. R. Rueber, Taegerwilen (Thurgau); S. Schaer, Leimiswil; Christian Scheidegger, Wyssachengraben (Bern); Ernst Schlager, Basle; Schneider, Josua, Feuerthalen (Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. H. Sennhauser and two children, Zollikon (Zurich); H. Stocker, Anna Stocker and one child, Gunzwil (Luzern); Mr. and Mrs. Sulser and three children; Mrs. Theiler, Muriel Mary, and one child; Vogt, Bruno, Allschwil (Basel); Ph. de Vargas, Lausanne.

EIGHTEEN YEARS SWISS CONSUL.

On the retirement of Mr. E. Montag, Honorary Swiss Consul at Liverpool, we have asked him to supply us with a few particulars as to his career, to which he has kindly consented, and we are pleased to acquaint our readers with the following details:

Mr. Montag was born on the 15th of August, 1875, in Winterthur, in which town he received his education at the "Gymnasium," and afterwards made his apprenticeship with a commercial firm. Soon afterwards he was offered a position in London with a grain firm. This trade was, within a few years of his arrival in London, stirred on to great activity through the Leiter boom, which gave him a chance of handling business in a large way, but before long a depression followed, and the corn trade on the "Baltic" Exchange became a lifeless proposition. Mr. Montag then went to Antwerp in order to gain some experience of the Continental grain trade. After a stay of one year in Belgium, he was offered a position in Liverpool which he accepted. The war of 1914/18 proved to be a big set-back to the entire trade, and at the conclusion of the First World War interrupted business relations had to be re-established.

In order to keep in touch with his countrymen, he joined the Swiss Club in Liverpool and the Swiss Relief Society which was, at that time, sponsored by the Swiss Consul Wyss. In 1927, on the retirement of M. Fontannaz, then Swiss Consul in Liverpool, Mr. Montag became his successor, a post which he held until recently.

Mr. Montag was a passionate mountaineer and a keen student of Geology, inspired by the writings of Professor A. Heim, the famous Geologist.

With the Geological Association he went all over the London Basin, to the South Coast, to the Birmingham area and to Scotland. His activities in this field soon brought him the friendship of many distinguished geologists both here and abroad. Mr. Montag became a member of the Geological Society in Liverpool, where he often spoke and lectured.

It might be of interest to our readers to hear that his studies brought him in honours and awards. The University of Liverpool bestowed on him the degree of Master of Science, *honoris causa*, from the Liverpool Geological Society he received the Society's medal, and the London Geological Association honoured him with the Foulerton award.

We extend our best wishes to Mr. Montag on his retirement, hoping that he will enjoy a care-free and happy "Lebensabend," thanking him for all the services he has rendered to our country and to our compatriots.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We intend to go to press on Friday, April 26th, 1946, and take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their enlarged subscriptions:—

L. Hilpert, Th. Schaerer, Johannesburg, H. Broenimann, Miss M. C. C. Meyer, O. Worth, A. Hinderling, J. Scheuermeir, J. Meyer, E. Lucca, H. Andrea, H. J. Dufour, J. Scheiwiler, P. H. Conrad, C. Campart, A. C. Kaelin, J. Brunner, J. Hofstetter, Paul Walser, Paul Isacco, C. Leutwyler, H. F. Ruch, W. Graf, Dr. J. A. Schedler, Mrs. E. Schedler.