

# Swiss holidays under the Pro Juventute scheme

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in the region which has had many shocks lately; in our case there was no damage and no general alarm.

One other thumbnail sketch should be mentioned: the use of electric light in the hotel and outside it is on a scale extravagant for our ideas in England, explained, of course, by the cheapness of production.

Upon our return to Zurich we visited old friends and we cannot praise sufficiently their hospitality, whether we had given them notice or not.

We also inspected the Zoo with a feature new to us, namely a board at the entrance telling visitors of any new arrivals of animals.

We returned to Croydon by plane and were seen off by two nieces at Dübendorf who waved a goodbye because we were locked in the Customs and could not secure the good things intended for us, nor could we reward their good intentions by a fond embrace.

Like all this year's visitors we found Switzerland happy and prosperous and I hope to be spared for another such scamper next year!

J.J.E.

### NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE SWISS LEGATION.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the Federal Council has appointed Dr. August Lindt to the post of Press Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, in succession to Monsieur Eric Kessler, who was, some time ago, transferred to our Legation in Washington.

Dr. Lindt, who hails from Berne, was born in 1905. He studied law at the University of Berne, where he obtained his degree as doctor-of-law.

From 1929-1932 he resided in Paris, Berlin and London where he occupied himself with banking and journalism; after 1932 he devoted himself entirely to journalism. For a considerable time he stayed in the Far East, in Palestine, Liberia, Africa and in the Balkan States. After a journey to Finland in 1940 he was attached to the News Service of the section "Heer and Haus" of the Swiss Army Command.

Subsequent to a mission to London in 1945, on behalf of the Federal Political Department in Berne, he was appointed Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Berlin.

Dr. Lindt, who is no stranger to the Swiss Colony in London, is shortly assuming his new post, and we wish him the best of success in his new and responsible appointment.

## Basler Nachrichten

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### SWISS HOLIDAYS UNDER THE PRO JUVENTUTE SCHEME.

As readers of the "Swiss Observer" are aware from previous references in this paper, a party of some 35 children of Swiss parents travelled from England and Scotland to Bâle last July, returning after a happy stay of eight weeks in the land, of which they had heard and read so much, but which they had never seen before.

Thanks to a most generous offer on behalf of the Swissair, the journey there and back was made by plane, a second party leaving each time exactly a week after the first. All the administrative work was undertaken and carried out, with customary efficiency, by Mr. Theo Ritter, Secretary of the Swiss Benevolent Society, actively supported in Consular matters by Monsieur R. Mordasini, Chancellor of the Swiss Legation, whilst Dr. C. Carey kindly attended to the medical examinations and requirements. This excellent team work resulted in a smooth and speedy working of all our plans whilst, on arrival in Switzerland, the care of the party was taken over by the Pro Juventute organisation. They also kept a watching brief over the children during their stay in Switzerland and attended to all the preparations for the return journey.

It was my pleasure and privilege to see the children off at Croydon, where they embarked very self-possessed and in high spirits and again to meet them at Airways House on their return, looking well and happy after their blissful holiday in the land of their fathers.

The Editor of the "Swiss Observer" suggested to me some time ago that some of the children might like to record some of their impressions and experiences. Here now is a first batch of these youthful essays, which all speak for themselves.

For my part, however, I should like to be allowed to express my sincere and grateful thanks once again, not only to the Pro Juventute organisation and the Swissair, but especially to the three members of the Commission already named, as well as to all the other members likewise, who so kindly supported me in making this novel experiment a real success.

WILLY DEUTSCH,

Chairman.

—oOo—

### Holiday in Switzerland.

Yes, it was really a very nice holiday, such a holiday as many other Swiss children of London should have so that they too may see what beauties our little Switzerland possesses and how kind its inhabitants, our fellow countrymen, are.

Switzerland has, no doubt, also suffered from the war, but seemingly in another way than we in England. Swiss people have a specific gift of receiving

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and charming their visitors, at least that was my impression ever since the day I arrived until the day I unfortunately had to leave.

My first stay was at Cham where I was presented to a Herr and Frau Locher and family, owners of an ironmongery with anything from children's toys to kitchen articles to sell. The first thing they did in their generous and simple way was to feed me as if I were a starved individual from a concentration camp. The next day Herr and Frau Locher got out their bikes, and one for me, and off we went to the Rigi or rather to the foot of the Rigi, from where we took the funny little train half way up to walk the rest of the way bringing us to the top of the Rigi, and boy, what a sight! I look on one side and I see the little village of Cham so peacefully there beside the Lake of Zoug. On the other side in the distance the glorious sight of the Bernese Alps with such majestic splendour and charm that can only be known and felt by seeing for one's self.

And so on and so forth, with these kind people I travelled all over Switzerland, up hill and down dale, and it was wonderful.

I would like to say more, but I realise the "*Swiss Observer*" is not for me alone and I finish by letting you know how kindly also I was treated by the Swiss President and his wife, Herr und Frau Dr. Kobelt, people with whom I was privileged in staying with later on in my holiday, and with whose kindness and understanding, crowned my already very happy holiday.

**NORMAN EICHENBERGER**  
(Age 15)

—oOo—

### My Holiday in Switzerland.

The plane journey over to Switzerland was beautiful and it was lovely to be able to look out of the window and to see all the countryside laid out below us. Switzerland is really beautiful, especially the mountains which I think are the best part of Switzerland's scenery. We also went up several mountain railways, the Schynige Platte railway being amongst them, and we happened to go up on a very fine day and were even able to make a few snowballs. But I think the best part of this trip up the Schynige Platte was the magnificent view of the mountains we had at the top. Before I left Switzerland I knew several of the mountains by their names, especially the Jungfrau Mönch and Eiger. I think the best view we ever had of the mountains was in Berne; it was a fine, hot day and hardly a cloud to be seen and I really think the mountains were at their best. Berne is a lovely town with

all its fountains, and the bear pits. We also had some fancy pastry and milk chocolate, and they were simply delicious! It was nice to come home but after that holiday I almost think I'd prefer Switzerland.

**ROBERT STREIT.**  
(Age 11)

—oOo—

### My Impressions of Switzerland.

My first impression of Switzerland is, as might be expected, that it is a very nice place. As it was my first trip to Switzerland, I found everything new and interesting. I was particularly impressed by the things in the shops. One could buy almost anything — at a price. The people struck me as being extremely kind and generous.

It took me quite a time to realise what it was that was so different about Switzerland, and then I realised that it was the extreme cleanliness everywhere. So different after the dirt of London.

The friendliness of the people was amazing. Everybody greeting everybody else in the street and restaurant, even if they have never seen one another in their lives before.

I loved exploring the picturesque old towns on the Rhine, especially Stein am Rhine, with its lovely wall paintings, window boxes, and old church.

I was staying in the canton of Thurgau in a very large village called Weinfelden. It was a lovely place, and I was very sorry to return to London and the smoke and dirt, and everything else that symbolises London.

I thought the Swiss food wonderful, and it seemed to agree with me, for I put on weight.

For the first fortnight or so of my stay, I spent every day swimming either in the River Thur or in Lake Konstanz, for the weather was glorious.

Zurich, I think, is a lovely place, with its wide, pleasant streets and big shops. Unfortunately every step I took took me nearly under a car, because I couldn't remember to look left first instead of right.

I also enjoyed the plane trip although for the last half-hour on the way home it was very bumpy.

It was a very enjoyable holiday in every way, and I shall always be deeply grateful to all those who made it possible. Not only to the Swiss Benevolent Society, whom I shall never be able to thank enough, but also to the very kind people with whom I stayed.

**PAULINE FUEGI.**  
(Age 15)

—oOo—

A further batch of these youthful essays will appear in our next issue.

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