

Communique : from the Swiss legation

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**COMMUNIQUE .
FROM THE SWISS LEGATION.**

**War Damage Compensation Offer under New
German Law.**

A law providing for payments for war damage and losses, the so-called "Lastenausgleichsgesetz" came into force in the German Federal Republic on September 1st, 1952, and in West Berlin on October 18th, 1952. *Swiss citizens* residing in Great Britain and having lost property in Germany during the war will be glad to hear that they are *also entitled to claim compensation* in certain cases.

Claims will be considered only if the person concerned has applied to the competent German authority before August 31st, 1953, for collection of evidence of sustained damage or loss.

Swiss citizens resident in Great Britain may approach the Swiss Legation or the Swiss Consulate in Manchester for further information; this invitation is in particular addressed to:

- 1.) Persons having suffered material war damage (Kriegssachschäden) resulting from air raids, other military action or plundering in the territory of the German Federal Republic or West Berlin during the period August 26th, 1939 to July 31st, 1945.
- 2.) Persons having suffered war damage or having left behind property in territories of the former (31st December, 1937) German Reich east of the Oder-Neisse Border Line. In such cases, however, compensation will be paid only if the person concerned had residence within the territory of the former German Reich on December 31st, 1944, and in the German Federal Republic or in West Berlin on December 31st, 1950. — German Nationals or so-called "Volksdeutsche" who fled or were expelled from any region east of the Oder-Neisse Border Line, and thereby lost property, may also claim compensation; some Swiss citizens may be interested in such cases in their quality of heirs.

The "Lastenausgleichsgesetz" divides the compensations offered into those for which a legal obligation to pay exists and into those for which there is no such obligation. Juridical persons (e.g. Aktiengesellschaften) have no possibility to claim for indemnity in respect of the first and in general also of the second category.

This communiqué applies also to nationals of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Great Britain.



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ZURRER'S CORONATION YEAR EXHIBITION.

A very interesting exhibition was held recently by Zurrer Silks (Darwen) Ltd., Anchor Mill, Darwen, Lancs., at the British Colour Council Showrooms, 13, Portman Square, London, W.1.

The House of Zurrer was founded in 1825 by Jakob Zurrer in Hausen. It was the first silk firm in the district, and in those days the handlooms were in the homes of the weavers.

In 1875, mechanical looms took the place of hand looms and a factory was built in Hausen, on the slopes of the Albis, followed a few years later by two others in the district.

The House of Zurrer which for over a century had steadily progressed, was in 1932, suddenly faced by a crisis caused by the world depression and the U.K.'s departure from the gold standard, and consequent devaluation of the pound. It was therefore decided to start manufacturing in England, and 100 looms were set up in Darwen, Lancs. From this modest beginning the English house of Zurrer has become increasingly well known and appreciated.

Both the British and Swiss firms are among the pioneers in the development of fabrics made from new fibres such as Nylon, Terylene and Orlon.

At their exhibition they showed blends of orlon with spun rayon, silk with nylon, and silk with wool, their aim is to have their fabrics, both in natural and chemically produced fibres, crease resistant.

A most interesting exhibit was Terylene, sometimes 100 per cent pure, sometimes with spun rayon produced by their Swiss mills, while the Lancashire mill blends Terylene and Nylon, Terylene and wool.

Equally of great interest were beautiful cloths woven specially for Church vestments, banners and altar cloths.

ST.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique
(LONDON GROUP)

On Thursday, 21st May, 7 p.m.

at the

Swiss Club "Schweizerbund"

74, Charlotte, W.1.

OPEN MEETING

Prof. L. W. FORSTER
(University of London)

will speak (in English) on:

**"WHY DO THE ENGLISH NOT READ
SWISS LITERATURE?"**

Admission Free — All Swiss and friends welcome.
(Dinner with the Lecturer at 6 p.m.)