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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Grümpelschiessen" Dinner at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, on Friday, Nov. 28th, 1958.

The first thing which met my eyes when I arrived at the Glendower Hotel, to attend the by now famous "Grümpelschiessen" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association, was the number of gentlemen profusely adorned with medals. This being a strange sight amongst "Republicans", for a moment I was not sure that I had not come to the wrong address, it perhaps being a reunion of "Old War Veterans"!

The mystery, however, was soon cleared up when I was told that the wearers of the medals were the recipients of distinctions earned at this year's "Tir Fédéral", which had taken place at Bienne.

The "warming up" process took place at two cocktail bars, during which the President introduced the various visitors. When the right "temperature" was reached the company wended its way to the dining-room, which was filled to capacity, over sixty members and friends attending.

For many years now these dinners have been very popular for several reasons, amongst them being that one is sure to get a jolly good dinner, and an equally good glass (or two) of wine.

This year's feast kept up to its reputation, the well designed menu-card announcing the following bill of fare: "Soupe à l'oignon", "Filet de sole frit, Sauce remoulade", "Rognon de veau glacée, haricots verts au beurre", "Rizotto aux tomates, pomme parisienne, coeur de latue", "Baba au Rhum", "Fromage et biscuits", "Café".

The dining-room looked most attractive as, besides the flower decorations, in one corner was exhibited the banner of the Association surrounded by the many trophies obtained from past competitions, such as laurel wreaths and silver cups and salvers; in fact it reminded one more of an exhibition in a jeweller's establishment! On a large table were also displayed the many attractive prizes which later on were to be distributed.

Towards the end of the dinner, the President, Mr. Alfred Schmid, proposed the toasts to H.M. the Queen and to Switzerland.

He welcomed the assembly, especially the official guests, General-Staff Colonel Th. Mosimann, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Embassy, representing the Swiss Ambassador (who owing to another engagement was unable to be present), and Mr. A. Stauffer, editor of the "Swiss Observer". Mr. Schmid voiced his regret at the absence of Monsieur Daeniker, and also of the representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association (to which the S.R.A. is affiliated). He mentioned that Dr. H. Rast was present as the personal guest of the Vice-President, Mr. J. C. Wetter.

The President passed in review the activities of the Association during the last twelve months, saying that the shooting was consistent and satisfactory; he congratulated especially Mr. Marcel Bucherer for the splendid result he had obtained in the handicap competition, scoring 323 points out of a maximum of 350 points. Amidst the applause of the company Mr. Bucherer was presented with the large silver challenge cup.

Mr. Schmid then expressed his satisfaction and delight at the good results the section and individual members had obtained at Bienne. Apart from being

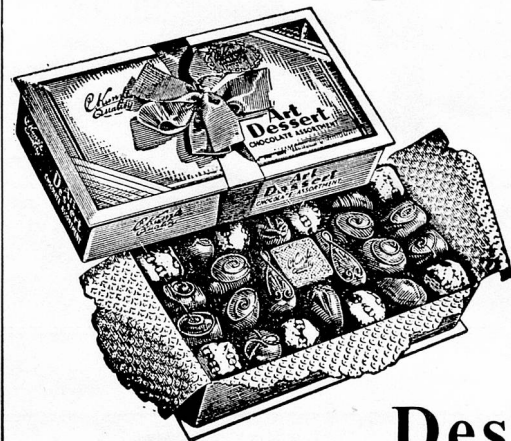
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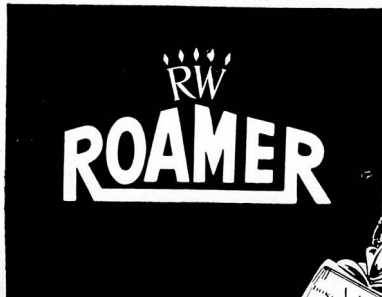
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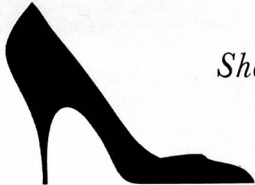


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second in the competition amongst Swiss foreign sections, the S.R.A. obtained first prize in the Swiss Radio Shooting Competition. The lovely *pendule* which the Society received in the section shooting was much admired. He also thanked the many passive members present for their continued "financial" support.

The next speaker, who was introduced by the Vice-President, Mr. J. C. Wetter, who throughout the evening very humorously acted as M.C., was Colonel Th. Mosimann, who received a cordial reception. He expressed his pleasure at having been asked to take the Chair in the absence of the Ambassador, and heartily congratulated the S.R.A. on the results they had obtained. The Colonel expressed his regret that owing to his many engagements, some abroad, as Military and Air Attaché and Commander of the 13th Infantry Regiment, he was not able to attend more regularly at Bisley. After having mentioned in detail the shooting practice programme of the Swiss soldiers, where shooting is enforced, he announced that the Swiss army will shortly be supplied with a new rifle.

The speaker's address was enthusiastically cheered. He was followed by Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President of the S.R.A., who expressed, on behalf of the members, heartiest thanks to the President for the services he had rendered to the Society, and also for the excellent dinner the family Schmid had provided. (*Applause*). He mentioned that Mr. Schmid arrived in this country fifty years ago, and that it was forty years since he took over the Glendower Hotel, which was now the *piéd-a-terre* of the Society, congratulating him on the success he had obtained.

Mr. Wetter also heartily thanked Mr. F. Magnin, the untiring Secretary and Treasurer, for the great services he had, year in, year out, rendered to the Association, expressing the hope that he would remain in office for many more years to come. After Mr. Magnin had thanked the speaker for his words, the distribution of the prizes took place.

The distribution of prizes in Switzerland is always a very important affair. Pretty young maidens, dressed in white, when handing over the gifts, honour the recipients with a tender kiss on both cheeks. Unfortunately, no young maidens were present to fulfil this function, and Mr. Magnin, who was in charge, could hardly have been asked to give the traditional *accolade*. He announced the following top Prize Winners:— *Grümpelschiessen*: 1st, H. Straub, 51 points; 2nd, M. Bucherer, 51 points; 3rd, P. Fischer, 50 points; 4th, E. Burgoezzi, 48 points; 5th, W. Rueger, 48 points. *Challenge Cup Winner*: Mr. M. Bucherer, 323 points; Runner up, Peter Fischer, 311 points; 3rd, Mr. W. Rueger, 301 points, *Handicap Competition*: 1st, M. Bucherer, 57 points; 2nd, P. Fischer, 54 points; 3rd, W. Rueger, 54 points; 4th, J. Hess, 51 points; 5th, R. Maurer, 52 points. *Highest score of the year*: M. Bucherer, 57 points; P. Fischer, 57 points. *Best average of the shooting season*: 1st, M. Bucherer, 53.62 points; 2nd, P. Fischer, 51.55 points; 3rd, W. Rueger, 50.55 points. *Major Talbot-Smith Cup Winner*: Mr. W. Rueger.

In addition quite a number of "passive" members and guests received presents from "Father Christmas" (Mr. Magnin), who, however, was beardless on this occasion.

After the prize-giving followed a "Gemütlicher Abend" with sing-songs, and a young Tyrolian, Mr.

Willy Schreiber, the guest of Mr. Adolf Schmid, sang and played on his zither a number of Tyrolian and Swiss songs, which were much appreciated.

Then the company broke up and left the Glendower Hotel loaded both "inside and outside" with many good things, and with sweet memories of having spent an enjoyable evening in jolly good company.

ST.

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Apart from the many social arrangements amongst the Swiss Societies in London round about Christmas — such as Banquets, Dances, Cocktail Parties, "Gemütliche Abende", Concerts, Lectures and Meetings — there are quite a number of parties of a more private nature, only indirectly connected with the Colony.

Invariably the Editor receives a courteous invitation to put in an appearance, which in spite of his many and often strenuous engagements at this time of the year he tries to honour.

About a fortnight ago I received a request from our compatriot, Mr. A. Renou, Managing Director of Messrs. Buser and Co. Ltd., of 12 Grafton Street, W.1, to attend the "Swyzerli" Christmas Party. ("Swyzerli" is the home of Swiss couture).

If one receives an invitation from Mr. Renou (of "Fête Suisse" fame) to a party one knows beforehand that everything will be organised with minuteness and efficiency, and with pleasurable anticipation I wended my way on the 3rd of this month to "Ye Olde Dr. Butler's Head" tavern, at Manson's Avenue, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

And what a party it was! This old and reputed tavern in the heart of the City bore a Charles Dickens character; a large Christmas Tree and seasonable decorations (even the mistletoe was not missing) created an intimate and joyous atmosphere.

A large table, adequately called "The Groaning Board", was loaded with such fine delicacies as Scotch Salmon, Baron of Lamb and Beef, Game Pies, Boar's Head, Chicken, Roast Turkey, Grouse, Christmas Pudding, Mince Pies, etc. — a sight to make one's mouth water. There were innumerable bottles of Johannisberg "Brûle Fer", Dôle du Mont and Champagne.

After a Claret *apéritif*, Mr. Renou welcomed the many guests, consisting principally of Buyers from London's biggest stores. Then followed a dress show by a bevy of attractive young ladies wearing the latest "Swyzerli" creations, which were described in detail. No less than forty-two dresses, jumpers, blazers, skirts, etc., in fine woollen, silk, cotton and knitwear materials, were shown, many of which were much applauded.

As to "Haute Couture", the "Swyzerli" can surely adequately compete with the latest Paris fashions, and one can but warmly congratulate our Swiss designers on their smart creations.

Shortly before 11 o'clock this most enjoyable "Swyzerli" Christmas Party came to a close, and Mr. Renou is fully entitled to put another "feather in his cap" — if there is any room left!

ST.

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