

Swissair news

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Geneva. In Switzerland old trains, steamers, sailing boats and diligences will return to service for the occasion; and horses, carriages and sedan chairs will carry the travellers over some sections of the route. Festivities on the way, such as a candlelight dinner at the Castle of Chillon and a Folklore Festival at Interlaken, will be in the spirit of the 1860's.

In Berne there will be an official reception by representatives of the Swiss Government, and the Swiss Alpine Club which celebrates its own Centenary in 1963, will welcome the Junior Alpine Club.

In order to give greater significance to the commemorative aspect of the present tour it will be conducted by Mr. Thomas Cook, great-great grandson of the original excursionist. Others of the party mentioned by Miss

Jemima will be represented by members of leading Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Societies of London. In order to re-create the authentic atmosphere of the 1860's the whole party will wear period costume.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Cook, J.P., great grandson of the founder of Thos. Cook & Son Ltd., and Lady Cook have very kindly agreed to be present at some of the major festivities during the tour.

The enthusiasm of the tourist of a hundred years ago will be re-echoed by that of the present party as they travel about Switzerland's beauty spots on this twelve-day tour, and the link with the past which they represent will emphasise in a dramatic manner the extraordinary expansion of travel opportunities that has taken place in the last hundred years.

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISSAIR NEWS

MORE SWISSAIR JETS ON U.K. SERVICES

About 90 per cent of Swissair passengers between Britain and Switzerland next summer will travel by jet. On the longer routes, *all* flights are by jet.

The twice-weekly morning service from Manchester to Zurich, operated last summer by piston-engined Metro-politans, will use Caravelles, cutting the flying time from three hours to 1 hour 45 minutes. Caravelle night-tourist flights from Manchester to Zurich, with a call at Basle, will start on May 14th.

On some of the scheduled Caravelle services from Manchester, four-engined Convair 990 Coronado jets — the modified version, the Convair 990A, is the fastest air-liner in the world — will be substituted during the season.

Although official figures are not yet available, the signs are that Swissair traffic between Britain and Switzerland over the winter-sports period so far will show returns well above last year's.

The private-enterprise Swiss carrier has already assured shareholders that a good profit was made last year — again, no figures are available yet — and that a dividend will be paid. Even in the black year of 1961 Swissair managed to make a profit, although not enough to pay a dividend.

GOODBYE TO THE FLIGHT DECK

After 36 years' flying, Swissair Flight Captain Hans Ernst, aged 56, finished his career as an airline pilot on Wednesday (23rd January). His last flight was at the controls of a Convair 990 Coronado, one of the world's most advanced four-engined jets.

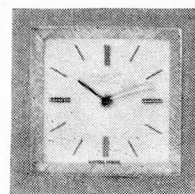
His log book now shows a total of 12,682 flying hours — equal to more than 18 months' non-stop flying.

Captain Ernst was aged 20 when he obtained his licence for private and aerobatic flying. He served in the Swiss Air Force and in 1937 joined Swissair.

During his time with Swissair he has piloted the old Fokker F-VII-As, Junkers 86s, a whole range of Douglas aircraft, from DC-2s to DC-7Cs, Convair 240s and 440s and he capped his career by becoming a Coronado commander.

He will continue to work for Swissair as head of the Cockpit Crew Division.

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