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HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND FOR SWISS CHILDREN LIVING ABROAD

Last summer the two organisations "Pro Juventute" and "Stiftung Schweizerhilfe" again organised holidays for some 700 Swiss children from abroad. Most of them were from European countries, but a few also from America and Africa. Over 400 families offered hospitality to children whose parents were unable to contribute towards the cost of the holidays. For older children (12-15) holiday camps were organised in the Grisons, Appenzell, Valais and the Ticino, and two groups spent a fortnight at the Pestalozzi Children's Village at Trogen. In a number of cases, the children's holidays had to be used for medical treatment.

Three adults and thirteen children from Great Britain left London on 25th July to take part in the scheme. An additional eleven children travelled with the party, but spent their holidays with relatives and friends. As in former years, the organisation was done by Mrs. B. Kaluza (London). The party returned on 6th September. The following are short write-ups made by three of the children. We reproduce them without altering them at all.

"The Holiday. I went on a holiday to Switzerland as one off the Pro Juventute children. The holiday was a very good one. I went to a family in Zweilutschinen. It is called Zweilutschinen, because zwei means 2 Lutschinen. One flows from the Youngfrau and the other from the Vetterhorn. The one near us was the white Lutschinen which flows from the Youngfrau. We went walks to Lauterbrunnen 3 times, it took 1 hour of strong walking. Once or twice you come very close to the Lutschinen. We usually came back by train. We went many other walks, I often went walks to the village for Mrs. Burri. The shopkeeper could speak English. Every day I went to the post office to collect the 10 to 4 post. I got post quite often. From my bedroom window I could see the grosshorn, and many other mountains. From Grindelwald you could see the Vetterhorn, Silberhorn, Youngfrau and some Glaciers. I picked up lots of German. I could not take pictures of the house because it is military. They had two guard dogs. But some times I had to let the dog out for a run, because some men worked very late. On the whole, I enjoyed the holiday very much.

Gerald. (Aged 10)."

"My holiday in Switzerland. On the 25th of July my mother Christine and I went to Victoria Station. We met Frau Kaluza at the luggage room where she was very busy talking and running about. Before we went on the train my mum bought Christine and myself a pepsi cola. When we went into the train there was shouting and laughter. As the train moved off mum waved her hanky so did all the others. We did not cry as we did last year, but only started reading. When we were at a place called Folkestone and Dover we got of to go to the ship which was called "the maid of orleans". It took two hours to get across the Channel, and I was not sick but felt it. We went on the night train and in the morning we were in Switzerland. We had a good holiday and I really enjoyed it. We went to our relatives in Bern and had great fun.

Jaye Libercio (Aged 10)."

"My Holiday in Switzerland. On 25th July, we were able to go again with Frau Kaluza to Switzerland through the Pro-juventute. This is my fourth journey to Switzerland and I think I am becoming an experienced traveller.

"I was looking forward to go, as I had no fears, for I knew the people I was going to, because I had been at the same place last year.

"The next day, early in the morning we arrived at Basel and I always look forward to having our first Swiss breakfast at the Bahnhof Buffet. From then on, a nice Pro-juventute lady took us to Bern Station where my Holiday-Parents met us. I was pleased that the dog even remembered me from last year.

"We had lots of enjoyable walks, and when the weather permitted, we went swimming. I liked the Swiss food, mostly Meringues, unfortunately I could not get enough of them!

"I often went to a Bernese Farm and I liked a St. Bernard dog and the horses there. The lady at the farm gave me two peacock's feathers which are now upon my bedroom wall.

"I lived in a nice house with a big terrace overlooking a little aerodrome. My Uncle and Aunt looked after me very well indeed and made my stay enjoyable. I was not homesick at all, and I came home, under the supervision of Frau Kaluza, safe and sound.

Christine (Aged 11)."

THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

In the issue of 5th September 1936 we read of the Swiss ban on exports of arms to Spain, of a decree prohibiting the collecting of funds, publication and distribution of pamphlets and the organising of meetings in connection with the Spanish Civil War. The same number carried a report of a speech made by Dr. Arnold Laett, then President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, at a meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in Berne. There was also a further appeal for funds to help Swiss nationals who suffered hardships as a result of the war in Spain. "Un Pour Tous — Tous Pour Un" was the heading.

On 19th September, the two Swiss Churches in London published messages, one in German, one in French, on the occasion of the Swiss Federal Day of Prayer. In Switzerland, a number of dangerous Communists had been placed under arrest. King Edward VIII had travelled through Switzerland on his way from Austria. The highest and fastest lift in Europe had become operational on the Bürgenstock. A new train ferry service had been opened between Dover and Dunkerque.

The issue of 26th September devoted the whole of the front page (twice the size of today's paper) and more to the new Swiss Defence Loan, an appeal for support and a reproduction of a Swiss poster in red and grey/green "Protégez le Pays!" A whole page was given over to a report on a meeting of the N.S.H. in London, at which Mr. Gottfried Keller had talked on journalism. It included a comic poem by Mr. W. B. Sigerist on "Der Journalist".

The report on the 1936 Assembly of the Swiss Abroad had covered no more than two paragraphs in the previous issue, but on 26th September, a talk (in French) was reproduced on the Swiss Colony in Spain.

The first issue in October gave prominence to the acceptance by both Chambers of the devaluation proposals by the Federal Government. The Federal Railways had again reduced their staff. We read of a film show and concert given to old compatriots at the *Foyer Suisse* in London by the Pfaendler Family, Miss Rosemary and Master Roy, as well as their mother. The death of Mr. Arthur Baume, prominent member of the watch trade and very active in the Swiss Colony, was announced. There were two articles by the Editor "St.", one on the devaluation of the

Swiss franc, the other a lament on the duties of the Editor at the many functions in the Colony's Social Season.

An announcement was published in the next issue, that names of individuals and firms guilty of profiteering were being published in Switzerland. "König Edward unter den Swissair Mechanikern" was the heading of a report relating to the above-mentioned visit to Switzerland by the British Monarch. Letters and articles on the new Swiss franc appeared. A report on a friendly match between the London Swiss Rifle Team and the Surrey Twenty Rifle Club was printed; the results: Surrey 1,050, Swiss 971 points.

On 17th October, we read that the Swiss Army was to be increased and the defence strengthened, with a view to improving the Army's mobility and more rapid mobilisation. The Swiss Trade Union Congress had rebuffed the Communists by deciding not to form a united front with them and by affirming they would not collaborate with any anti-democratic organisation. The same number carried an article in French on neutrality, a report on the Unione Ticinese's *Danza Familiare* and a notice of the opening of the "Gruyère Cheese Buttery" in London by Mr. J. Jenny (Plaza Hotel). "Wie's Cho Isch" was the heading of a long dialect poem about the St. Gall idiom. Again, donations to the Swiss Relief Fund (Spain) were published, the total having now reached £482,210.

More about the devaluation of the Swiss Franc was published in the next number. The Union Helvetia had made their annual pilgrimage to Hendon Cemetery where a number of their members were buried. The Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Mercantile Society had been held at the Trocadero, in the presence of the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini, and with Mr. A. Steinmann in the chair. All the Swiss societies and organisations had been invited, and Mr. A. C. Stahelin had welcomed the many guests. On their behalf, Mr. P. F. Boehringer had made a witty speech.

The last issue in October 1936 gave the welcome news that the Swiss Defence Loan had been heavily oversubscribed (£16m.). A comment on it in French by Léon Savary was reprinted from the "Tribune de Genève", and two most contrasting articles filled the rest of the page: "The Swiss Chamber of Commerce on the Devaluation of the Franc" and "Die Hände meiner Mutter" by Aemilius Mueller. National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Rudin, Central Secretary of the S.K.V., had addressed the members of the Swiss Mercantile Society on "Economic Conditions in Switzerland", and the final instalment of Dr. Laett's speech, mentioned above, was published.

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