

Swiss Rifle Association

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GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN DINNER

The Swiss Rifle Association of London is a gay and young-at-heart fraternity of Anglicized Swiss who like to play at Billy the Kid at the Bisley range on Summer afternoons. They held their annual supper at the Glendower Hotel, and very enjoyable too. The Ambassador was present, and so was the Military Attaché, Colonel von Frischung.

The evening began with a one-hour reception during which we had the opportunity of meeting a number of new Swiss friends. We moved to the dining-room, a good forty of us, and enjoyed a palatable and prolonged supper. I was fortunate in being seated between Dr. Rast, who told me his lurid experiences as a surgeon at the battle of Verdun and who now, at a sprightly 78, clambers up the Matterhorn alone, and Mr. Schoenholzer, a non-shooting member of the Association, who as owner of a hat-factory explained to me the ups-and-downs of his business.

After offering a toast to the Queen and to the Fatherland, Mr. John Wetter addressed us and began by welcoming the guests of the evening, who were, Monsieur René Keller, Colonel von Frischung, two members of the Surrey Rifle Association and myself. He regretted the absence of a few members, including Mr. Adolph Schmid, who could not risk attending long evening-parties and Mr. Oscar

Grob, unable to come. He mentioned Mr. Albert Mehr and Colonel Willi Frei, both members of the Embassy and staunch supporters of the Association, called by their work to other lands. Referring to activities at Bisley, Mr. Wetter said that the Association had held eight meetings during the past year and that it had achieved third position out of thirteen in the Radio World Shoot. The trip to Thun had been particularly enjoyable and the reception in Berne very entertaining. The Association had received a team of marksmen from Solothurn during the year; it was particularly anxious to great new and younger members. Finally, Mr. Wetter thanked the Embassy for all its help and congratulated Mr. Milani of the Glendower Hotel for having prepared the supper so efficiently.

The Ambassador rose and, after having saluted his hosts, told us that half of the art of being a successful diplomat consisted in being a good amateur. Stationed in Rome and unfledged in his new job, Monsieur Keller felt pangs of insecurity when he was first confronted by the officials of the Italian Foreign Ministry and their dreaded encyclopedic knowledge on the history of Rome and its splendours. It turned out that the results of Sporting-Milan and the kicks of Mazzola carried far more interest than the date of the birth of Romulus! Monsieur Keller said

that, as an officer in the artillery, he had had little experience in handling rifles. As he spent the war-years in Prague and as the German occupier might have had some objections, he could not indulge then in any marksmanship. He then came to England in the early fifties, but as the Legation was working on Saturdays and shooting prohibited on Sundays, there was, again, no possibility of firing one single round. Stationed in Turkey, he at last had the opportunity of using a gun. Monsieur Keller ordered the best cartridges from Germany but, alas, although there was plenty of game, there were no beaters, and since no candidate for suicide presented himself, the hunting-hikes remained a rather dry business. It was only as an Ambassador to England that he had finally had the chance of doing some clay-pigeon shooting at the Holland range. He ended his address by relating a conversation with the president of the Schweizerische Industrie Gesellschaft, who make the infantry's assault rifle, where he had learnt that future old-soldiers would no longer be allowed to keep their guns after having passed through the *landsturm*. Apparently, the gun is so good that one weapon can be used for many generations!

Colonel von Frischung then addressed us with a small message in his impeccable Queen's English. He said that he too, as an artillery man, was awkward with a rifle, but that he defended himself with the pistol. He declared himself to be eager to take part in the Association's outings to Bisley.

One of the guests from the Surrey Rifle Association extended greetings to his hosts on behalf of his fellow-

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members. He congratulated the Swiss Rifle Association for their results at the Radio World Shoot, thanked them for their hospitality and invited two members to attend their own annual supper.

It was now time to distribute the prizes and the President of the Rifle Association, Mr. Charles Abbeglen, read out the names of the laureates of the twelve competitions of the year—the Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup, the Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup, Monsieur J. L. Revillod's Presentation Silver Cigarette Case, the Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup, the Einzelschiessen of the Schweiz. Schützverein, the Radio World Shoot, St. Gall, Zurich, and Feldschiessen, the Obligatorisches Schiessen, the Grümpelschiessen and the Handicap Competition, plenty to keep those ardent shooters busy and competitive. Mr. Marcel Bucherer reaped the greatest number of prizes, he was followed at one or two lengths by Mr. Bernard Jaeggi, who had Mr. Jakob Leu on his heels. Mr. Jurg Flühman probably comes in fourth position, in my purely qualitative estimate of the merits of the year. But whether any prize was won or not, everybody got at least two or three bright insignias to show off with. After the prize-giving, the tombola tickets were picked and the lucky ones could bring spirits and cigarettes back to their homes. The tombola brought a welcome £60 for the health of the Association's kitty.

(PMB)

Anglo-Swiss Cocktail

The Ambassador and Madame René Keller gave a reception to members of the Anglo-Swiss Society on November 25th, at the Residence.

JAMES BOND IN THE SWISS CENTRE

The latest James Bond film, "On Her Majesty's Service", was filmed entirely in Switzerland and this was a good reason for staging an "entente cordiale" reception on the 10th floor of the Swiss Centre. United Artists and Eon Production people, who have made the film, were there. So were the Ambassador, Messrs. Kunz, Elliott, Von Speyr and other executives working in the building. Not least, we could ogle two ravishing starlets featuring in the film: Miss Mona Chong, from Bangkok, a ravishing pixie from the East, so small and exquisite that you wanted to put her in your pocket and carry her home; and Miss Joanna Lumley, G.B., of the tall, blonde and slender type, with an exhilarated look and sparkling eyes.

After film-director Peter Hunt had made a small address to thank the Swiss for all their cooperation in the production of his film, we were beckoned to climb five flights of stairs to the top of the tower for the flag-hoisting ceremony. We reached the glass-panelled observation room at the top and saw the

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SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. in English. At 6.30 p.m. for the Swiss community with regard to the different language groups.

HOLIDAYS of obligation: Holy Mass at 7.30 and 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS: Holy Mass at 1 p.m. afterwards time for consultations.

CONFESSIONS: German, French, Italian and English:
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Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel: 01-222 2895.