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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SWISS CONSULATE AT WELLINGTON,
P.O. BOX 386.

NACHRICHTEN DES SCHWEIZERISCHEN KONSULATS IN
WELLINGTON, P.O. BOX 386.

The Swiss Consulate at Wellington is greatly interested in receiving clippings of any New Zealand newspapers and magazines, bearing on any Swiss topics, not including, of course, cable and radio news which appears through the whole New Zealand press.

The members of the Swiss Benevolent Society of New Zealand and other readers are requested to kindly mail any clippings of the described nature to the Consulate of Switzerland, which will greatly appreciate such help. Postage will be refunded by return mail.

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Das Schweizerische Konsulat in Wellington ist den Mitgliedern des Schweizerischen Wohltätigkeitsgesellschaft in Neuseeland sowie anderen Landsleuten und Lesern dankbar fuer die Zustellung von jeglichen Zeitungsartikeln in neuseelaendischen Tages-, -Wochen- und Monatszeitungen und Zeitschriften ueber die Schweiz oder schweizerische Dinge, fuer welche es grosses Interesse hat. Ausgenommen sind natuerlich die ueblichen Telegramm- und Radio-nachrichten aus der Schweiz, welche in allen Tages-zeitungen erscheinen. Portospesen werden den Einsendern umgehend verguetet.

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THE MOBILISATION OF THE SWISS ARMY (SEPTEMBER 1939).

Switzerland has no standing army, only militia. She must therefore have and employ a special system for mobilisation, whenever the danger of war is threatening.

At the beginning of the present European war the Swiss Federal Council ordered the mobilisation of the whole army for the 2nd September. Exactly 10 minutes before the proclamation of the British declaration of war against the German Reich the whole Swiss army stood fully equipped ready to move. The mobilisation was really a miracle of precision. Still it does seem a riddle to anyone not acquainted with Swiss conditions how an army can be called up for a given day on the eve of which every officer and man of that same army is going about his civil business, and how by noon of the day indicated half a million men can march, with horse and cart, an army compact and ready, and how at the very same moment all the frontier gaps are manned and put in a state of defence.

The apparent mystery of this precision and speed is no secret to the Swiss soldier, but just a tradition centuries old. Every soldier has his complete equipment, uniform and weapons at home, year in and year out.

Similarly the commanders of every rank have not only the registers, but all orders down to the slightest detail. The men detailed to guard the frontiers have even the ammunition necessary for the first days of fighting. In time of peace also an exact register is made of motor vehicles and serviceable waggons and horses, often with the estimated price of the same, so that the troops as they appear at the points of assembly find these means of communication and of transport ready to the minute for their use.

All the railways run according to the war time-table from the first hour of the day of mobilisation onwards, and the timetable is planned among other things to effect smoothly the transport of the masses of men travelling in. The mobilisation, being extremely decentralised, makes the use of the railway frequently unnecessary, since hundreds of thousands reach the assembly point