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# HELVETIA



Monthly Publication of the

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY  
in New Zealand

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Group New Zealand of the N.H.G.

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WELLINGTON.  
MAY, 1945.

Vol. 8, 10th Year.

## SWITZERLAND WELCOMES PEACE IN EUROPE.

The news of the laying down of arms in Europe reached Switzerland on Monday 7th May at 6 o'clock in the evening, and there was an outburst of joy with demonstrations lasting all night. Arrangements for formal celebrations were made for the following day at 8 o'clock in the evening. The bells rang all over Switzerland and the President of the Confederation and two other Federal Councillors broadcast a message to the Swiss people. The keynote of the speeches was the thankfulness which every Swiss felt that the country had been spared the horrors of war, and that the nation had been allowed to continue to live in liberty and independence. He thanked the army for their faithful service and the nation as a whole for the true Swiss spirit which they had preserved at all times, and the discipline, unity and uncompromising willingness to defend themselves shown through all these years of war. He pointed out that our noblest duty now was to bring relief to the innocent victims of war abroad, as far as this is in our power, and to further the progress of social justice in our own country. He also warned us of the difficulties confronting us during the forthcoming period of transition, but expressed confidence that after having been able to overcome the difficulties with which war had confronted us, we would also master the difficulties which lie ahead.

In a very impressive order of the day General Guisan thanked the Swiss soldiers for their past services of which he was proud. He specially referred to the fact that upon different occasions during the war in Europe, our country had been acutely and gravely menaced.

In Wellington, most members of the small local Swiss community and the Consular staff gathered at the home of the Swiss Consul and Mrs. Schmid in the late afternoon of Tuesday, May 8th, to mark the occasion with a drink and a toast. In addition, the following cable was despatched on the same day to the Swiss Federal Council, in the name of all our compatriots in New Zealand:

"CE JOUR MEMORABLE QUI MARQUE LA SORTIE INTACTE DE NOTRE  
CHERE PATRIE DE LA CONFLAGRATION EUROPEENNE MES COMPATRIOTES  
EN NOUVELLE ZELANDE, MON PERSONNEL ET MOI-MEME EXPRIMENT  
LEUR PROFONDE GRATITUDE ENVERS LE DESTIN AINSI QUE LEURS  
REMERCIEMENTS ET FELICITATIONS AU GOUVERNEMENT, A L'ARMEE  
ET AU PEUPLE SUISSE - SCHMID SWISS CONSUL"

We hope to be able to publish in our next issue some more details of the peace celebrations in Switzerland.

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## REACTIONS IN SWITZERLAND TO THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT:

The news of President Roosevelt's sudden death caused a wave of consternation and sympathy in Switzerland. This feeling was expressed by the Swiss papers