

The lion of Lucerne

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1960)**

Heft 1370

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691472>

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obeyed, was desperate. They ceased firing, but not to be fired at. Could they find shelter anywhere? One party broke out by the rue de l'Echelle; it was immediately set upon by the infuriated mob and all were murdered. Another rushed the gardens through a keen fusillade and some of them found sanctuary in the National Assembly. A third, several hundred strong, made towards the Champs Elysées, hoping to join up with the Swiss in Courbevoie, but none of them escaped; they were all murdered, singly and in groups fighting from street to street. In justice to the Marseillais, it must be said that they took no part in the killings, and even tried to save. A few of the Swiss found refuge in private houses, and one Clémence, a wine merchant, led a rescued Swiss to the bar of the Assembly and there offered to adopt him. But most were slaughtered and their bodies mangled. Fifty were marched as prisoners to the Hotel-de-Ville; the people burst through the escort and killed them to the last man. The scarlet uniform worn by the Swiss made them a conspicuous target and whenever a red-coat showed, he was fired at and hunted down. A pile of dead, stripped of their uniforms, lay in the streets two days before being carted away. Thus perished these gallant and unfortunate men, victims of their devotion to duty.

Some doubt exists as to their burial place. According to Desclozeaux (quoted by G. Lenotre), whose house adjoined the Madeleine cemetery, most of the Swiss were buried there; it is possible that some of them were taken to Monceau and other cemeteries. But wherever they may rest, the memory of these brave men is kept alive by Thorwaldsen's beautiful monument in Lucerne. Carved in the rockface, it represents a dying lion still protecting, in its last agony the drooping lilies of France.

The tragic events of 19th August, outcome of terror and mass-hysteria, form a confused and violent pattern difficult of adequate description. They have been reconstructed mainly from the accounts of eye-witnesses. Among the latter was no less a person than young Bonaparte, who, according to La Cases, expressed the opinion that the Swiss, had they had a commander, would have won the day.

Thomas Carlyle, in his masterly history of the French Revolution, devoted to the Swiss of 10th August a special chapter from which the following lines are well worth quoting:

"Honour to you", he writes, "brave men; honour and pity, through long times! Not martyrs were ye, and yet almost more. He was no King of yours, this Louis, and he forsook you like a King of shreds and patches. Ye were but sold to him for some porr six-pence a-day, yet would ye work for your wages, keep your plighted word. The work now was to die; and ye did it. Honour to you, o kinsmen, and may the old Biederkeit and Tapferkeit, and Valour wich is Work and Truth, be they Swiss, be they Saxon, fail in no age."

J.J.F.S.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 30th September 1960. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mrs. R. Hill, P. Lehrian, A. De Quervain, H. Pfirter, C. Berti, J. A. Steiner, T. Siegfried, W. B. Sigerist, A. Gallusser.



THE LION OF LUCERNE

Close by Lucerne's enchanting shore,
The lakeside where four cantons meet,
A garden lies, a still retreat,
Redolent of heroic lore.

Here, in the living rock, is wrought
Thorwaldsen's lion, dying, prone,
Majestic symbol, carved in stone,
Of men who but of duty thought.

They knew not glory, nor romance,
Their task was plain, they'd pledged their oath
To fight and die — and they did both —
In service of a King of France.

J.J.F.S.

GRAPE HARVEST FESTIVITIES

When autumn comes to the many wine-growing areas of Switzerland, from the Rhine in the north to the most southern point of the Ticino, each region stages its own grape-harvest festivities, which are always among the jolliest and most spontaneous events of the whole year. Let us give pride of place to the light-hearted Ticino, where in Lugano they are preparing for the great pageant on October 2. In Neuchâtel and Morges, festive processions will wind through the streets on October 1 and October 2, while on the banks of the Lake of Bièvre, where every Sunday from September 25 to the end of October is an occasion for making merry, the vineyard villages hold their festivities in unbroken succession. The grape harvest at Spiez, on the Lake of Thun, begins on September 26 and in the Geneva suburb of Saint-Gervais the winegrowers' celebration lasts from September 30 to October 2.

E.A.B.

"CITY INFORMATION"

In co-operation with the Swiss Touring Club, the Lausanne Tourist Office has organized a new service for tourists and travellers in the Lausanne area. At the beginning of the outskirts of the city, on each of the main roads, information booths have been set up, marked "City Information". These booths, which are linked by telephone, are manned by students speaking several languages and especially trained to help the traveller.