

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1974)  
**Heft:** 1698

**Artikel:** "Spanischbrötchen"  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689755>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 30.01.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

Wehrmacht had passed round the Maginot Line. The third decision, by far the most important and daring, concerned the "National Redoubt". It fully applied the principle of troop concentration in the realisation that by holding to geographically limited but easily defensible objectives comprising all the Alpine routes of strategic importance to potential aggressors, the Army was offering a better protection than by spreading out thinly along the border. The fourth decision, taken in the autumn of 1944, was to redeploy the Army along the border to conform to the completely new pattern of forces in Europe and to the movement of a battle that was following the border from east to west.

These decisions were the right ones since the essential goal — to preserve Switzerland from war — was attained. They were also adapted to available means. Guisan's wisdom was to resist the temptation to make preparation for a war of *movement* for which there wasn't sufficient equipment, and to fully use those assets which were available, above all the *terrain*.

Peace was thus won. Guisan could have gloried on a political and strategic



(Photograph by courtesy of Ringier Swiss Illustrated)

success for which he was so largely responsible. His greatness was to assume

responsibility without a claim to glory. This was the mark of a true soldier.

## A PARADISE WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE HELL

Mr. Marcel Rey, Director of the Lausanne Relief Centre for Drug Addicts, went on a month-long mission to Nepal and India at the request of Swiss

diplomatic officials on the Indian sub-continent concerned with the repatriation of an increasing number of young Swiss who set out for this distant

land with the dream of finding a paradise free of all constraint, but who in fact end up there as complete wrecks.

"After a month in Nepal, I could no longer bear the terrible sight of young drug addicts from the west, many of them Swiss, virtually dying on the spot," he reported. "They have no money, not even enough to pay for the squalid hotels of Katmandu, and live in parks. They survive on their daily injections of morphine."

The problem of these young wastrels has worried the authorities for some time, and the public's awareness of the situation was aroused last year by the repatriation of a few drug addicts found in India in a pathetic state. The Political Department was submerged by calls from the embassies in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal, all countries lying on the drugs route, calling for help in dealing with these young people.

According to a despatch by the Swiss Telegraphic Agency, the Political Department is looking for specialists who could decide which young drug addicts should be repatriated. Mr. Rey stated in his report that these hippies lived even more marginally out in the East than they did in their native Switzerland. They had left their homeland moved by dissent and refusal of the realities of life, and turned out to be "the only ones that complain when they have to queue to buy postage stamps, and the only ones who are as unsatisfied over there as in Switzerland."

Many of these young Swiss present an additional problem to embassy personnel because they are without passports, having sold them. They are so destitute that they survive on begging and

## "Spanischbrötchen"

The origin of the name of this speciality of Baden, a spa in the Canton of Aargau, is not quite known. It was chiefly during the 18th and 19th centuries that the "Spanischbrötchen" (literally translated "Spanish Buns") enriched this jovial spa. The Zurich poet and painter David Hess wrote in 1815 in his work "Badenfahrt" (trip to Baden): "Most of the guests of the spa like to improve their breakfast with 'Spanischbröchten', a baker's speciality of the spa. Some do not hesitate to engulf each morning, as hot as possible, five or six pieces of this rich and indigestible puff paste. So that friends and relatives at home may enjoy this delicacy as well, they fill big boxes with it and send them by messenger. Large supplies are also taken along by guests when leaving and after a few weeks they wonder why they did not benefit more by their cure and had an upset stomach."

According to David Hess, an incredible quantity of those light but rich buns was consumed. Some 720,000 "Spanischbrötchen" were reportedly sold

in Baden each summer. This consumption might have been reduced, had the guests known where their favourite delicacy was kept, namely "in the kennel laid out under the big staircase leading from the courtyard to the inn," as David Hess maliciously put it.

Did the Zurich poet intentionally fail to mention that, after Baden, his home town was the biggest consumer of the buns which he so maligned? According to the chronicle, young boys and girls from Baden started to run the long road to Zurich in the early morning hours "long before cockcrow", so that the ladies and gentlemen of Zwingli's town may have the "Spanischbrötchen" still hot and on time on their breakfast tables. Those daily dawn runs to Zurich came to an end in 1847 when Switzerland's first railroad, which ran between Zurich and Baden, took over the transport of this delicacy and as a result became popularly known as the "Spanischbrötlbahn", i.e. the "Spanish-bun railroad."