

Readers' letters

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This young sports ambassador made me feel proud to be Swiss

BY chance, through the invitation of some Yorkshire friends, I visited the 1982 European Schoolboys Wrestling Championship at Stretford Sports Centre, Manchester, on August 28-29.

I do not profess to be a connoisseur of this particular sport, only occasionally watching professional freestyle wrestling on TV. However I was pleasantly surprised on entering the competition hall to see hanging off the balcony, on the very end of a row of national flags, our own Swiss flag.

On enquiring of the whereabouts of our Swiss team, I was informed that there was only one young lad from Switzerland present. He had come here under his own steam, footing his own bill for the flight over from Berne, for accommodation and meals, from Friday evening until Monday morning.

He was the only one without a coach, and was kindly taken under the wing of the Maltese coach who had only one competitor entered for the competition.

I met this young Swiss – 16-year-old Robert Zingg from Moosseedorf Berne – and was

very impressed by his courage and sportsmanship, as were the officials of the championship. They gave him a special award for his courage, modesty and good behaviour. Truly the sportsman of the event!

Robert Zingg also won third prize in his age and weight category of up to 55kg, taking home a bronze medal.

He left a very good impression with all the organisers, officials and participants of the event, and made me proud to be Swiss! – **André G. Donzé, Cheadle, Cheshire.**

Compass replacement

COULD readers help me with some information or, perhaps,

advise me to whom I should write for this item.

In the years just after the last war I went to visit my aunt and uncle in Geneva for my school holidays. During one such visit my uncle bought me a Swiss army compass, and I believe that it was a type used by the artillery.

The compass was about 7cms long x 3.5cms wide x 2.5cms deep and the dial was oil-filled. Bearings were taken by using a small metal mirror which slid into the body of the compass when not in use. The compass was of metal, but was held in a leather case.

Some years ago I lent the compass to a friend and I am afraid to say that it was never returned. I am anxious to buy a replacement, and I wondered if it would be possible to trace the manufac-

turer so that I may make enquiries.

Your magazine does a wonderful job in helping to keep us all in touch with what is going on "at home" – even for the second generation exiles!

If you are able to help me with my enquiries, I shall be extremely grateful. – **J. Atwill, 104 Woodwarde Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UT.**

Christmas appeal

THE Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches are trying again this year to make Christmas a happier time for those compatriots who are struggling with difficulties of many kinds.

To do this, we depend as always on the support and goodwill of the Swiss colony as a whole. We hope that this year again our appeal will be heard, and that we shall be able to give some joy to those in difficulties.

Your gifts should reach us by the end of November at the latest. Gifts in kind should be sent to the Swiss Benevolent Society and cheques and money orders can be forwarded to the following addresses:

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HL.

Father P. Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Rev Urs Steiner, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE.

Remembering Jean Philippe Inebnit

WE recently read P.M.B.'s able account of our father's life in your August number and would like to express our appreciation for the way in which he mentioned so many aspects of it.

May we just make one important point clear, which is confirmed in J.P.I.'s diaries and papers.

He was, in his youth, an ardent member of the Swiss army, and rose to the rank of first lieutenant with prospects of early advancement. Gradually, however, his eyes were opened until, in the course of the first world war, he realised that this was not the way for him to defend the great values

and ideals for which Switzerland stands.

He said that he felt he could not resign his commission while the war was going on but that once the war was over (it was said to be "the war to end wars") he would relinquish his military career and would seek to serve his country in new and creative ways, on which peace could find surer foundations in harmony with Christ's gospel.

So, although he was selected for further training on an officers' course, it was in January 1920 that he took this stand and it was then that he first came into contact with the great humanitarian

visionary and practical engineer, Pierre Ceresole, son of a former President of the Confederation.

Jean Philippe Inebnit always retained his belief in the qualities of self-discipline and self-sacrifice, and he continued in friendship and growing understanding with several of his former military colleagues throughout his life while standing firmly for a new, non-violent form of service.

For years he maintained a friendly dialogue with succeeding ministers in charge of the Military Department of the Confederation. – **Colette Lenz-Inebnit, Andrée Hastings-Inebnit, La Frasse, Château d'Oex, Vaud.**