
Important Information

FOR

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES ON LEAVE IN SWITZERLAND

**General information concerning
Food rationing in Switzerland
Export restrictions when leaving the country
a. s. o.**

Welcome to Switzerland!

When I was in the States, I found a sign of welcome at every door, so nothing gives me more pleasure now than to call out to our friends from across the waters: "Welcome to Switzerland".

We know what you have done for us and are grateful for all the sacrifices you have taken upon yourselves to bring back freedom to the peoples of Europe. We shall be happy to make you comfortable in Switzerland during your visit. May all your wishes come true and may you not be disappointed in your expectations. Don't make comparisons, but simply let the impressions gained sink into your minds, discard the chaff from the wheat, gather experiences of beauty, and take the best side of the Swiss and their country. Do away with any possible prejudice and make us feel that you are at home in our country. It will be gratifying to us if the memories you retain are deep and lasting; we shall be honored if you recognise our trust in the freedom of democracy, our endeavor to work for peace and understanding among nations, we shall be glad indeed if your visit strengthens your belief that any nation, however small, can contribute to harmony among mankind.

You have come to see Switzerland, some out of curiosity eager to learn something new about our little country, some to realize the dream of a life-time to behold the Alps, the lakes and rivers, the clean cities and quaint villages of this land,

to obtain an insight into Swiss life and its multiple manifestations, some merely to change from military routine and go through another country after having seen so many.

The mind is of our own making. It is good that we should wish for different things and find comfort in truths of various hues, yet do we not agree that good health is the most precious gift nature can bestow? Whoever is so endowed is on the road to happiness and peace of mind. Let me then express to you my cordial wish that you may be well and may remain in good health, and that you will set foot on our soil with an open mind and heart to accept what we have to offer. Be kind in your judgment and sympathetic in your appraisal of our proffered friendship.

"Ce paysage unique, le plus beau dont l'œil humain fut jamais frappé" (This unique land, the most beautiful ever beheld by human eye), Rousseau exclaimed when he returned from Italy to Switzerland, and, of course, every Swiss believes he is right, even if it were not for the many other writers and poets of the past and present who constantly dwell upon this subject. The beauty of a country cannot be measured and recorded with figures, for the sandy desert is as lovely to the Arabs as the Lake of Lucerne is to the Swiss. Wherever home is, there is beauty. The accent in Rousseau's utterance must be placed on the word "unique", and we can easily elaborate on this by pointing out that Switzerland is a country with extreme variations in scenery and topography. It is one of the "greenest" countries in the world. Nowhere else are found crowded together upon such a small area (about 16,000 square miles) so many varieties of plant life and vegetation, such differences in human effort, mentality, racial characteristics, speech, religion and outlook on life in general. I do not think there is another country in the world so cosmopolitan and at the same time so narrowly national, any other people so versified in exercising a multitude of professions, finding a market for almost all the requisites of life, as the Swiss. This has developed by necessity, certainly, and not by predilection. A people of 4,300,000 shut up in a mountainous region can no longer sustain itself by breeding cows, but only by taking a part in this machine age in meeting the demand in neighboring or even far off countries for products of quality. It may amaze the uninitiated to learn that before the outbreak of the war, Switzerland, in proportion, was more highly industrialized than Germany and that about 70 % of all Swiss working people earned their livelihood in factories and workshops.

Possessing no raw materials, we would find it impossible to maintain our high standard of living but for the export of our

In Switzerland **tips** are an important part of the earnings of the hotel staff who get ten per cent on all extras, such as meals and drinks, which are not included in the tour. Examine your bill carefully and see whether or not the tip is included.

Telephoning to the United States is allowed. It will cost you twelve dollars (frs. 52.50) to telephone to New York for three minutes and frs. 17.50 for each additional minute. Information on rates for calls to various parts of the United States can be had by dialing No. 11. When speaking with the Swiss operator be sure and mention the name of the State to which you wish to phone. These calls must be made in either English, French, Spanish or Portuguese between 13.15 and 22 o'clock.

Do not encourage peddlers. **Peddling is forbidden.** Such goods are usually worthless. In buying watches, quality is the first requisite. For your protection, we warn you against taking orders from hawkers. Buy your watches from established firms.

If you wish to have your shoes polished, put them out in front of your door at night. There are no bootblacks in Switzerland!

Don't bring blankets. The hotels are well provided with them.

As the oldest democracy in the world, we are proud to welcome to our country citizens of the world's greatest democracy! We like to think that you'll find amongst us, in all walks of life, a real understanding of the present day world and its problems.

Again, Switzerland extends to you a hearty welcome, with the hope that your stay with us will prove to be not only enjoyable, but also a new link in the friendship which has always united our two countries!

Give your guide a break. He's doing his best to see that you get the most out of your tour of Switzerland.

POSTAL TRAFFIC

1. **Outgoing mail is to be stamped with Swiss postage stamps.**
2. **Rates for postcards and letters:** for Switzerland postcards 10 cts. (without communications, bearing signature only, 5 cts.), letters (up to 250 g [grams]) 20 cts. (local district within 10 km = 10 cts.),
for abroad postcards 20 cts. (without communications, bearing signature only, 5 cts.), letters up to 20 g 30 cts., for each additional 20 g 20 cts. more, registration fee 30 cts., **airmail surcharges** for postcards and letters: for Europe (except Malta, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Turkey) 20 cts. each 20 g, for USA and Canada 70 cts. each 5 g.
3. **Booklets** containing Swiss postage stamps of a total value of 10 francs are available at the post offices.

MONEY-EXCHANGE

Members of the U. S. Armed Forces on leave in Switzerland are allowed to take an amount of 200 Swiss Francs with them for their stay in Switzerland. They are not authorized to spend more than this sum while in this country. Any payment in foreign currency and exchange of any foreign currency in hotels, banks or through private persons is prohibited. The American Legation, American Military Attaché, or American Disbursing Officer connected with the Swiss Government will **not** accept any foreign or american currency in exchange for Swiss Francs.

Food rationing in Switzerland

1. Food rationing in Hotels and Restaurants

Members of the U. S. Armed Forces on leave in Switzerland are intitled to the same rations as the Swiss civilian population. Special wishes which are not in accordance with this country's food regulations unfortunately cannot be fulfilled. Switzerland is experiencing severe rationing measures also for hotels and restaurants, as the food situation is rather critical in this country. Therefore, guests should not ask for more than what can possibly be offered.

Coupons are to be given for every meal, every dish, every piece of cake or confectionery and every milk drink in hotels and restaurants. The meal coupon bearing the letters «Mc» is this country's ration unit for meals in restaurants.

The following points are important:

- a) **Men travelling in conducted groups** are not supposed to hand over meal coupons for their 3 main meals (breakfast, luncheon and dinner). These meal coupons will be given by their Swiss conductor. It is therefore essential that groups should keep together if only to eat. For any additional food item apart from the 3 meals, meal coupons are to be given individually. This being the reason why members of conducted groups when crossing the Swiss border, receive 12 meal coupons which are registered on the leave order.
- b) **Individual travellers** (U. S. Military personnel authorized to visit blood relatives in connection with this leave program) have to deliver 2 meal coupons for each meal they take either in hotels, restaurants or in private houses. For this purpose they are provided with 50 meal coupons by the travel-organization when crossing the frontier.
- c) **Food and its value in meal coupons.** For any dishes, afternoon-teas, sandwiches, cookies, cakes, milk drinks, etc.

ordered in hotels or restaurants, meal coupons have to be handed over when ordering. Rate as follows :

For "menus" or breakfast	2 Mc
For meals "à la carte" up to	3 Mc
For light meals and snacks up to	2 Mc
For 100 grams of bread	1 Mc
For 2 pieces of pastry or cookies	1/2 Mc
For milk drinks containing 2 dl. of milk	1/2 Mc
(1 deciliter = 1/10 liter)	

One slice of bread is served with every meal. For additional bread additional meal coupons must be given. Hotels and restaurants are under the obligation to indicate on their meal-cards the number of meal coupons needed for every dish.

- d) **Swiss War Economy regulations** apply equally to members of the U. S. Armed Forces on leave in Switzerland. They prohibit for instance:

Meat on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,
Hot dishes after 9 p. m.,
Meals on week-days consisting of more than: soup or first dish, main-dish and dessert,
Full cream or whipped cream,
Real mayonnaise,
Sugar with drinks containing milk,
Butter served separately with lunch or dinner, etc.

Apart from their use for meals, milk drinks, etc. in restaurants, meal coupons are only valid for the purchase of bread, cakes or cookies in bakeries or pastry shops. The purchase of non-confectioned rationed food items-except chocolate-is not possible.

2. Issue and use of Chocolate and Candy coupons

Members of conducted groups and individual travellers receive, together with their meal coupons, chocolate and candy coupons. These intitle the owner to purchase chocolates, candies, etc. which have a point value according to their content of rationed items.

3. Necessity of economical use and safe-keeping of coupons

The 12 meal coupons for members of conducted groups and the 50 meal coupons for individual travellers, as well as the chocolate and candy coupons, are intended to cover the needs for the whole period during which members of the U. S. Armed Forces on leave stay in this country. An additional issue of meal coupons or chocolate and candy coupons will not be made, **nor will any lost or stolen coupons be replaced.**

It is therefore vitally important that these coupons be carefully kept and economically used.

4. Restitution of unused coupons

Coupons which have not been used during the stay in Switzerland must not be taken out of the country, not even as a souvenir. All coupons will be handed back to the Swiss guide before leaving this country.

Exportation of goods when leaving Switzerland

Members of the U. S. Armed Forces on leave in Switzerland are permitted to take the following articles out of this country **without a special export-licence**. No export-licence will be given for any articles which are not listed hereafter.

Travel-provisions

Food items: total weight not exceeding 1 kilo per person

(1 kilo = 1000 grams = 2.2 pounds) :

	Bread or cookies	300 grams
	Cheese	200 "
	Sausage or meat	200 "
	Canned fish (only 1 box)	200 "
	Chocolate	100 "
	Fresh fruit	500 "
	Dried fruit	200 "
Drinks:	Wine, cider or mineral-water	1 bottle
	Coffee or tea, liquid	1 litre
Tobacco:	any kind up to	100 grams

Manufactured goods:

The exportation of shoes, boots, textiles and soap is prohibited. All **unrationed** articles may be exported, subject to the following restrictions:

Pharmaceutical products and medicine are allowed only for personal needs, for such time as is required to return to the point of departure.

Unexposed camera-films are not to be exported.

Registration and Information center

If for any reason whatsoever a member of a conducted group or an individual owing to illness or other cause loses contact with his group or remains in Switzerland for longer than the period of seven days, he has to report immediately to:

1. The local Inquiry Office (Offizielles Verkehrsbüro, Bureau officiel de renseignements, Ufficio informazioni).
2. The information or booking office at the railroad stations.
3. The central office for U. S. Army tours in Switzerland, Berne, Tel. (031) 61.

The same office is ready to give any information the members of the U. S. Armed Forces may wish during their stay in Switzerland.

4. The USFET or MTOUSA Liaison officer in Berne, Tel. (031) 3 79 14. by telephone or in person where further instructions will be given.

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