

Q+A 13-B

Military service ref. in
Historical Sketches p 117

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April 22, 1958

Pastor G. Tobler
Advent-Verlag
Gubelstrasse 23
Zurich 50, Switzerland

Dear Brother Tobler:

Yesterday I received your letter, written April 13. It was good to hear from you. We are glad to know that the book, Answers to Questions on Doctrine is being well received and good use is being made of it.

You ask in your letter if we have any further information concerning the matter referred to in Historical Sketches of S. D. A. Foreign Missions on page 117 relating to the question of the bearing of arms and serving in the army. We find reference to this again in the minutes of this meeting held in Basel as recorded in the Review and Herald of November 3, 1885, on page 684,

"The Committee on Resolutions then offered the following question:--

"Should we bear arms, or serve in the army? and if so, is it lawful to serve on the Sabbath?

"With reference to this, it was moved that the Executive Committee of the Council prepare a circular treating upon this subject, offering suggestions in regard to it for the instruction of our brethren. From the ensuing discussion it appeared that military service is compulsory in Switzerland, Germany, France, and Italy. The length of service required, varies in the different countries, but the service is such that it is very difficult to keep the Sabbath. In Switzerland Sabbath-keepers have the choice of joining the sanitary corps, in which a person is exempt from bearing arms; but the duties to be performed on the Sabbath are not such as are proper for God's holy day."

We have never been able to find, Brother Tober, any reference to any report or action based upon this resolution. We are inclined to think that the matter was dropped. How valuable something would be to us if there were some available worked out while Sister White was there in Europe. We have a reference to the fact that some of our men were called to military

