

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Colonel Hermann Flückiger, Swiss Minister in Moscow, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, which was accepted with thanks for his services rendered.

Minister Flückiger was born in 1885 in Barga (Ct. Berne). He established himself as a solicitor in Bienne, where he soon made a name for himself.

He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne for six years, and in January, 1941, was appointed commander of a division.

Minister Flückiger was appointed Swiss Minister to the U.S.S.R. in April, 1946.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Hans Zurlinden, at present Swiss Minister at Oslo, to the post of Minister at Moscow, in succession to Monsieur Flückiger.

Minister Zurlinden, was born in 1892, in Attiswil (Ct. Berne). After concluding his studies of jurisprudence at the Universities of Berne, Berlin, Breslau and Paris, he obtained his degree of doctor-of-law.

In 1923, he joined the Diplomatic Service and was attached to the Swiss Legation in Berlin, seven years later, he was promoted to 2nd Secretary of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Bucarest. In 1934 he was advanced to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation and transferred to Paris.

In 1938 he returned to Berlin, this time as Counsellor of Legation. After a stay in Berne at the Federal Political Department he was appointed General-Consul at Munich in 1942. Three years later he returned to Berne and in 1946 was appointed Minister to Norway.

Monsieur Phillippe Zutter, Counsellor of Legation, has been appointed head of the International Organisations at the Foreign Office in Berne, in succession to Monsieur D. Secrétan, newly appointed Minister to Egypt.

Monsieur Zutter was born in 1904, in La Chaux-du-Milieu (Ct. Neuchâtel), and studied law at the

Universities of Neuchâtel and Vienna. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1930.

Five years later he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Bucarest as 2nd Secretary of Legation. In 1939, after having been promoted to 1st Secretary, he was sent to the Swiss Legation in Buenos-Aires, where he received the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

In 1943 Monsieur Zutter was transferred to Santiago de Chile as Chargé d'Affaires, and three years later returned to the Federal Political Department in Berne. He has represented our country at several international conferences.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Albert Huber, Counsellor of Legation, to the post of General-Consul in Frankfurt a. M.

Monsieur Huber was born in 1897, in Daeniken (Ct. Solothurn). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Berne, and afterwards established himself as an advocate. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1938 and a year later acted as head of our Legation in Prague. On his return to Berne in 1945 he was promoted to Counsellor of Legation.

The Minister of Czechoslovakia, in Berne, Dr. Ivan Glaser, and the Press Attaché, M. Wladimir Renes, have resigned, stating that they are not in agreement with the present régime.

Under a new trade agreement just concluded, Switzerland is granting a 30 million franc credit to Sweden, repayable within two years.

### Cantonal

Ludwig Walker, late States-Councillor and since 1930 a member of the government of the canton of Uri, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. In 1936/38, and again in 1940/42, Walker held the post of "Landamman." [A.T.S.]

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The accounts of the canton of Obwalden for the year 1947 close with a credit-balance of 24,839.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During an Air-Display held at Sarnen (Unterwalden), a Sports machine, type "Seebiene" crashed at the "Kleinen Melchtal." Four people were injured, amongst them the pilot, Jules Gloor, who is one of the oldest wireless operators of the Swissair. (This flight had no connection with the Swissair.) [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the 15th of this month, 100 years have elapsed since the birth of the popular Swiss sculptor, Richard Kissling, the creator of the William Tell monument at Altdorf.

Kissling studied in Rome, Lucca and Vienna. Amongst his principal works are the following monuments: Alfred Escher (outside the railway station in Zurich); Fontana monument in Chur, and the statue of the reformator, Joachim Vadian, in St. Gall.

He was a honorary citizen of the towns of Zurich and Altdorf and *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich. Kissling died on July 19th, 1919, in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Else Züblin-Spiller, President of the "Schweizer Verbandes Volksdienst" (Soldatenwohl) died in Zurich at the age of 67. The deceased, who was a doctor of medicine, was born in Seen, near Winterthur; she was deeply interested in social work, and travelled extensively in many lands. During the Frontier-Occupation in 1914-18 she founded the

"Soldatenstuben" which were such a boom to our soldiers. [A.T.S.]

(She lectured on several occasions to the Swiss Colony in London. Ed.)

\* \* \*

Colonel Emil Richard, *doctor honoris causa*, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary in Zurich. He was for many years a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Zurich, of the "Vorort des Schweiz. Handels & Industrieverein" and the "Kantonsrat." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The well-known historian, Professor Gottfried Guggenbühl, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Professor Guggenbühl has made a name for himself as a teacher at the "Kantonschule" and the Federal Technical University. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Winterthur of Pastor Adolf Graf, at the age of 81. The deceased, who was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" occupied from 1932-1939 the post of President of the "Zürcher Kirchensynode." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mademoiselle Clara Sturzenegger in Herrliberg (Ct. Zurich) has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two men of Russian and Polish origin have been arrested in connection with an attack made on the station-master of Marthalen (Ct. Zurich) last February. Being surprised by the station-master on entering the building late at night, they fired point blank at him, but fortunately missed him. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The French Government has conferred upon Auguste Viatte, from Porrentruy (Ct. Berne), the rank of Chevalier, of the order of the Légion d'Honneur.

Viatte is at present Professor of French literature at the University Laval in Quebec (Canada). He studied at the Universities of Berne, Fribourg and at the Sorbonne in Paris. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Arnold Lunn, the well-known author, alpinist and Ski pioneer has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary at the "Kleine Scheidegg" (Bernese Oberland). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Rudolf Berchtold, an employee of the "Agence Télégr. Suisse" in Berne, has celebrated his 50th service jubilee. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The 32nd Swiss Sample Fair in Basle was opened on the 10th of this month with the traditional reception of the Swiss Press, by the Director of the Fair, Professor Brogle.

The "Official Day" was held on Thursday, the 13th, to which a number of eminent personalities were invited, amongst them Federal-Councillor R. Rubattel, representing the Federal Council, the Presidents of the States and National Council, former Federal-Councillor Stampfli, General Guisan, Federal-Chancellor Dr. Leimgruber, G. Wenk, President of the Government of the canton of Basle, Ministers Dr. Fröhlicher, Dr. Zehnder, Dr. H. Vallotton, Dr. A. Däniker, and Secrétan, Custom's Director E. Widmer, etc., etc., as well as members of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps.

Professor Brogle, in welcoming the official guests expressed his pleasure, that it was again possible to add further buildings and thus enable an increased number of firms to exhibit. He mentioned that



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altogether 2,250 firms were showing their goods this year.

Amongst the other speakers were Federal-Councillor Rubattel and States Councillor G. Wenk.

[A.T.S.]

In the presence of the French ambassador, Monsieur Hoppenot, an exhibition of the works of Rodin was opened in Basle. The exhibition will be open to the public for the next three months. [A.T.S.]

The town of Basle mourns the death of two of its eminent citizens, namely: Professor Otto Fischer, formerly conservator of the Public Art Collection, and Professor of Art History at the University of Basle, and Dr. Leonhard Schwarz, nerve specialist and well-known for his scientific works in the field of psychotherapy. Both reached the age of 62. [A.T.S.]

In the first quarter of 1948 an amount of altogether 150,000.—frs. has been given by various private persons in the canton of St. Gall, to charitable institutions.

[A.T.S.]

Ernst Eckenstein, architect in Basle has, on the occasion of his father's 100th birthday anniversary, made a donation of 10,000.—frs. to the "Kadettenkorps" in Zofingen. Eckenstein was, at one time, a member of this force. [A.T.S.]

The death has occurred at Lausanne, of Dr. Lucien Clerc, who since 1925, occupied the post of General Secretary of the Bernese Watch Manufacturers Association in Bienne.

The deceased was, for nearly twenty years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne.

Charles Armandruz, during 30 years a teacher at the commercial school in Lausanne, has also died. He was the author of many books on teaching.

[A.T.S.]

A lorry collided with a train at the level-crossing near Noiraigue (Neuchâtel). The driver of the lorry, Fritz Hug, died later from the injuries he received, and his passenger, Mme. M. Vuilleumier, from Bôle, was taken to hospital in a serious condition. [A.T.S.]

Camille, Ulysse Perret (watchmaker) in La Sagne (Ct. Neuchâtel), has celebrated his 101st birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The "Ecole des Beaux Arts" in Geneva, has celebrated the 200th anniversary of its foundation.

Albert Dupraz, the head of the school, during the official celebration spoke on the history of the school and on the personality of its founder, Jean-Jaques Bulamachi.

Federal Councillor Dr. Etter tendered the congratulations of the Federal Council. [A.T.S.]

Considerable damage was caused through a fire which broke out at the works of Aldo Collé, furniture manufacturers in Carouge (Ct. Geneva). [A.T.S.]

### Army

On April 5th of this month it was 100 years since General Ulrich Wille was born.

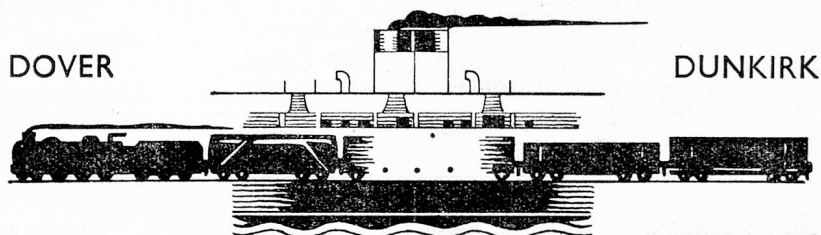
In 1914 (August 3rd) then Army-Corps commander Wille was elected commander-in-chief of the Swiss army with the rank of General.

He relinquished his post in December 11th, 1919, and died in January 1925.

General Wille was born on April 5th, 1848, the scion of an old Neuchâtelois family. His father, Dr. François Wille, a medical practitioner, lived at La Sagne, his mother was a native of Hamburg.

Soon after the birth of Ulrich Wille, the family moved to Meilen on the lake of Zurich, where the new

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home soon became the centre of an intellectual circle. Amongst the constant visitors to Meilen were Herwegh, Gottfried Keller, Arnold Böcklin, Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, C. F. Meyer, etc., etc.

Ulrich Wille studied first jurisprudence at the Universities of Zurich, Halle, Leipzig and Heidelberg, and finished his studies with the degree of doctor-of-law.

Soon after he started his military career and in 1871, obtained his commission as lieutenant of artillery, with this rank he took part in the Frontier-Occupation of 1870-71.

From then onwards, he became a member of the Swiss Instruction Corps where he soon distinguished himself so that he rapidly advanced to the grade of captain (1883), major and lieutenant-colonel.

He at once began with the re-organisation of the artillery, and afterwards undertook the same work with the cavalry. At that time it was said about Wille: "Die Artillerie habe ich gebildet, die Kavallerie bilde ich, und die Infanterie werde ich bilden."

In 1896, he left the army owing to differences which occurred with the Federal Military Department, in connection with the occupation of some military commands, but four years after, Wille was recalled, and in 1900 received the command of the 6th Division, with the rank of Colonel of Division. In this capacity, he distinguished himself, and within four years he was promoted to the rank of Army-Corps Commander, taking over the command of the 3rd Army-Corps.

Years of intense work followed, and the re-organisation of the Swiss army in 1907, was the crowning point of his military career.

At the outbreak of the first world war Colonel Wille, was elected by the Federal Chambers, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Forces, a command which he held with great efficiency.

In commemoration of the 100th birthday anniversary of General Wille, a service was held at the University of Zurich, of which he was at one time a lecturer on military science, during which Federal-Councillor Kobelt, head of the Federal Military Department, paid a high tribute to the services which General Wille had rendered to the army and to our country.

Wreaths were placed on the grave at the cemetery in Meilen, where apart from the members of the family the following attended a short service: Army-Corps Commanders: Frick, de Montmollin, and Iselin; Colonels of Division: Schumacher and Bircher, Federal-Councillor Kobelt, etc., etc.

During shooting exercises at Morcles, a gun barrel exploded, severely injuring two recruits. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Lieutenant Georg Schnetzer (Zurich), aged 24, was killed during bomb throwing exercises at the shooting range in Breitfeld, near St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following couples have celebrated their diamond anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. T. Möckli, in Neuenstadt; Mr. and Mrs. Châtelain-Müller, in Tramelan-Dessus; Mr. and Mrs. Cholet-Delisle, in Lausanne.

Iron-Wedding anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. J. Künzli, Aadorf (Thurgau).

Golden-Wedding anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. Robert-Vermot, in La Chaux-de-Fonds.

\* \* \*

The first vessel specially built in Italy for the Swiss merchant fleet, the 750-ton Laupen for the Keller Shipping Company, has been launched at Viareggio. The Laupen, named after a Swiss village, is equipped with two Ansaldo engines of 600 h.p. each and will have a speed of 10 knots.

\* \* \*

Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, has arrived in Switzerland. He attended the Annual Meeting in Montreux of the British Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland where he gave an address. Federal-Councillor Rubattel also spoke.

\* \* \*

The "Schweizerischer Kaufmännischer Verein" is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

#### Pleasant News from Switzerland.

(Translated from the Press Service of the *Schweizerwoche*.)

A direct Air-Service, Berne—London, will start in June.

The municipal council of Lucerne has foregone one day's remuneration for the benefit of needy children in the war-stricken countries.

An exhibition of the works of Ferdinand Hodler and Paul Klee has been opened in Amsterdam.

The *première* of the Swiss Film "Die Gezeichneten" has received an enthusiastic reception in New-York.

Dr. Volkmar Andrea, has conducted two concerts of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

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