

Recent deaths in Switzerland

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

In the last issue we reported with pride and pleasure the successes which Swiss sportsmen had achieved at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Before the "Swiss Observer" was completely printed, news reached us that the Swiss bronze medallist Göpf Kottmann was missing in an army exercise in which he had worked as frogman. The next day when the "S.O." took the news of his Olympic success into the homes of our readers, we knew that his body had been found. Frogmen of the cantonal and municipal police of Zurich had been used in military exercises on the Rhine. Their task was by no means unusual for such well-trained men. There is no reason at all why Kottman should suddenly have been in trouble. His body could only be found next morning, 7th November. Thus the promising life of the young Zurich policeman and Olympic medallist, 32 years of age, came to a tragic end. Experts considered him the most successful Swiss oarsman of all times. He was the winner of fifteen Swiss rowing events of consequence. He had also been successful in bobsleigh racing, was a qualified swimming instructor and life saving expert.

Other deaths reported are:

Friedrich Vogelsanger (93), Lucerne, for many decades in charge of the goldsmith's and silversmith's studio of Messrs. Bossard. Creator of valuable heraldic pieces. Father of the Well-known minister Peter Vogelsanger of the Fraumünster in Zurich.

Frau Rita Liechti (50), Zurich, prominent actress.

Hermann Weideli (87), Zollikon, architect.

Josef Jans (55), Lucerne, teacher at the "Zentralstelle für Obstbau" (Gelfingen), expert in fruit growing.

Frank Guibat (50), Lausanne, baritone, composer and conductor of "La Chanson de Lausanne" — well remembered in London from his appearance at the "Fête Suisse" a few years ago.

Eugen Haenggi (40), Solothurn, President of the Concordat of the Swiss Sickness Benefit Societies (Krankenkassen).

Oscar Markiewicz (92), Geneva, for twelve years conductor of the Geneva music corps "Landwehr". Infantry Captain and member of the Geneva Grand Council.

Enrico Talamona (82), Solothurn, Ticinese journalist and author.

Dr. Eduard Koechlin-von Orelli (81), Basle, first head of the "Basler Trinkerfürsorgestelle". Member of the Grand Council.

Frau Emma Murauer (78), Basle, well-known actress and member of the "Komoedie" theatre.

Georges-Guy Fiechter (33), Lausanne, geologist in Rabat (Morocco), where he was killed in an accident.

Max Thomi-Farner (68), Basle, Chairman of the Board of the firm of Thomi, food manufacturers.

Regierungsrat Dr. Edwin Zweifel (67), Basle, former member of the cantonal government (Radical Democrat), expert on hydro-electric power and gas production.

Colonel Otto Glauser (74), Berne, instruction officer in the Swiss Air Force.

Joseph Gruetter (100), St. Gall, former bank manager (Eidgenössische Bank St. Gall).

Dr. iur Hermann Steiger (62), Brunnen, lawyer, politician and local historian.

Dr. Antoine-Elisée Cherbuliez (76), Zurich, Professor of music at Zurich University.

Emil Schmid-Vellard (90), Steckborn, Chairman of the Board of "Steckborner Kunstseide A.G.". Member of the Thurgau Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Max Mueller (79), Sierre, journalist and author. For many years Paris correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung".

Honoré Snell (78), Geneva, President of the Geneva Municipal Council, Editor-in-Chief of the Radical paper "Le Genevois" and a notable singer.

John Balthasar Christoffel (92), Zurich and Antwerp, for forty years with the Bell Telephone Company in Antwerp; Consul-General in Antwerp and leader of the Swiss Society; from 1932 member of the Board of the Standard Telephon und Radio A.G. Zurich.

Walther Peter (66), Bienne, former General Manager of the Bulova Watch Company; General Omar Bradley, President of Bulova, attended the funeral.

Joseph Cretton (59), Geneva, Chief of Reception of Swissair.

Dr. h.c. Ernst Schenker (76), Basle, former Director of Lonza A.G.

Pfr. Peter Thurneysen (73), Basle, well-known minister at Safien/Gr., Walzenhausen, Davos and Obfelden/Zch.

Hermann Odermatt (76), Zurich, Editor-in-Chief of the "Neue Zürcher Nachrichten", member of the Cantonal Parliament, Commune Councillor; for thirty-five years conductor of a large R.C. Church choir. Author on music and of humorous stories of Central Switzerland "Urchige Heimat".

Pfr. Jean Badertscher (75), Geneva, Protestant missionary in South Africa and for many years in Mozambique and later Secretary-General of the Swiss South Africa Mission.

Maurice Henneberg (78), Geneva, for many years sports editor of the "Tribune de Genève".

Hugo Kobelt (39), Zurich, famous cyclist and known in many countries as "Pédaleur de charme", winner of the Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and Tour de Suisse (three times); winner of many cycling events. He was killed in a motor accident.

[A.T.S.]

