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great hours of gratitude and pride of the Swiss Colony. Even Winston Churchill nearly came but, after much understandable emotion, it was agreed that in lieu the General and Madame Guisan would lunch with him the next day.

I cannot end this perhaps too long article without mentioning the funeral, as it was my sad and yet wonderful privilege to be in Switzerland. Never before has anything similar been witnessed. At 1.30 on Tuesday, 12th April, the bells of all churches in every part of Switzerland rang. In almost all factories five minutes' silence was observed and only the flapping of the flags at half mast could be heard. It was the exact moment at which the body of General Guisan was leaving — for the last time — his beloved home of "Verte-Rive". The procession which was to walk 5 kms. was amazing, so simple, so true, so worthy of the man who for the last time would pass through the streets of Lausanne. I will only mention a few notable incidents. On the steps of the University the 458 flags of all the Swiss battalions were grouped. As the coffin passed they all dipped in salute. At Berne, in August 1945, the General had saluted all flags; to-day it was the flags which saluted the Commander-in-Chief for the last time. There were also 25 cantonal flags, all preceded by the "huissiers" in the cantonal colours representing the whole united nation. The wreaths, hundreds of them, were carried by soldiers. In front were those of the Swiss Government, the Diplomatic Corps, the 1st Army Corps (in charge of the funeral), of President Eisenhower. The one of our Confrérie vaudoise was also there, our final tribute. Madame Guisan had insisted on attending the whole funeral in spite of her immense grief and her over eighty years.

One very moving thing was that all men in Switzerland had been allowed to wear uniform on that day and thus pay homage to the General. A place had been reserved for them at the Place de la Riponne... and there were thousands. Attending the procession were of course the Conseil fédéral in corpore, representatives as said of every Canton, the Diplomatic Corps, etc., but a body of men, in uniform or in civilian clothes, from Colonel to Private, all men of a certain age and looking overcome by emotion followed the carriage: they were the Etat-Major particulier of the General, his family as he used to call them, who every year had met and who now would be disbanded.

The ceremony at the Cathedral, where nearly 2,000 people had assembled, was impressive. Loudspeakers outside relayed it, as they did also in the Church of St. François, the second largest in Lausanne, where old people had been invited to come and listen to the whole proceedings.

General Henri Guisan was buried in the cemetery of Pully, near his home, near C. F. Ramuz, amongst his people. The ceremony was private, but so moving. It ended with the playing of

"J'avais un camarade, le meilleur d'ici-bas..."

Our respected General has left us. We have all lost a friend. His example remains, which should inspire us and make the rising generation look up to him. Perhaps in years to come Swiss mothers (even in foreign lands) will, in the evening, tell their young sons stories which will start: "Il y avait une fois un grand et bon Général que tout le monde aimait..." God bless his memory.

Alfred Renou

### NEW ARRIVAL AT THE SWISS EMBASSY

We have much pleasure in announcing that Monsieur H. Gallusser, 1st Secretary of Embassy, has recently taken up his post in succession to Dr. Hans Müller, who has been transferred to Budapest.

Monsieur Gallusser came to London from Tel Aviv, where he was for nearly four years at the Swiss Embassy as 1st Secretary. He had been previously posted in Germany, Lisbon, and French North Africa.

We wish Monsieur Gallusser, and Madame Gallusser, a happy stay in this country.

### ADVANCE PRESS NOTICE

In October 1957 the children of the town of Rapperswil, on Lake Zurich, presented the stag, "Goldie", to Prince Charles to celebrate a successful exchange scheme of secondary school children with London.

On its arrival at the Zoo, the stag was found to belong to a species not generally known in this country, and the Zoological Society, therefore, felt it might be kind to provide it with a companion. This suggestion found enthusiastic support in Rapperswil, and a doe, "Michèle", in fact arrived at Liverpool Street Station on Thursday, 7th April 1960, at 9.13 a.m. She will first go into quarantine before being transferred to the Zoo.

At the same time arrangements have now been

completed between the education authorities in Manchester and Salford and the Swiss Consulate in Manchester whereby ten orphans from Manchester will fly to Zurich on 28th May to be the guests of Rapperswil until 10th June. The town of Rapperswil is inviting the children to dinner, and various excursions are planned by ship and rail, as well as a visit to the training quarters of the famous circus, Knie.

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

### MONTHLY MEETING

ON

WEDNESDAY, 11th MAY 1960 at 7 p.m.

AT

SWISS HOUSE, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

followed by a talk by

**Dr. R. FAESSLER**

Commercial Counsellor

at the Swiss Embassy on:

**"THE SIX AND THE SEVEN"**

Members and Friends cordially invited

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