

# Recent deaths in Switzerland

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## RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

- Traugott Halder (84), Lugano, former owner of the Hotel Hof Maran at Arosa; well-known *hôte*lier.
- Hamid Zaki (58), Basle, painter and graphic artist; son of an Egyptian High Judge and a Basle woman.
- Max Alioth (84), Basle, well-known architect and *Burgenforscher*; resident at St. Moritz; responsible for many Grisons renovations.
- Mrs. Marthe Rubattel-Moulin, Pully, widow of the late Federal Councillor Rodolphe Rubattel who died in 1961.
- Luigi Zanini (72), Turino, Zurich sculptor and painter whose work is to be seen in many Swiss towns, also at the EXPO 64.
- Dr. Wilhelm Kuenzle (88), Muri (Berne), formerly well-known St. Gall lawyer and politician; *Erziehungsrat* from 1921 to 1934; member of the Cantonal Parliament for 9 years and of the *Kassationsgericht* for 14 years; President of the Cantonal Bank Commission from 1936 to 1958.
- Theo Otto (64), Zurich, for 35 years *Buehnenbildner* at the Zurich playhouse theatre.
- Mrs. Marguerite Paur-Ulrich (80), Kilchberg/Zurich, author and poet; became known through her biography of Johanna Spyri; President of the Zurich Lyceum Club from 1939 to 1955.
- Dr. med. Jean Maystre (71), Geneva, General Secretary of the Cantonal Medical Association; Major of *Sanität* in the Army.
- Prof. Jean Kiehl (66), Neuchâtel, founder of the "Compagnie de la Saint-Grégoire"; theatrical producer of repute.
- Anton Tresch (73), Erstfeld, former *Landratspraesident* of Uri; member of the Cantonal Parliament from 1932 to 1952; holder of several offices in Commune and Canton.
- Herbert Redlich (66), Berne, actor and producer; founder of the "Aula-Theater" which he took on tour to many Swiss schools.
- Konrad Baenziger (87), Reute/Appenzell, former member of the Cantonal Government (1931 to 1940).
- Eugène Jeanrenaud (75), St. Imier, former Manager and member of the board of the watch manufacturing concern of Longines St. Imier where he had held several important posts; member of the General Council and Commune Council of St. Imier.
- Alfred Heubach (74), Spiez, former teacher and *Schlossverwalter*; well-known local historian.
- Dr. Paul Kuenzle (62), Gossau/St. Gall, former teacher at the Rosenberg Institute and later Chancellor of the Bishopric; afterwards Chaplain at Bernhardzell, followed by his appointment as Librarian at the Papal Archaeological Institute, and for the past two years Director of the Library at the Vatican Museum in Rome.
- Léon Vermot (78), Geneva, former notary in Neuchâtel; then member of the General Management of the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich; after 1920 at the head of the Bank's branch in Geneva until 15 years ago.
- Ernst Saxer (31), Adligenswil/Lucerne; well-known photo-reporter and pilot; awarded second prize in "World Press Photographers Award"; keen sportsman; pilot in the Swiss Dhaulagiri Exhibition in 1960; holder of the world record for high altitude landing (5,750m.); killed in a flying accident.

Paul Baechtold (78), Lausanne, former Chief of the Federal Aliens Police from 1945 to 1955.

Harald Kreutzberg (66), Berne, famous dancer; in Switzerland since 1956; established his own Dance Institute in Berne.

Dr. Emanuel Huonder (58), Chur, President of the Grisons Government for the second time, having been elected to it in 1959 (Conservative Christian Socialist).

Frau Babette Peter-Grueter (100), Lucerne, the oldest citizen and inhabitant of the town.

[A.T.S.]

## ACCIDENTS

On 24th June, at nearly 2 p.m., two km. away from Sion, there was a serious collision between a freight express train coming from Brigue and a special train carrying about 300 members of the Agricultural Society Reiden (Lucerne). The two locomotives were completely destroyed, and two carriages of the special train were thrown down an incline, with one of the engines coming to rest on top of them. Twelve people were killed and 103 injured; 27 of these had to be taken to hospital. As there was a danger of explosion, the wrecked carriages had to be cleared by hand, which meant a long wait for some of the injured who were trapped. The two drivers were both killed, one was a father of five small children from Brigue, the other a young man from Renens.

Ten victims came from Pfaffnau (Lucerne), and they included three married couples who leave behind several small children. Special measures have been taken to help the bereaved families, and arrangements have been made to continue work on the farms.

Messages of condolence have arrived from all over the country. The Federal Council and the two Chambers in session in Berne expressed their sympathy. In the Council of States, relief was felt when the President announced that Vice-President Clavadetscher would have been on the train if his duties had not held him back in Berne.

On Friday, 28th June, the ten victims were buried at Pfaffnau. All the Lucerne National Councillors and Councillors of States were present at the funeral service which was also attended by personalities from the SBB and political delegations from the Valais. Bishop Dr. Anton Haenggi officiated. Some 3,000 people attended the service.

The accident has been the worst since 1948 when 21 people lost their lives in a train catastrophe near Waedenswil. In the period since then, six travellers only died in collisions and derailments. In the same time, the Swiss Federal Railways have transported over 4 milliard travellers.

The first accident on Switzerland's Federal Railways happened in 1871 at Colombier, when 24 people were killed. The very worst ever occurred on 14th June 1891 near Muenchenstein where the Birs bridge collapsed under the weight of the train; 71 travellers lost their lives, and 171 were injured.

Two days after the accident near Sion, three people were killed when a private aircraft (Piper-Cherokee) crashed on the Big Aletsch Glacier. On the same day, the main hall of the Union Bank of Switzerland in Basle was gutted by fire. Nobody was harmed, but damage is expected to surpass the million-franc mark.

[A.T.S.]