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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Switzerland's Independence Day (1st of August) was celebrated throughout Switzerland, with great enthusiasm.

Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, spoke on the Radio to the Swiss people.

Federal-Councillor Dr. Stampfli, during a patriotic address in Olten, congratulated the Swiss electors on their acceptance of the Old Age and Survivors Insurance.

\* \* \*

Madame Eva Perón, wife of the President of the Republic of Argentina arrived in Geneva on the 4th of August. She was greeted on her arrival by a representative of the Federal Council, and high officials of the canton of Geneva.

After a short stay, she travelled by special train to the Federal capital where she was received by Federal-Councillor and Madame Petitpierre, Switzerland's Foreign Minister.

On the conclusion of a drive through the town, Madame Perón was the guest of the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Council, at an official Banquet given at the "von Wattenwyl Haus" during which speeches depicting the friendly relations between the two countries were given.

The next day the visitors travelled by special train to Lucerne, where an official reception was held at the town hall, followed by an excursion to the Tell's chapel. On their return to Berne, Madame Perón offered a Banquet to the Federal authorities at the Hotel Bellevue Palace.

The visit concluded with a visit to La Chaux-de-Fonds, where she inspected a watch manufacturing establishment. Unfortunately the visit was marred by some unpleasant incidents such as the throwing of tomatoes and stones. The Swiss Government has expressed regrets to Madame Perón for the breach of hospitality committed.

\* \* \*

Restrictions on the export of Swiss watches to all countries in the dollar block, are abolished as from

July 1st, 1947. This decision is the outcome of long negotiations between the National Bank, the Swiss Federal Council and key organizations in the Swiss watch industry.

\* \* \*

According to a decree of the Federal Council of July 25th, all Norwegian Credit Balances in Switzerland are "unfrozen."

\* \* \*

The American Minister, Leland Harrison, who has represented his country since 1937 in Berne, is shortly relinquishing his post to return to the States Department in Washington.

His successor is John Vincent, who was in the Consular Service from 1924-1934. In 1939, he was appointed General Consul in Geneva, and the following year was transferred to Nanking. Four years later he took up an appointment at the States Department in Washington. He was at one time Counsellor of Legation in Tschungking.

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The Republic of Poland has appointed Julian Przbos as its Minister in Berne, he is well-known as a writer and journalist.

The Norwegian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Jkystad, has paid an official visit to the town of Schaffhausen, in order to convey to the town Council the thanks of the King of Norway and the Norwegian Government, for the hospitality the town of Schaffhausen had given to 76 Norwegian soldiers who were transferred from the Concentration Camp of Dachau.

The Minister, after a short address, in which he thanked the population for their friendly action towards his countrymen, handed to the Mayor a Diploma and the "Liberation Cross;" the former bears the signature of King Haakon.

Mr. Bringolf, Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen, thanked the Minister for the presentation, which he said was proof of the friendly relations which have always existed between the two countries.

The Austrian Foreign Minister, Karl Gruber, at present on a holiday in Switzerland, was received in Berne, by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Etter and Federal Councillor Stampfli.

### Cantonal

A serious railway accident occurred between Biberbrücke and Einsiedeln, when two trains met with a head-on collision. Ten people were killed and thirty injured, some of them seriously. The names of the dead are: Eugen Spahr, railway guard, Kleiner, engine driver,

Stähli, engine driver, Josef Hüsler, Oerlikon, Franz Kälin, Bennau near Einsiedeln, Fr. Bisig, 4 years old, Frl. Marthaler, Frau Weibel, Birsfelden, Frau Schürfs, Basle.

A preliminary investigation has proved that one signalman had given the "all clear" by mistake, he has since been arrested. [A.T.S.]

The Catholic women's Association of Schwyz have protested against the sale of the 1st of August emblem, depicting a woman in the nude, describing it as being indecent. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of division, Dr. Johann von Muralt, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

Colonel von Muralt was Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army-Corps and from 1929-1932 commander of the artillery brigade 5. On his nomination to Colonel of Division in 1932 he commanded the fifth division until the end of 1937. [A.T.S.]

Whilst fishing in the Sihlsee near Willerzell, the 51 years old works-manager, Gottfried Thurner, from Stäfa was drowned. [A.T.S.]

The well-known painter and producer of historical plays, August Schmid, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

Dr. h.c. Otto Lüttschg-Lötscher, formerly head of the Hydropathic Institute of the Technical University in Zurich, has died in Glion, whilst on a holiday, at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

A club called "Airlines Representatives Club of Switzerland" has been founded in Zurich. Members are agents of ten different International Air Line companies. Director Eugen Groh of "Swissair" has been elected as an honorary member. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Regensburger, for many years foreign correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," has died in Stockholm following an operation. [A.T.S.]

The new Swissair Travel Bureau in the railway station building in Zurich was opened by Ulrich Keller, sub-manager of the Swissair. The newly opened office employs a staff of 50 employees. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. P. Reinhard at the age of 75. Dr. Reinhard, was from 1901-1918 secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Solothurn and since 1918 he was secretary of the "Schweizerischen Papier-und-Papierstoff-Fabrikanten Verbandes" in Zurich, he was a keen alpinist. [A.T.S.]

The old and historic wooden bridge on the road Zollbrück-Lauperswil (Berne) was destroyed by fire. [A.T.S.]

Major Karl Wyss, (1909) a member of the Swiss Air Force, has crashed with a Bücker machine near Payerne; he was killed instantaneously. [A.T.S.]

The well-known "Concertgebouw" orchestra from Amsterdam has arrived at Interlaken. They are giving a number of concerts at the Kursaal, under the conductorship of Eduard van Beinum, with the soloist, Jacques Thibaud (violin). The opening concert was attended by Federal Councillor von Steiger and members of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

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electrification, has died in Gümligen (Berne) at the age of 74. [A.T.S.]

A train of the Solothurn-Zollikofen-Bern railway collided near the station Büren zum Hof with a fully loaded lorry. Both the railway engine and the lorry received heavy damages. The chauffeur of the lorry was taken to hospital in a serious condition. [A.T.S.]

Adolf Guggisberg, age 28, son of the Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Bienne, was killed in a motor accident near Nancy (France). [A.T.S.]

A ridiculously low sentence was passed on a motorist, who, whilst under the influence of drink, ran into two passers by seriously injuring one woman. He was made to pay a fine of 300.—frs. (!) [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Hodel, formerly chief medical officer at the District Hospital in Interlaken, has died at the age of 70. [A.T.S.]

Sigriswil, the picturesque village above Gunten (Ct. Berne), has celebrated its 600th anniversary.

The Bernese government was represented by its President, Dr. F. Feldmann, Dr. Gafner, Arnold Seematter and H. Siegenthaler. [A.T.S.]

Admiral Bernhard Bieri, commander of the American Mediterranean fleet, has arrived at the "Schatzalp" (Berne) for a short stay. The admiral is a son of Bernhard Bieri, who was born in Brienz and later on emigrated to America. [A.T.S.]

A Bernese alpinist, Willi Roth, together with the mountain guide Emil von Allmen, have made the first ascent from the Tschingelfirn via the south-side to the summit of the Gspaltenhorn (3,437m.). [A.T.S.]

Three mountaineers, Dr. Muller, dentist, Hermann Graf, hairdresser and Ernst Sollberger, all from Thun, lost their lives when ascending the Oeschinenhorn (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

The Bahnhof Hotel (Volkshaus) in Biberist was partly destroyed by fire. The damage caused is considered to be in the neighbourhood of 120,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

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During the first six months of 1947, 278 road accidents have occurred in the canton of Solothurn, of which seven proved fatal. This is an increase of 125 or 81.6 per cent. over the same period in 1946. [A.T.S.]

The University of Basle has honoured Friedrich Sauter, the founder and head of the firm Fr. Suter, A.G., manufacturers of electrical apparatus with the decree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

A large contingent of Scottish boy scouts have arrived in Basle, they will spend a holiday in our country. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Buchtalen (Schaffhausen) of Dr. h.c. Jakob Wipf, for many years pastor of the community of Buchtalen, at the age of 76. He was the author of a work dealing with the history of the Reformation in the canton of Schaffhausen for which he received the title of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

The late Frau Adèle Stäheli-Hofstetter from Wil (St. Gallen) has left her estate, valued at 150,000.—frs. to the church community of Degersheim. [A.T.S.]

The couple, Wieser-Niederer, at Altstätten (St. Gall) have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, at the age of 83 and 84 respectively. [A.T.S.]

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A "Piper" sports machine crashed near the military aerodrome at Chur. The pilot of the machine was seriously injured, and had to be taken to hospital, whilst his passengers, a couple by the name of Dörflinger, from Pesoux (Neuchâtel), were killed, they leave behind four children. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Johann J. Simonet, "Dom Sextar" of the cathedral in Chur, has died after a lengthy illness, on the eve of his diamond jubilee as a priest. He was 84 years old. [A.T.S.]

Karl Scheibli, Sub-Manager of a Bank in Zurich, lost his life when on a mountaineering excursion on the Crast' Arlas (3,129m.). [A.T.S.]

The death has occurred at Wohlen (Aargau) of Dr. Oskar Hedinger, who, for 30 years held a leading position in the straw hat industry of the canton of Aargau, at the age of 68.

The deceased was a member of the Grand Council for many years, over which he presided in 1919.

Investigation into the defalcations of the former town clerk in Horn (Thurgau), W. Leutenegger, have proved that an amount of 336,000.— frs. is missing.

The founder of the University Clinic in Leysin, Dr. Louis Vauthier, who has been for the last 25 years in charge of this institution, has celebrated his 60th

birthday anniversary. Dr. Vauthier, who is a "Neuchâtelois" made his studies at the University of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The village of Roumaz (Valais) was partly destroyed by fire, a large part of the harvest was also lost; it is believed that the fire was started by children playing with matches. [A.T.S.]

During a mountaineering excursion in the Arolla district arranged by the "Semaine Universitaire" of Geneva, one of the party, a 21 years old medical student, F. v. Walldkirch, from Zurich, slipped and fell into a ravine, he was killed instantaneously. [A.T.S.]

Leo Du Pasquier, a former member of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, has been appointed President of the Board of the "Société Franco-Suisse des force motrices du Châtelot." [A.T.S.]

### Army

The Tribunal of the 5th Division which sat in Lucerne, has sentenced Premier Lieutenant Hans W. O. Eberhard (1909), a merchant from Aarau, to 12 years penal servitude, degradation and expulsion from the army.

Eberhard entered the German espionage service in the autumn of 1939 for which he received an amount of 400 Mk. per month. He was in constant touch with the German Legation in Berne to which he gave information about troop movements, etc. He obtained the services of his own brother, who some time ago was condemned by a military court to several years imprisonment.

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The same Tribunal passed a sentence of two years imprisonment on Hans Schorer (1915) living in Zurich, one of the accomplices of Eberhard.

—oo—

The 62nd Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Berne from the 18th—21st of July. 1,187 sections with together 30,000 gymnastics have taken part. The last Federal Gymnastic Festival took place in Winterthur in 1936, and the participation at this year's festival is considered to be the highest ever recorded.

Three separate processions numbering between 6—7,000 men marched through the gaily decorated town in beautiful sunshine, and were enthusiastically greeted by thousands of spectators.

On the last day, the general exercises took place at the Allmend in which 22,000 men took part, this imposing spectacle was watched by 100,000 spectators. Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, addressed the gathering. Amongst the official guests were members of the Federal Government, General Guisan, members of the Diplomatic Corps and delegates from many Foreign Gymnastic Societies.

\* \* \*

Two French alpine guides, Lionnel Terray from Chamonix and Louis Lachenal from Annecy, have made the difficult and dangerous ascent to the summit of the Eiger via the "Nordwand." Owing to bad weather conditions they had to spend two nights at the "Nordwand" before reaching the top. On their return they declared that they would under no circumstances make the ascent a second time. (The first ascent over the "Nordwand" was made in 1937 by four German mountaineers).

\* \* \*

More than 8,000 boys from various schools throughout Switzerland will voluntarily spend their holiday by working on the land. In addition, a large number of students from different universities will also spend parts of their vacation on farms.

\* \* \*

On the 25th of July, it was two years since the first batch of American holiday making soldiers arrived in Switzerland. Since 1945, about 300,000 soldiers have visited our country, and it is estimated that they have spent an amount of about one hundred million francs during their stay.

Thirty-four countries with 1,380 delegates were represented at the International Esperanto Congress which opened in Berne on the 27th of July. The opening meeting was addressed by Federal-Councillor E. v. Steiger, who welcomed, on behalf of the Swiss Government, the delegates.

\* \* \*

Sentences against Eduard Meyerhofer and a number of his co-defendants, were passed by a Military Court in Zurich (Divisionsgericht, 8).

The proceedings lasted 171 days. Meyerhofer and his accomplices were accused of falsification of accounts, embezzlement, bribery and corruption in connection with supplying internment camps. The Court passed the following sentences:—

*Edouard Meyerhofer*: 8 years penal servitude (less 3 years imprisonment on remand) Restitution 29,000.— frs. Fines and costs about 11,000.— frs. and expulsion from the army. *A. Schoor*: 4 years penal servitude, fine 2,000.— frs.; *Jakob Mürset*: 2 years penal servitude, fine 1,000.— frs.; *Erwin Auer*: 10 months imprisonment, fine 1,000.— frs.; *G. Neukomm*: 8 months imprisonment, fine 3,000.— frs.; *Mario Bernasconi*: 3 months imprisonment, fine 1,500.— frs.; *Major L. Groschuf*: 2 months imprisonment (on probation); *Lieut.-Colonel H. Siegrist*: 3 months imprisonment (on probation); *1st Lieut. Werner Kaufmann*: 1 month imprisonment (on probation); *1st Lieut. W. Wittwer*: 2 months imprisonment (on probation); *1st Lieut. H. Michel*: 3 months imprisonment (on probation); *Sergeant-Major H. Meier*: 2 months imprisonment (on probation); *P. Wahlen*: 6 months imprisonment (on probation) fine 1,000.— frs.; *L. Alther*: 1 year imprisonment (on probation) fine 4,000.— frs.; *W. Scherz*: 3 months imprisonment (on probation); *Corporal A. Bürkli*: 6 months imprisonment, fine 300.— frs., degradation and expulsion from the army.

The following have been acquitted: *Otto Ramseier*, Zurich, *Albert Honeger*, Zurich, *Otto Jordi*, Biel, *François Battilana*, Aigle, the couple *Weidenmann*, Ticino, *1st Lieut. Otto Muller*, Zurich, *1st Lieut. Paul Vetter*, Zurich, *1st Lieut. Moritz Flückiger*, Langendorf, *Hans Gerber*, Dübendorf.

Meyerhofer has appealed against his sentence.

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