

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1954)
Heft: 1239

Artikel: 80th birthday celebration of General Guisan
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693724>

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80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF GENERAL GUISAN.



GENERAL AND MRS. GUISAN.

(Photo taken on June 19th, 1949, on the occasion of the launching of the M.V. "General Guisan" at West Hartlepool.)

The 80th birthday of General Henri Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army (1939-1945), was celebrated throughout the canton of Vaud on the 21st of last month.

Early in the morning the "Fanfare des collèges", Lausanne, and the school-children of Pully (home of the General) serenaded the "Jubilar".

The official celebration began at 10 a.m. on the Place Riponne where a military detachment was drawn up. The General, and Madame Guisan, on their arrival where greeted by Federal-Councillor Kobelt, Head of the Federal Military Department, Army-corps commanders Corbat, de Montmollin, Gonard, Nager, Frey and Thomann, a number of high ranking officers, members of the Government and the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Federal-Councillor Kobelt delivered the congratulations of the Swiss Government and the army. The General then inspected the guard of honour, and with members of his family visited the Palais de Rumine where his bust, a present from the Government of the canton of Vaud, was unveiled. (The bust is the work of Madame Bingguely-Lejeune, the wife of our friend Henri Bingguely, both well-known in the London-Swiss Colony).

After a short address by Professor Boven, rector of the University of Lausanne, the official guests adjourned to the Place de Château, accompanied by Monsieur Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal-Councillor Kobelt, R. Minger, former Federal-Councillor, and members of the cantonal, communal and municipal authorities to witness the march past of the 14 regimental colours of Vaudois units, and the arrival of various runners (Staffeten) delivering birthday greetings from all parts of the country.

A service was held at the Cathedral in Lausanne, during which Monsieur Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Despland, President of the Government of the canton of Vaud expressed thanks to the General for the services he had rendered to the country.

The General, greatly moved, replied that he considered it a great privilege at being able to celebrate his 80th birthday in the presence of his family, his comrades in arms and the authorities, for which he humbly rendered thanks to God Almighty, his wife, his collaborators, the President of the Confederation and the Government of the canton of Vaud.

At the subsequent banquet, speeches were made by former Federal-Councillor Minger, M. Despland, and Army-corps commander Gonard.

AN APPEAL.

The Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches in London appeal once more to their compatriots for their kind contributions in kind or cash, in order to provide a little extra cheer for Christmas to our Swiss in need. All kinds of wearing apparel, household goods and furniture would be much appreciated and gratefully received.

"Please send parcels, if possible not later than the end of November, to 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to:

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

The Rev. C. Reverdin, 7, Park View Road, Finchley, London, N.3.

The Rev. H. Sporri, 1, Womersley Road, London, N.8.

The Rev. Father A. Lanfranchi, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1."

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