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ARMY.

Divisional Colonel Primault, "Waffenchef" of the Swiss Air Force has paid a two days' visit to the Royal Air Force stationed at München-Gladbach.

[A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Naef-Caffisch of St. Gall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunger-Malaer of Flims-Waldhaus.

[A.T.S.]

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car collided with a lorry in Murgenthal (Ct. Aargau) causing the death of two persons, whilst a third one was seriously injured. The names of the dead are: Fritz Germann (36) factory worker of Vidy nr. Lausanne, and Jakob Weyermann (47) chauffeur of Bussigny.

A motor-car on the road from Gossau to Wil was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry. The driver of the motor-car, Walter Herzog (30) of Wölflinswil (Ct. Aargau) and his passenger, Miss Josephine Grubelnig (24) of Arbon were killed.

[A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

The Federal Political Department in Berne instructed the Swiss Consul at Casablanca to go to Agadir to make enquires about the twenty-two members of the Swiss Colony. He has reported, that with the exception of a Swiss woman, who is still missing, no casualties have occurred. The Swiss Legation in Rabat, however reports that the Swiss Colony in Agadir has suffered heavy material damages, and as first aid has put an amount of 10,000.— francs at the disposal of the Colony. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The organisation committee of the Swiss National Exhibition which will take place in 1964 at Lausanne, has elected M. Albert Masnata, Director of the Office Suisse d'Expansion Commerciale (Schweizerische Zentrale für Handelsförderung) as its President. M. Ernest Dupraz, Director of the "Crédit Foncier Vaudois" has been appointed Honorary President of the Finance Committee, and M. F. Bragger, architect in Lausanne has been nominated President of the architectural commission [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Government, the cantonal authorities, the Swiss Red Cross and private individuals and concerns have sent considerable amounts for the victims of the Agadir disaster. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 1st of August 1959 collection reached the amount of 1,652,988.— francs, which is 90,000.— francs more than in 1958. [A.T.S.]



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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

SWISS OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE

On January 1st, 1960, the Swiss Invalidity Insurance has come into force. At the same time a number of changes have occurred concerning the Swiss Old Age and Survivors Insurance. For Swiss citizens living abroad the following regulations are of special interest:

The age limit for joining the scheme has been raised from 30 to 40 years.

Coupled with the introduction of the Invalidity Insurance another and last opportunity to join is given to those persons over 40 years old who were born after 30th November, 1895, in the case of men, and after 30th November, 1897, in the case of women. Application should be made before the 31st December, 1960 and will be retroactive to 1st January 1960. Upon request, the Embassy will send the necessary forms.

The contribution will consequently be one-tenth higher than heretofore and amount to 4.4% of the income.

The amounts of old age and survivors pensions remain the same as before if contributions were paid as from 1948 or from the age of 20, namely single old age pension minimum 900 and maximum 1,850 francs annually, old age pension for couple minimum 1,440 and maximum 2,960 francs a year.

On the other hand, as from 1960, such pensions will be reduced if the period of contribution has been incomplete. Instead of the minimum pension hitherto granted, irrespective of the years of contribution — all new claims for benefit will be based exclusively on the number of years during which contributions were paid.

As far as benefits under the Invalidity Insurance Scheme are concerned, such cases should be notified to the Embassy, whereupon applicants will receive further instructions.

The Embassy is at the disposal of interested persons for any additional information which may be required.

London, March 3rd, 1960.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE SWISS CLUB (SCHWEIZERBUND)

The reports about the Annual General Meetings of the above Societies will appear in our issue of April 14th 1960.