

Carlo (Charles) Meschini

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OBITUARIES

CARLO (CHARLES) MESCHINI

On a fleeting visit to the Homeland we were saddened to learn of the passing, after a short illness, at the Clinica Santa Agnese at Muralto/TI of Carlo Meschini at the age of 69 years. The funeral took place at Magadino on Tuesday, 25th October last.

Many in the colony will remember Carlo in London as the lively, genial eldest son of Arturo and Caterina Meschini, proprietors of PAGANI's Restaurant in Great Portland Street, W.1 which, particularly during the period in between the two World Wars had become the centre of Swiss social life.

He was born in London on 29th September 1908. On finishing school in England, he continued his studies, first at the Scuola Cantonale di Commercio at Bellinzona, and then at the School for Hoteliers at Lausanne, thus maintaining the established family tradition, for his great-grandfather Antonio had been the proprietor of the Grand Hotel du bateau à vapeur at Magadino. This was in pre-railway days when Magadino was an important staging point. Stagecoach travellers on the St. Gothard route from Fluelen/UR here transferred to the paddle steamer "Verbano" in order to reach Sesto Calende, at the Italian end of the lake en route to Milan and central Italy. A family member, ing. Francesco Meschini had planned the famous

26-hairpin bend road through the Val Tremola to the St. Gothard Pass.

Being in the British Territorials, Carlo was mobilized at the outbreak of war in 1939 and for the duration served as Officer Commanding on ack-ack sites in the defence of London. Unfortunately this was not enough to save the family establishment which became a victim of the 'Blitz'. It continued for a while as a restaurant on a much reduced scale until full demolition and reconstruction in 1952. In the meanwhile, with his family, Carlo retired to the ancestral seat at Magadino, where he served for several years as chairman of the Parish Council, and school delegate. He was a member of the Locarno Rotary Club.

To his wife Linette née Carter, daughters Frances and Susy, brother Ferdinand and sisters Linda, Ilde and Elena, and their families we extend our deepest sympathy in their grievous bereavement.

J.E.

And—belatedly...

We have recently heard of these readers who died in the spring:

Mr. August Wymann, of Zürich, who used to be a well-known member in the Swiss community in London.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

Mr. Charles Fer, of Watlington Road, Old Harlow, Essex, a prominent business man and member of several Swiss societies.

Mr. Hans Ott, of 4 Whylands Avenue, Durrington Hill, Worthing, Sussex, who had been an accountant at Impag's and a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society since 1914 and of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. He died in his 87th year.

Mr. Ambrogio Ganna, of 67 Maple Road, Hayes, Middlesex, died on 25th September, at the age of 95.

It is with deep regret that we report these deaths, and we express our sincere sympathy to the families.

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