

Peter Odermatt †

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He looked after Allied war leaders, Cabinet Ministers and Ambassadors, and all came to respect his quiet efficiency and friendly manner.

When he was appointed Managing Director in 1946, it made no difference to his mode of life; he worked long hours and kept a close control of all departments. In 1962, he was appointed to the Board of the new British Transport Hotels Company, a post he held until shortly before his death. As M.D. of the Dorchester, he met many great and famous people, among them the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and several foreign royal guests. In 1965, he decided to see the world, and he made a tour visiting hotels in U.S.A. and Canada, in the Middle and the Far East.

In February 1943, Mr. Ronus joined the City Swiss Club, and ever since he has had a particularly happy relationship with this, one of the senior Swiss societies in this country. But he also had excellent relations with other Swiss organisations, and he was always ready to help, not least when any of his fellow countrymen were in real need. His friends deeply sympathised with him when he lost his wife Ghita (née Sayer) in 1957.

Now George Ronus has left his post at the early age of 62 after many years of devoted service. His successor will have a hard job living up to this outstanding *hôte*lier, and the Dorchester will never be quite the same again. We extend our warmest sympathy to Mr. Robert Ronus (son) and the family.

(MM)

MRS. AUGUSTA VIRGINIA BERTI



The Swiss community in general and the Unione Ticinese in particular mourn the death of Mrs. A. V. Berti, of 49 St. John's Villas, London, N.19. She died early on Sunday morning, 11th October, at the age of 80. Mrs.



Berti was a Ticinese, but like her mother and grandmother before her, she was born in London, where she grew up at her parents' bakery in Edgware Road. When her mother died, she

was only 14. So she was sent to Switzerland where she lived for 9 years in the Ticino. It is there that she met her husband Carlo Berti who had been in Great Britain since 1900. They got married in Switzerland and then returned to London.

The Bertis were and still are a close-knit family. They had four sons and a daughter, but tragically lost the latter in a rocket attack on London during the war, and their son Ernest died suddenly of a heart attack.

Shortly before the war, Mrs. Berti, together with the late Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico (mother of Mrs. J. Eusebio), founded the Sezione Femine of the Unione Ticinese. Mr. Lunghai was the first President, and when she retired, Mrs. Berti took over. She did sterling work, just like her husband did as President of the Unione Ticinese. We well remember the 75th Anniversary Banquet and Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, when Mr. Berti was in the chair, and the then Federal Councillor Dr. E. Celio attended the event.

In the mid-fifties, the Sezione Femine merged with the parent society, but Mrs. Berti went on taking an active interest, even after her husband's death in 1961. Up to a couple of years ago, Mrs. Berti was a most prolific and expert knitter; then her health forced her to "retire".

She is mourned by her sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, by a large family circle and many friends. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to them all, especially to Mr. Virgil Berti who carries on the tradition of serving the Swiss community in London.

(MM)

PETER ODERMATT



It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death on 12th October, of Mr. Peter Odermatt, of "Vitznau", 37 Reservoir Road, Whitstable, Kent. Mr. Odermatt came to this country from Central Switzerland and is one of the founder members of the Swiss Rifle Association. He was 83. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Rose and the family. We have been asked to say that donations, if desired, may be sent to: National Kidney Research Fund, 41 Portland Place, London, W.1.

FREDERIC RUDOLPHE LIER



It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Mr. Frederic Rudolphe Lier at Brentwood. He died on 26th October at the age of 74. Mr. Lier was very active in the Swiss community in his earlier years, especially as a most regular member of the Swiss Choral Society. We express our deep sympathy to his family.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO GEORGE RONUS

A memorial service to Mr. George Ronus will be celebrated at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, on Monday, 23rd November at noon.

PERSONAL

It is with great pleasure that we announce the marriage of the Rev. Uli Stefan of the Swiss Church in London to Miss Ursula Prato. The wedding took place at the Church in Wabern, Berne, on 17th October. The young couple are spending their honeymoon in the Middle East where they will also be making a study tour. We are looking forward to seeing them back in London and wish them every happiness for the future.

Mr. John Weibel married Mrs. Lorna Jane White at Uplyme Parish Church in Devonshire on 10th October. The ceremony was intimate and friendly and Mr. L. S. R. Asch acted as Mr. Weibel's best man. The newly-weds then left on a honeymoon tour of South Wales and were blessed by the weather and the beauty of the sceneries they saw. We wish them every happiness and send them our warmest congratulations.

Philippe Bonvin, son of Mr. Edgar Bonvin, was appointed Artillery Lieutenant on 6th November. He will now have to "pay for his stripes" by serving four months in a recruit school this winter. Philippe is a law student in Geneva and well on his way to graduation.

He has—and deserves—a proud father!

Mr. J. A. Reiber, whose name was unfortunately misspelt when we announced his birthday on 11th September, has asked us to put right our indication of his age. He was 85, not 84, on October 1st. We would like to extend to him both our admiration and good wishes.

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