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Times Past - Luzern 1937

Thanks to Luzern resident Mario Gravazzi we have been able to precisely locate the site of these 1937 photographs, part of the collection of pre-WW2 Swiss photographs that the Model Railway Club has given the SRS access to. On one, the Saurer bus was working along the Schweizerhofquai on Luzern City Line 6 that became trolleybus Line 5 when Luzern introduced these vehicles in January 1942. Subsequently this route was renumbered and again became Line 6 that now runs from Matthof to Büttenthalde. The Saurer is outside the former Hotel Luzernerhof. This building was destroyed by fire in the 1950s, to be replaced by a building that is the regional office of the Basel Versicherung (insurance) organization. The building behind the bus, that has an office of the Cunard White Star Line on its corner, was once the office of the Gotthardbahn. In 1909 it became the offices of Kreis II SBB Luzern and today it now houses part of the Schweizer Bundesgericht – the Swiss Supreme Court. Out of the picture, on the other side of the road, is the Vierwaldstättersee at the point where the floating restaurant the ps 'Wilhelm Tell' is currently moored. In the

second photograph Luzern Tram No.12 (heading to Kriens) is some 100m further west on the Schweizerhofquai near the Schwanenplatz bus/tram stop. This service was also replaced by a trolleybus line. The Hotel Schweizerhof is slightly setback behind the tram's bow collector, whilst the building immediately behind the tram still houses shops selling luxury goods such as perfume. After some 80 years it is actually surprising how little has changed. 

