

## **A new ICRC member**

Since 1 January 1985 the International Committee of the Red Cross has a new member: Mr. Odilo Guntern, born in 1937, a citizen of Brig in the canton of Valais.

After having studied law at the universities of Fribourg, Bern and Milan, Mr. Guntern obtained his bachelor degree in 1961 and his doctorate in 1968. He has been head of his own law and notary office in Brig since 1964.

Mr. Guntern has also been involved in public life. First of all he was a city councillor in his native city of Brig from 1964 to 1975 and then a member of the Valais Grand Conseil (canton parliament) from 1969 to 1975.

In 1975 his canton elected him to the Council of States (the Upper Chamber of the Swiss Federal Parliament) in Bern. He was chairman of this Council's Commission of Foreign Affairs and a member of the Commission of External Trade and Communications. He sat on the Council of States until 1983.

From 1979 to 1984 he was also a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg; he was vice-president of this assembly in 1982.

In addition Mr. Guntern has been involved with various relief agencies: he is a member of the Commission and of the Solidarity Fund for Swiss People Abroad; he is president of the Lent Action Council and a member of the Central Committee for the Swiss National Day Charitable Collection. He is also president of the nursing school attached to the Ste-Marie de Visp Hospital.

The ICRC is pleased with the appointment of Mr. Odilo Guntern. His dynamic personality will make a valuable contribution to our organization.

---

## **Death of Miss Lucie Odier**

On 6 December the ICRC was grieved to lose one of its longest-serving members, Miss Lucie Odier, in her 99th year.

Born in Geneva, Miss Odier obtained her nursing diploma in 1914; she thereafter unceasingly did credit to her profession, par-

ticularly by devoting herself to the care of military internees and civilian refugees in Switzerland during the First World War (1914-1918) and later to victims of the pandemic Spanish flu. In 1920 she was assigned to direct the Geneva Red Cross social hygiene dispensary and its visiting nurses service. Her exceptional work and modesty were recognized by all.

On 27 March 1930, following in the footsteps of her uncle, Edouard Odier, ICRC Vice-President, she became a member of the institution for which, with total abnegation and unequalled assiduity, she did so very much that we cannot mention more than some aspects of her work.

In her vocation she applied herself to the recruiting and training of nurses and of voluntary nursing auxiliaries, to the procurement of medical equipment and the rehabilitation of the disabled. She contributed much to strengthen the ICRC's links with nursing associations which looked upon her as a model and a guide.

During the Spanish Civil War (1934-1939), the ICRC entrusted to Miss Odier the direction of relief operations and from the outset of the Second World War (1939-1945) the setting up of the first office which was later to become the Relief Division. When the ICRC needed to renew contact with London, cut off from the continent by the war in the air and daily under air attack, she flew there accompanied by Marcel Junod; it was a voyage fraught with danger.

At the International Red Cross Conferences since the one held in Tokyo in 1934, and at many other meetings in various countries, Lucie Odier represented the institution. She carried out many survey and other missions in African and other countries. She was the author of a number of publications, such as her well-received *Advice to Nurses*, which was translated into many languages.

Miss Odier was a member of the Presidential Council and of several ICRC commissions. In 1960 she expressed her desire to retire on account of her age, whereupon the institution awarded her its gold medal and elected her honorary vice-president.

In many National Societies Miss Odier was held in high esteem and had a great number of friends. All who had the privilege of knowing and working with this great lady praised her dedication, perseverance, enthusiasm, unaffected manner and courage, and remember her with affection and gratitude.