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# '45 War Figure Ends His Life

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LUCERNE, Switzerland (AP) — Former Maj. Gen. Max Waibel, 69, a key figure in arranging the surrender of German forces in Italy in 1945, committed suicide Wednesday night, apparently because the small private bank of which he was board chairman was in trouble, the police announced today.

The brief announcement said his "tragic death was apparently a result of his strong feeling of responsibility."

The bank was found to be in financial trouble after the death of its sole owner last month.

During the war Waibel headed the Swiss counterintelligence section for Germany and arranged secret contacts in Switzerland early in 1945 between Allen Dulles and SS Gen. Karl Wolff.

The talks resulted in the surrender of all German forces in Italy, saving thousands of lives and preventing the scheduled destruction of the port of Genoa and other strategic points and saving countless art treasures.

After the war, Waibel served for two years as military attache in Washington.

He retired in 1956 and later became board chairman of the Lucerne bank Ernst Brunner and Co. A.G. The bank's founder, Ernst Brunner, died in December, and a few days later the bank suspended payments. It is still under investigation.

Waibel left his house Wednesday night after a horseback ride. A few hours later his body was found in a nearby forest, his gun nearby.