

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Georg Ludwig Ritter von Trapp (1880 to 1947)



Georg Ludwig Ritter^[a] von Trapp^{[1][2]} (4 April 1880 – 30 May 1947) was an Austro-Hungarian naval officer who later acquired U.S. citizenship. He was the patriarch of the Trapp Family Singers, whose lives were the inspiration for the musical play and film *The Sound of Music*.^{[3][4]} His naval exploits during World War I earned him numerous decorations, including the Military Order of Maria Theresa. Under his command, the submarines SM U-5 and SM U-14 sank 13 Allied ships totaling about 45,669 gross register tons (GRT).

Following Austria-Hungary's collapse after the war, Trapp returned to his family, but lost his wife, Agathe Whitehead, to scarlet fever in 1922. Five years later, he married Maria Augusta Kutschera, the tutor for one of his daughters. Most of the family's wealth was wiped out during the Great Depression. Maria later trained the children to perform at various events, as a way of earning a livelihood. After the Anschluss, Trapp refused a command in the German Navy due to his opposition to Nazi ideology, and later decided to leave Austria with his family. They went to Italy and later to the United States, where Trapp set up a farm^[5] and lived until his death in 1947.

Maria von Trapp wrote of their time together in her 1949 memoir *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, which was the inspiration for Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway stage musical *The Sound of Music* in 1959 and a 1965 film adaption.^[4]

Born	Georg Ludwig Ritter von Trapp 4 April 1880 Zara, <u>Kingdom of Dalmatia, Austria-Hungary</u> (Zadar, Croatia)
Died	30 May 1947 (aged 67) Stowe, Vermont, United States
Nationality	Austrian; Italian
Spouse(s)	Agathe Whitehead (m. 1911; died 1922) Maria Augusta Kutschera (m. 1927)

Children	<u>Rupert von Trapp</u> <u>Agathe von Trapp</u> <u>Maria Franziska von Trapp</u> <u>Werner von Trapp</u>	<u>Hedwig von Trapp</u> <u>Johanna von Trapp</u> <u>Martina von Trapp</u> <u>Rosmarie von Trapp</u> <u>Eleonore von Trapp</u> <u>Johannes von Trapp</u>
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Note

Regarding personal names: *Ritter* is a title, translated approximately as *Sir* (denoting a *Knight*), not a first or middle name. There is no equivalent female form.

In Austria (and the erstwhile kingdom of Bavaria), the title of 'Ritter' (knight) became legally part of the style on the name of whom it is bestowed. The title of 'Baron' is a separate title altogether.