

# The Rosenloui moutaineering school

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Congo republic to take over the management of the Kintango hospital in Leopoldville.

The Swiss Red Cross — which was charged with organising the mission — has sent a delegation consisting of Dr. med. Jean Maurice Rubli (Zurich), as chief of the delegation, Bruno Wiesendanger, apothecarian, and Otto Burkhardt, quartermaster. [A.T.S.]

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On 31st July 1960 the number of television subscribers in Switzerland attained the figure of 106,277. [A.T.S.]

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Visitors enjoying the late summer on the shores of Lake Lucerne will find that between 13th August and 8th September scarcely a day goes by without at least one item of the International Musical Festival taking place in Lucerne. For nearly four weeks, one artistic event follows hard upon another, and once again every taste is catered for in the richly diversified programme. The first four symphony concerts will be given on 13th, 17th, 20th and 27th August, by the Festival Orchestra under the baton of Ferenc Fricsay, Sir John Barbiroli, Karl Böhm, and Lorin Maazel. The same orchestra is to play in the grand choral and orchestral concert to be given on 24th August, with Rafael Kubelik as conductor. Apart from these festival concerts and other recitals the first performance in German of the English play, "The Aspen Papers", by Michael Redgrave (from a story by Henry James), will be given on 21st August in the Municipal Theatre and repeated on 23rd, 25th, 29th and 31st August. The Museum of Fine Arts started early with an exhibition entitled "Italian Painters of To-day", which opened on 2nd August.

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### THE ROSENLAUI MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

*By SIR ARNOLD LUNN*

It was in 1933 that I first met Arnold Glatthard, the founder of the famous Mountaineering School at Rosenlaui. I had skied across the Grosse Scheidegg and I asked the Hotel at Meiringen to find two young men who could carry the skis of our party up to Mägisalp. In due course Arnold Glatthard turned up with another young man, his brother if I remember rightly. It was soon obvious that the Hotel had chosen wisely for not only did these young men do the job for which they were paid, carrying our skis as well as their own up to the alp, but they entered whole hearted into the fun and excitement of a good day's ski-ing in the hills. "Gladly", as he was called, was not only a convenience but also a companion.

That was in 1933; two years later he won the blue ribbon of Alpine ski-ing, the Arlberg-Kandahar, held that year at Mürren. He had arrived. Meanwhile he had taken out his patent as a mountain guide and also as a ski-teacher, but it was only in 1939, the fateful year when the Second World War began, that Glatthard founded his mountaineering school at Rosenlaui.

He could not have chosen a more beautiful place. Indeed Rosenlaui was one of the first mountain resorts to become famous for its beauty. In the eighteenth century there were two classic mountain expeditions, to visit the glaciers of Grindelwald or the glaciers of Chamonix. Those who chose the first of these tours frequently crossed the Great Scheidegg from Grindelwald to Meiringen via Rosenlaui and thence proceeded over the Jochpass to Engelberg. Archdeacon Coxe reversed the direction and in the course of one of his alpine journeys, crossed the Scheidegg from Meiringen and wrote an attractive account of Rosenlaui. A little later Byron and Wordsworth both crossed the Scheidegg from Grindelwald. And it was not only travellers who came this way but artists. The view of the Wetterhorn and Wellhorn from the meadow on the approach to Rosenlaui from Meiringen was one of the classic views beloved by painters in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Lory, a master of the delicate art of the coloured aquatint, and Calame both chose this view.

It was not, of course, only or mainly for its beauty that Arnold Glatthard chose Rosenlaui for his school. Rosenlaui has long been famous as a mountaineering centre. It was from Rosenlaui that three Meiringen guides climbed the Wetterhorn on September 1st 1844, but it is the limestone range of the Engelhörner which to-day attracts the climbers, for these peaks offer the widest range of climbs from excessively severe to comparatively easy. The exploration of this range began comparatively late and it was not until September 21st 1876 that the Gross-Engelhorn was first climbed by Seymour Hoare with the guides Johann von

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Bergen and Kaspar Streich. In 1887 Seymour King with the Valaisan guides Ambros Supersaxo and Anthamatten climbed the Kingspitz. The most famous name associated with this range is that of the intrepid explorer Gertrude Lowthian Bell, famous not only as a mountaineer but also for her journeys in Arabia. She made a series of new climbs in this region, and I remember well as a boy meeting her in Grindelwald after her first ascent of the peak which still bears her name, the Gertrudspitze.

Rosenlauri has everything which the mountaineering novice could desire. Forty minutes takes him from the Hotel to a splendid group of boulders on which I have seen Glatthard illustrate all the refinements of the modern rock climbing technique. In less than two hours the novice can reach a glacier on which to practise step cutting. The Wetterhorn is one of the classical mountains of Alpine history, an easy peak on which to begin one's climbing. But anybody who climbs the three peaks in a day and follows the skyline from the pass between the Wetterhorn proper and the Mittelhorn to the Rosenhorn will enjoy some pleasant easy scrambling. The Wellhorn is a more difficult climb, but the real gymnasium for the rockclimber is to be found among the Engelhörner.

It is a great advantage to begin on limestone for limestone is smoother than granite, and those who start their rock climbing career on granite sometimes find the transition to limestone troublesome whereas the reverse is the case if one begins on limestone.

Since the school opened various nations have been represented among Glatthard's 7,000 to 8,000 pupils. The school has grown so rapidly that Glatthard has taken on assistants but he is still the moving spirit. Those who learn to climb under Glatthard's tuition will learn something even more important than technique, the right spirit in which to approach these mountains. To Glatthard mountaineering is not merely a profession, it is a vocation. He represents all that is finest in the great tradition of Alpine guides.

*(Schweiz Verkehrszentrale.)*

### SWISSAIR'S FREIGHT TRAFFIC SHOWS FURTHER INCREASE

In the first half of 1960 Swissair's freight traffic continued to show a steady upward trend; freight ton-kilometres performed totalled 13,030,000, an increase of 16 per cent over the figure of 11,255,000 for the same period last year. Total capacity offered by the airline in the same period was 100,147,000 ton-kilometres, or six per cent more than the 94,833,000 ton-kilometres offered during the first half of 1959.

The largest increase was recorded on the Middle East sector, where freight traffic rose by 65 per cent. To North America and South America, it rose by 13 per cent and 19 per cent respectively; a 7 per cent increase was recorded both in Europe and to the Far East.

Swissair expects an even steeper rate of growth in cargo traffic for the second half of this year, especially as a result of the recently introduced new commodity rates on the North Atlantic and the transition to jet operations.