

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1967)

Heft: 1521

Artikel: Avalanche disasters

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691293>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 26.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

AVALANCHE DISASTERS

Following the reports of extensive damage due to hurricanes in Switzerland (published in the last issue of the "Swiss Observer"), we have news of more bad weather, more storms, heavy snowfalls and avalanches. In the night from 12th to 13th March, trees were uprooted and obstructed many railway lines. In the Cantons of Lucerne and Aargau, the already badly depleted woods suffered further damage in winds reaching 135km. per hour. Police forces and soldiers were mobilised to help, apart from fire brigades. In many towns, roofs were lifted, chimney pots blown away and shop windows broken. Dustbins and wooden boxes ready to be collected were blown across roads as if they were matchboxes. The glass roof of the Zurich Stock Exchange was damaged so badly that the Exchange had to be closed. Electricity was cut in a number of places. The wood damaged in the two storms is estimated at over 2m. cubic metres, a catastrophe for the Swiss wood market.

A few days later, heavy snowfalls were reported from many parts of the country, and avalanches began to fall. On 20th March, the Entschlital avalanche roared into the valley and buried the Gotthard route for about 200 metres. The snow storms in the Canton of Uri were alarming, and several places were cut off, especially the Reuss Valley and its subsidiaries. There was so much snow, and so many avalanches went down that they talked about the "Black Monday in White Uri". In the Grisons, too, avalanches caused extensive damage and loss of life and livestock. Near Truns, a house was pulled away and its inmates buried. Dogs saved the woman, but her husband and two sons were killed. Five Italian workmen were killed in an avalanche on Oberalp; they were asleep in a hut. The Gotthard line was covered with rocks and trees brought down by the Plattental avalanche, and trains had to be redirected via Domodossola.

By 23rd March, the weather improved. Snow has returned to many parts. At Davos, there was 145cm, and at Andermatt 2 metres. The public has been asked to help the badly hit owners of woodland, especially by voluntary work. On going to press, the result of the appeal was not yet available.

Incidentally, bad weather foiled the attempt by four Czechoslovak mountaineers to climb the Matterhorn North Wall. One of them was killed.

[A.T.S.]

Le Restaurant Français de la Place
SA CUISINE-SON SERVICE
CHEZ MAURICE
118 Seaside Road - Telephone 4894
EASTBOURNE SUSSEX
Propriétaire A. Bertschy F.C.F.A.
Chef de Cuisine Diplomé



Best Buy
OVALTINE
the best value
in family drinks

The Peak of Perfection in Protection

'GUARD'
J.601 OVERALLS,
INDUSTRIAL GLOVES,
APRONS, HEADWEAR
*Finest Quality-
Competitive
Prices*

Please write to **AIRGUARD LIMITED**
for details — 60 · LILLIE ROAD · LONDON · S.W.6
Telephone: FULham 3344 (10 lines)

**THE
ZURICH
GROUP**

THE ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY
(a limited Company incorporated in Switzerland in 1872)

THE BEDFORD LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY LTD.
(a member of the Life Offices Association)

THE BEDFORD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
(a member of the British Insurance Association)

UNDERTAKE ALL
CLASSES OF INSURANCE
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

HEAD OFFICE:
FAIRFAX HOUSE, FULWOOD PLACE
HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

Telephone CHAncery 8833

GROUP ASSETS EXCEED £300,000,000