

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: - (1981)
Heft: 1774

Artikel: A giant miracle - that's the Ganter Bridge
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687528>

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: 16.07.2025

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

A giant miracle – that's the Ganter Bridge

SEVEN staunch piers rise skywards, supporting a bridge almost half a mile long and 500 ft high. Giant main spans of up to 600 ft traverse the valley below, while an elegant S-curve of pre-stressed concrete soars over the Ganterbach, a mountain stream rushing towards the Rhone.

These are just a few facts and figures describing the new Ganter Bridge on the Simplon route, about six miles up in the mountains from Brig.

The inauguration of the bridge took place in December and in this land where tunnels and bridges normally occasion no surprise, this particular engineering feat called for a celebration.

Is it really an engineering miracle? It certainly is! If the novice is not impressed by the above data, listen to what the engineer has to say.

Not without a touch of pride, he informs us that the foundation problems faced on the valley's left slope were resolved in a novel way. This slope, composed of coarse gravel and moraine, lies on a base of weathered slate, the whole resulting in creep of some five millimetres per year.

Bridges, however, have their likes and dislikes and a bridge longs for stability the same way a driver hopes for a safe trip.

Hence special anchorage shafts up to 80 feet deep had to be provided to serve as proper "beds" for the imposing piers, whose stability and upright position could be guaranteed against creep by means of foundation adjustment.

The engineer may also just happen to mention that the 600 ft long main spans constitute a Swiss record.

After the building of the



High above the Ganter, the half mile long bridge

Simplon mountain route from 1949 to 1960, after the construction of innumerable avalanche-safe open tunnels, bridges, support walls and tunnels themselves, the opening of the Ganter Bridge, 4,756 feet above sea level, was the crowning event of long, hard work to secure a minimum roadway 23 ft wide on the Simplon route. It is a roadway capable of meeting the demands of modern traffic even in winter.

It is a first-rate tourist attraction. And if the driver himself wants to enjoy the scenery, the big gold PTT bus is there to give both him and non-drivers the opportunity to do so in comfort and safety.



Swiss postal coach in the Kaltwasser gallery