

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 2 (1988-1990)
Heft: 4

Artikel: The accident at Aigle CFF station
Autor: Edwards, Ian
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-855295>

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: 07.08.2025

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

THE ACCIDENT AT AIGLE CFF STATION

By Ian Edwards

This summer I revisited Switzerland in an effort to complete another section of my filming the smaller railway lines. While photographing and video taping the Chemin der fer Aigle-Leysin - AL - at Aigle at 1830 hours on the 27th July 1988 - a tremendous crash was heard from the area of the main line, so I rushed onto the platform just in time to witness the second part of an accident which involved three C.F.F. trains.

A local pickup freight train hauled by locomotive type Ae4/7 No. 11953 was stationary on the track at platform three, while a shunter type TeIV No. 8203 removed two of the parcel wagons and reversed down to the south end of the loop. In the meantime the main line route through the station was signalled for the passage of the 105 Km/h Milan to Geneva Eurocity express hauled by locomotive Re4/4 No. 11343. The initial impact at between 60 to 80 Km/h was between the express and the shunting locomotive, in which the TeIV and its two baggage wagons was pushed all the way back up the loop into the rear of the pickup freight. The second impact was between the express/shunter and the pickup freight.



Collision of EC "Lemano" with freight train at Aigle.

Photo: I. Edwards

The impact with the pickup freight caused the destruction of a closed freight wagon, and forced one of the open wagons type Fs-u No. 987 up onto the overhead catenary gantry in doing so unloading vegetables onto both track and platform. The shunting engine was badly damaged both front and back and lost its pantograph in the accident. On the express train the damage consisted of; the locomotive was badly crushed in the front and the rear, the RIC Baggage coach Type D No. 51 85 92 70 107 located

just behind the Re4/4 was bent double as it was pushed upwards through the front of the platform canopy before coming to rest above the locomotive, the first of the C.F.F. type Bpm coaches was damaged where the baggage coach had crumpled the front area, and the restaurant coach lost its pantograph as the overhead wires were dragged down. The rest of the coaches of the express appeared to be undamaged and remained on the track. Catenary wires through a large part of the station area were brought down. Amazingly, when the rescue teams arrived just minutes later they found that nobody was seriously hurt but about fifty people required treatment for minor injuries and shock. Fortunately the driver of the express escaped injury, as he could be seen walking around inside the locomotive looking for an exit as both doors had been crushed, eventually leaving via one of the side windows.



Re4/4II locomotive No. 11343, showing damage to front area.

Photo: I. Edwards

Just one and a half hours after the accident, the wiring crews were hard at work clearing away the damaged catenary and wires and installing new parts. It was around 2100 hours that the first train - southbound towards Brig - passed through the area, headed by an Re4/4IV No. 10103 with its pantograph lowered and being propelled by locomotive type Em3/3 No. 18810 located at the rear of the train.

The next morning when I returned to the station at 1000 hours, I found that during the night the double slip points at the entrance to the loop had been replaced. The RIC baggage coach had been cut into two pieces and deposited along with the remains of the freight wagon - which had ended up on the catenary gantry - on the goods platform. The coaches of the "Lemano" had been towed away during the night to St. Triphon just 5 kilometres south of Aigle. The two locomotives remained locked together until about 1400 hours, as they were parted the full extent of the damage to the Re4/4II locomotive could be seen. The pantograph was missing, the rear cab was completely crushed by the baggage coach, the front cab was pushed back by the impact

with the shunting locomotive, and the front bogie had been pushed back about 400 mm. Before the Re4/4 locomotive could be moved the buffers had to be cut away along with all equipment below the cab floor including the front part of the bogie itself. When this had been done the locomotive was jacked up to enable the bogie to be replaced onto the track, it was then towed away. Just after 1400 hours the remains of the pickup freight had been checked and any repairs that were required prior to moving it had been done, it was then taken away closely followed by the TeIV shunting locomotive.

With all the damaged rolling stock out of the way, the permanent way teams set about replacing all the damaged and buckled track in the loop area. It was the end of the week before the loop was back in full use and normal service was resumed through the station. All that could be seen to indicate something out the ordinary had occurred, were some button carrots lodged in the most unlikely places. At this time the actual cause of the accident is not known but it would point to being human error, this will be proved or disproved when the results of the C.F.F. inquiry are announced.

Metremodels

EXCLUSIVE IMPORTERS



43, NETTLES LANE,
FRANKWELL, SHREWSBURY
Telephone: (0743) 236197

- METREGAUGE TRACK FOR THE SERIOUS MODELLER
- RhB CATENARY SYSTEM. FINE SCALE
- HIGH QUALITY ETCHED BRASS LOCOS AND ROLLING STOCK

IN STOCK NOW:—

• F.O. Te2/2 No 4926 ELECTRIC SHUNTER. KIT.	£162.00
• F.O. Te2/2 No 4926 ELECTRIC SHUNTER. RTR.	£230.00
• F.O. OPEN PLATFORM BOGIE COACH. B4i. KIT.	£ 85.00
• F.O. CLOSED PLATFORM BOGIE COACH. B4u. KIT.	£ 85.00
• RhB FINE SCALE. OLD STYLE PANTOGRAPH. KIT.	£ 7.00
• RhB FINE SCALE. OLD STYLE PANTOGRAPH. RTR.	£ 11.50
• RhB Be4/4 PENDLEZUG 3 CAR KIT.	£521.00
• RhB MIDDLE CAR. TO MAKE 4 CAR UNIT AS ABOVE.	£ 85.00
• RhB/F.O. POINT MECHANISM AND LANTERN. (ALL BRASS KIT.)	£ 12.50
• STAG CEMENT SILO. (HALF FINISHED KIT.)	£121.00
• LINESIDE KITS/STATION BUILDING KITS. (FILISUR AND SEEWIS)	
• NEW EASY-BUILD KIT OF "ARDEZ" STATION BUILDING. (ENGADINE)	£ 92.00
• F.O. C201-C203 SET OF 4 WHEEL COACHES. KIT.	£217.00
• RhB OLD STYLE BOGIE COACH. (A1121) KIT.	£ 85.00
• RhB OLD STYLE BOGIE COACH. (B2221) KIT.	£ 85.00
• RhB OPEN PLATFORM COACH. (B2271) KIT.	£ 85.00

COMING SOON

- RhB 2/2 x 2/3 No 23 MALLETLOK. "MALOJA".
- RhB 2/2 x 2/3 No 23 MALLETLOK. "MALOJA" KIT.
- RhB OLD STYLE BOGIE COACH. (A1121).
- RhB OLD STYLE BOGIE COACH. (B2221).
- RhB OPEN PLATFORM COACH. (B2271).
- LARGE S.A.E. MORE DETAILS.