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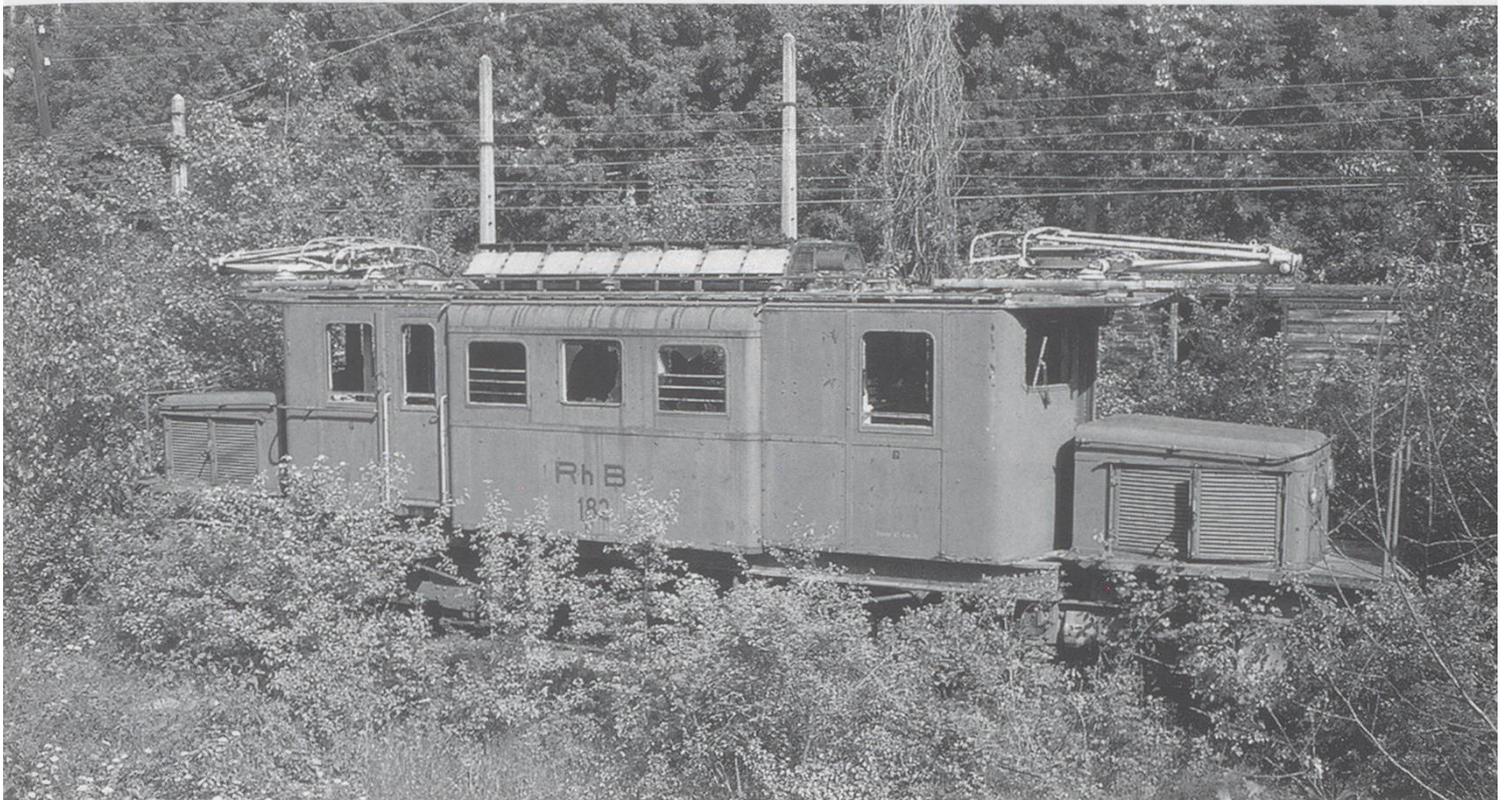
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Ex Bernina / RhB Ge4/4 no.82 languishes amongst the weeds at St Georges on the CF de La Mure.. May 1996

Photo Brian Rosen

Seeing the historic picture of the Bernina Crocodile, Ge4/4 No 82 at Alp Grüm in the June 1999 Swiss Express reminded me of its current fate, or at least its whereabouts and condition in May 1996.

I photographed it when I came across it after a trip on the Chemin de Fer La Mure near Grenoble. It is in the same siding as some old stock from the Aigle-Sèpey-Diablerets. According to an Eisenbahn Kurier Special (no 13 of June/July/Aug 1989) which I have the Bernina Crocodile was sold or otherwise transferred to the CF de La Mure in 1984. It has presumably remained in this siding since then, though I do not have any information which would enable me to check if it ever ran on the La Mure line.

The location is St. Georges de Commiers, Isère, near Grenoble. This is a stop on the SNCF Grenoble-Veynes-Dévoluy line and,

separately, the terminus of the Chemin de Fer de La Mure. The latter is a preserved metre gauge line, formerly freight for the anthracite mines around La Mure at the other end of the line.

The present situation as reported on the railinfo website is that 82 was not scrapped as reported in the Swiss "Eisenbahn-Amateur" magazine, although it is now in a terrible state having been parked out of use in the open for so long. As reported by an RhB engineer an association to transport this vehicle back to Switzerland was introduced. It is planned to do some repainting and than display the historic locomotive in Samedan. This follows an aborted plan to use Ge 2/4 no 221 which was scrapped in the meantime. To view the site go to the following (and bookmark!)

<http://www.railinfo.ch/news/aktuell.en.html>