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Jungfraubahn - Naming ceremony - 'Euro Tunnel'

by Les Heath - photos author.

This was the final naming ceremony, and certainly the most inventive of the eight announced in the spring by Eurotunnel together with the SBB, BLS, FO and Jungfraubahn.

We all met up on platform 2 at Interlaken Ost station. We left in a reserved coach of the BOB at 9.32 for Lauterbrunnen. The party consisted of James Evans, Director, Railway Relations, Eurotunnel, his wife and various members of the press and public relations dept., as well as representatives of Jungfraubahn and of course the press, Swiss and British (3).

On arrival at Lauterbrunnen we were shown to a special train of the Wengern Alp Bahn that followed behind the normal services. At Wengen James Evans left our train, our train was the last of four climbing towards Kleine Scheidegg. As we approached the small halt at Allmend the train was stopped by James Evans holding a red flag. When we stopped a director of the Jungfraubahn Railways presented James Evans with a Station masters hat and a certificate announcing him as honorary station master of Allmend. This came about because at dinner on the evening before James mentioned that when he retired he would like to become the station master at Allmend, this was the first of several surprises.

At Kleine Scheidegg we joined BDhe2/4 209 for the journey to Jungfrauoch, the naming was to take place at Eismeer station. At Eigergletscher our train stopped and we got off to look at the Huskies, they live here and are transported to Jungfrauoch to give the tourists sleigh rides.

After a short stop we moved on. Rounding the first bend in the track we were greeted by an Alphorn and Flag thrower (cover picture). We stopped and photographed the event. After ten minutes the two joined the train and we moved on. Rounding the next bend we were greeted by a lone Scottish piper, playing by a Union Jack. Again we photographed the event, the piper joined the train, we moved off into the tunnel to the top. At Eigerwand halt we were greeted by a French accordion player complete with beret and puffing a cigarette. Some spontaneous dancing took place, we admired the views from the windows of the Grindelwald valley and then rejoined the train with our strange band.

At Eismeer we all left the train. Here the speeches commenced and the presentation of a beautiful wood carving with 209 on it was presented to James Evans. The naming was carried out by Mrs. Joanna Evans and so as not



Previous page: James Evans, honorary station master at Allmend

Above: Our Scottish piper with Union Jack, just prior to entering the tunnel to Jungfrauoch

Below: The French Accordion player at Eigerwand. Cigarette puffing away French style, impromptu dancing on a sloping dance floor.





to offend any country she baptised the train three times. First with a glass of Scotch whisky provided by the piper, then Champagne followed by a cup of Swiss milk, after which we all drank to the health of the locomotive whilst admiring the views through the windows of the ice fields outside. The band, piper, accordion and alpine horn together with the flag thrower entertained

with traditional tunes and jazz! It transpired that the Scottish piper; kilt and all was Swiss!

We all rejoined the train and continued to Jungfrauoch to enjoy a splendid meal provided by Ers Brummer and his staff in the Crystal restaurant, where the views were outstanding. After lunch we were taken on a tour of Jungfrauoch, the Ice Palace, Sphinx etc.





Previous page, top: James Evans being presented with a magnificent wood carving to commemorate the occasion.
Previous page, bottom: The Band playing after the naming. Jazz on an Alpine horn must be heard to be believed!!
Above: Mrs. Evans third baptism Swiss milk on BDhe2/4 209 'Euro Tunnel' at Eismeer.
Below: From the left: Katherine Hackett, Anne Leva, James Evans and Michelle Fox, Eurotunnel.

