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and finally... **Swiss steam at war**



In the March *Swiss Express* we reported on the Swiss locomotives that were loaned to the SNCF in 1944 to assist in moving food around a recently liberated France. Our friend Mario Stefani has now unearthed some further information regarding SBB locomotives that worked outside Switzerland at the time of WW2. During this period, referred-to by the neutral Swiss as the National Emergency, the country was desperately short of coal. In return for an offer of supplies of this vital fuel the Government agreed to the SBB hiring some 27-steam locomotives to the Deutsche Reichsbahn (DR). This took place over the period between March 18th 1942 and 22nd September 1944 and these engines ran mostly on the DR (ex-Baden State Railway) routes close to the Swiss frontier. This was logical for

spares and servicing, and also because the hired locos were complex 4-cylinder compounds from Classes C4/5 & C5/6 (the 'Elephants') that were not really common-user engines. As they were working in enemy territory these engines became legitimate targets for Allied air attacks and there were several instances of extensive damage being inflicted, although it is understood that their Swiss crews fortunately escaped serious injury. The photo shows C5/6 No.2951, which was machine-gunned whilst working between Basel Bad Bhf. and Schaffhausen in September 1944. The markings indicate the bullet holes. The engine was subsequently repaired at SBB's Yverdon Works before again being hired-out, this time to France. 

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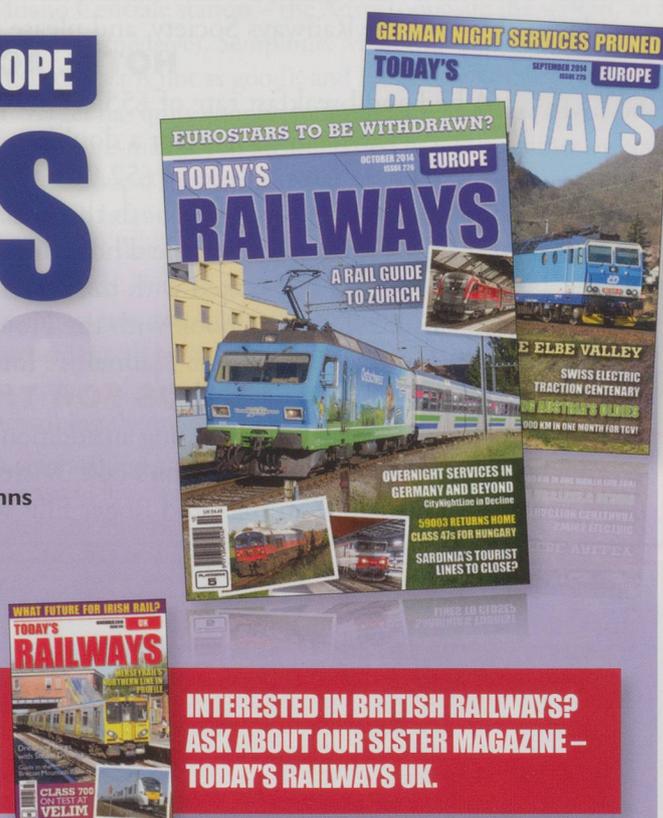
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