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Travels of a bag and superb ZB service. by Tony Bagwell



LEFT: Contents of the bag. ABOVE: Guitar logo. Photos: Tony Bagwell

During our recent stay at Göschenen, my daughter and I decided to go to Interlaken. After lunch we went to our favourite Brocki at the Park Hotel, Goldswil and bought a few items for 6 ChFs. Catching the 15:04 return service, we stopped at Brunig Hasliberg to visit the Brocki on the station.

I left Heidi looking in the shop and sat on one of the only two seats on the platform, placing the bag of items next to me on the floor. When we were both back on the hour later train, Heidi asked about the bag and I suddenly realised it was still sat on the platform. When the lady ticket inspector came through I asked her if there was any simple possibility of rescuing it, but I did explain that in monetary terms it wasn't worth much.

She immediately phoned her opposite number on the train we had just passed, that was nearly up to Hasliberg. Whilst still on the phone, the other inspector found the bag and between the two of them they decided it would be taken to Meiringen and passed to the crew of the train following ours an hour later. It was arranged that we would then collect it back in Luzern an hour after our arrival.


We duly met the inspector on that train, who apologised profusely that because of multiple ticketing problems at

Meiringen he had not had time to pick up the bag. But he immediately phoned the inspector on the third train to confirm that he had the missing item, which he did. So we returned to Luzern station another hour later, met inspector number two who retrieved the bag from the third ZB inspector and passed it over to us. We thanked him and asked him to pass on our thanks to his colleagues.

What superb service by a group of extremely helpful Zentralbahn staff. What hope would there have been if we'd left a similar bag on a UK station??

I can assure you that Göschenen station at 22:06 on a Sunday evening is quite a ghostly place.

And the bag's contents. A china Migros piggy bank, a Migros issued soft toy (a character from the Migros Christmas TV ads) and a selection of shooting medals. The small metal crosses on the ribbons of these are used by me to make a Swiss logo on the electric guitars that I refurbish, effectively making me a trade logo.

As an aside, the apartment we used in Göschenen was in a large house built in the 1870s. It was built as the hospital for the mainly Italian workers who built the first Gotthard tunnel. Considering some 200 workmen died during the building of the tunnel, we did not encounter any ghosts during our stay. 



And finally...

Swiss Express can reveal that German freight giant DB Cargo is developing a metre-gauge rack-fitted version of their ubiquitous Bombardier TRAXX locomotive. In an edition of their online journal 'Railways' that appeared earlier this year,

a photograph was published showing what appeared to be the prototype on test on the Jungfrau Railway. The locomotive, which was hauling a train of tank wagons that are presumably also rack-fitted and (one hopes) empty, is seen here cautiously making its way down the 250‰ gradient between Eigergletscher and Kleine Scheidegg! 