

# Alpine rescue stations and search parties

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **1 (1935-1936)**

Heft 9

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942002>

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loses its natural colour. Here, in New Zealand, we have to make the best of it, and for the readers' benefit we must pick jokes which do not lose too much of their value. Here is one, for instance:

A little Appenzeller boy was sent by his parents to the minister with some butter. Being rather uncouth by nature, his manners did not find favour with the clergyman. While reproving the little fellow he suggested they should change places, so as to show him how this should be done. After having performed his task he asked the boy to take his turn. The boy dug his hands into his pockets pretending to get some money, and said "Thanks, young fellow, here are zwenzg Rappe to buy yourself some lollies."

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ALPINE RESCUE STATIONS AND SEARCH PARTIES.

There are 111 official Rescue Stations in the Alps belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club, besides a further 200 Information Offices which are exclusively occupied with receiving and reporting mountain accidents in Switzerland. Each of the numerous Club Huts contains implements for the rescue of climbers in summer or winter. A complete list of all these stations and their leaders - who are mountain guides - can be obtained from the Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club, Baden (Aargau). These Rescue Stations are regularly controlled, so that there should be nothing lacking, also equipped with ambulance material.

The leader of a Rescue Station is obliged, immediately on receiving news of a mountain accident, to form Search Parties. These consist of guides, porters and other natives, who are well acquainted with the Alps in their vicinity. At the same time the leader has to report the accident to the Cantonal Police, before the Search Party starts off. If it is necessary, and possible, the Search Party is aided by an aeroplane, that can be demanded by the leader or a member of the Central Committee of the S.A.C. The latter Committee supervises all rescue work.

The expenses incurred by such work have to be paid by the rescued person or his heirs, as the Swiss Alpine Club is financially so engaged by its organisations, that it cannot undertake further obligations. For the salvage of corpses, which is often carried out with tremendous risk of life, the responsibilities are fixed by Cantonal Law.

Those desiring to climb the Alps, should first make sure that they are fit and competent, and well-guided. The weather is of supreme importance, too. The Alps only reveal their grandeur and beauty to those who approach them with reverence, while they will rebuff the haughty without mercy.

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T O M E M B E R S.

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HAY-FEVER OASES IN SWITZERLAND.

As everyone knows, the inhabitants of the lowlands who suffer from hay-fever are only at their ease in wet weather, during summer at least, and all the creams and powders, that have been invented as a remedy, give only small relief. But there are places where no hay-fever can exist!

There are two such Oases in Switzerland, well-known the world over. They are Pontresina and Kleine Scheidegg. While Pontresina can boast of a regular Hay-fever Club with medical advice, the Kleine Scheidegg does not even need that. Here we are above the tree-line, that is above all vegetation, so that there is no possibility of the pollen, discharged by flowers and blossoms, reaching the patients. In both places the glacier winds also prevent pollen from surviving if any should by chance reach such heights.

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