

Swiss move to cut avalanche toll

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SWISSAIR'S 1961 PROFIT

Swissair made a net profit of 126,500 Swiss Francs (approximately £10,455) in 1961. Total revenue reached 377 million Francs (£31,150,000), compared with 329 million Francs (£27,200,000) in 1960. Total costs — excluding amortizations of 25 million Francs (£2,070,000) — amounted to 352 million Francs (£29,100,000), against 324 million Francs (£26,800,000) in 1960.

Added to the 126,500 Francs net profit is the figure of 451,100 Francs (£37,260) retained from 1960.

The Board has recommended an allocation of 50,000 Francs to the statutory reserve and the retention of 527,600 Francs.

FOOTNOTE: 1961 was a black year for most international airlines. Swissair is now all-jet on its major routes.

SWISS MOVE TO CUT AVALANCHE TOLL

Every year avalanches kill many skiers and climbers in the Swiss Alps. But there are now hopes that this toll may be cut down by a new system of locating buried victims.

Some reduction in the toll has already been brought about by the information and warnings broadcast by the Federal Institute for the Study of Snow and Avalanches. But from 15 to 25 people are still buried and killed by avalanches in a winter. Many others are rescued. But the big difficulty in rescue work is where to look: the victims are often carried a long way.

A metal sounding rod used to be the best means of locating a buried person. But this method can be long and dangerous. It was a great step forward when dogs were trained to smell our buried persons. There are now more than 100 avalanche dogs stationed at various places. They are taken to the scene of the accident by car, helicopter or aircraft.

But the Swiss Institute of Alpine Research have now tested a new location system. It depends on a magnetometer perfected by an American firm. A detector is carried at the end of a long pole and connected by a wire with a recording instrument. This can detect under the snow the presence of a man wearing a small magnet at a distance of 30 yards. Using the magnetometer, Alpine troops taking part in the test found colleagues under 9ft. of snow in record time.

It remains, however, to supply all skiers and climbers with a magnet. A shoe has already been made with a magnet in its sole. If the Swiss Army adopts the system, as seems likely, magnetic shoes will be mass-produced and made available to the public.

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 27th April. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mme. M. Zimmermann (La Tour-de-Peilz), W. Deutsch, Mrs. Koelliker, C. Voegeli, J. Christen, A. J. Gomiero.

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on **Tuesday, 24th April, 1962**, at **6.30 for 7 p.m.**
at **Dorchester Hotel (Stanhope Room), W.1.**

Agenda:

Minutes of last meeting.	Elections.
Resignations.	Auditor's Report.
President's Report.	Admissions.
Treasurer's Report.	Any other business.

Members wishing to be present should send their slip to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, 23rd April, 1962.

THE COMMITTEE.

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