

An introduction to the Bönigen railway maintenance installation of the BLS

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BÖNIGEN RAILWAY MAINTENANCE INSTALLATION OF THE BLS



From BLS Press Office

The depot and railway workshop facilities of the BLS (formerly Thunerseebahn) were located at Interlaken-West. The relocation of the workshop to Bönigen was planned in connection with the renovation of the station Interlaken-West, whereby first of all a new locomotive shed – today a warehouse – was erected. The locomotive shed was placed into service on the 13th December, 1917.

Some Figures concerning the Workshop

– Total BLS area within the sphere of the installation	ca. 60,000 sq.m.
– Workshop area	ca. 44,000 sq.m.
– Workshop area built over	ca. 39,000 sq.m.
– Length of track system	ca. 3.5 km.
– Movement of railroad cars	
• Incoming cars per year	ca. 1,900
• Cars shunted per year	ca. 6,500
– Number of personnel	
• Direction, technical and administrative personnel	13
• Maintenance personnel	151
• Apprentices	15
• Inspection and railroad car cleaning station Interlaken-West	13



BLS Loco Ae4/4. No 252 at Schwarzenburg.

Photo: G. Della Gana



BLS Loco Re4/4. No 186 on Train IC823 at Spiez.

Photo: Editor

The Function of the Bönigen Workshop

The principal responsibility of the workshop is the maintenance of the rolling stock. It is responsible to keep the diverse types of railroad cars in serviceable condition.

The maintenance of the rolling stock is divided into two categories: the regular work, the so-called overhauling with work extending to different degrees, and the unexpected work, such as repairs. Renovation of cars is also carried out at the Bönigen workshop installation.

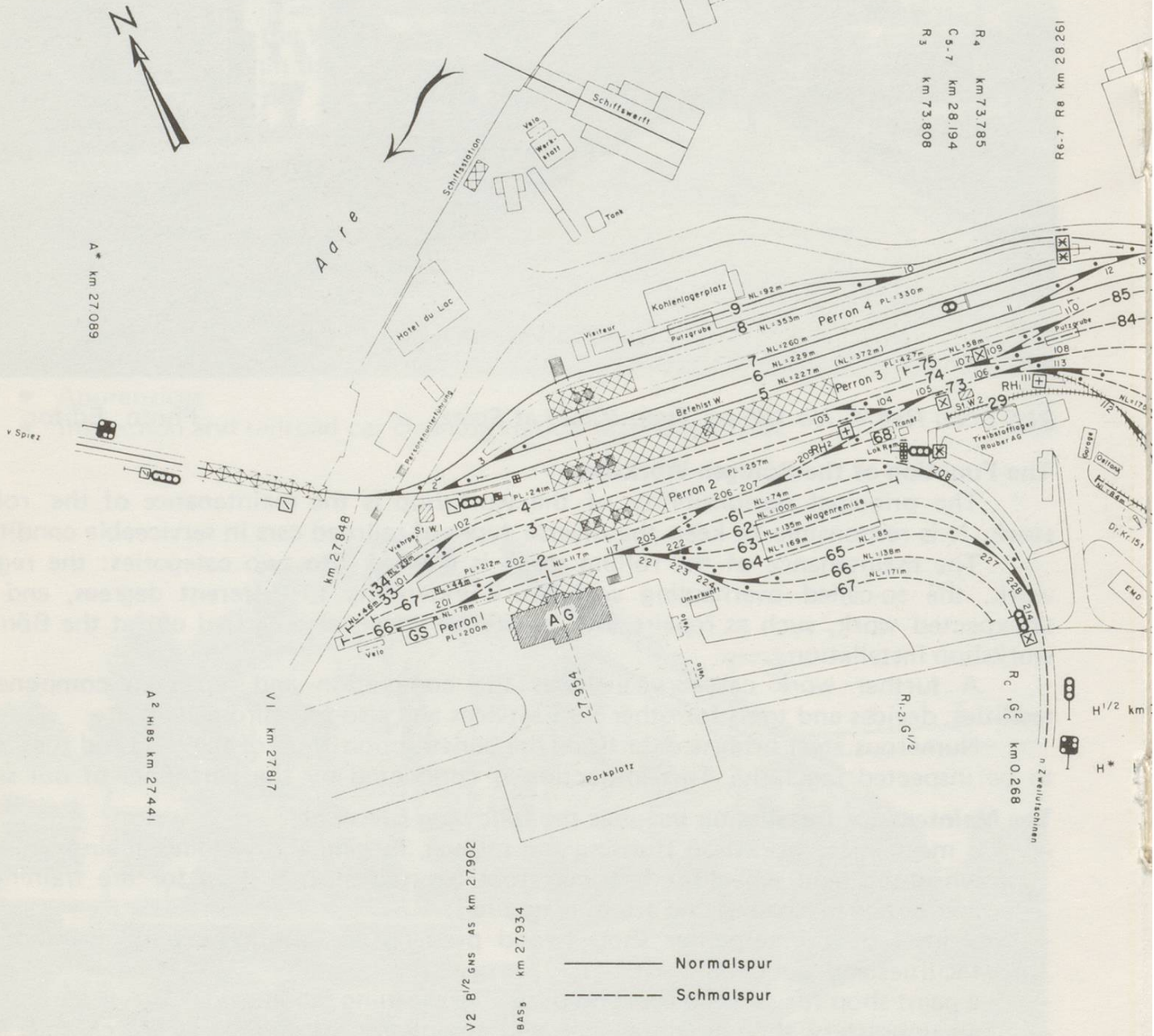
A further work category includes the completion and repair of components, facilities, devices and tools for other BLS services and also for third parties.

Numerous steel bridges date from the construction time of the BLS and they need to be inspected regularly. This inspection is conducted by the personnel of our shop.

The Maintenance Installation includes the following Divisions:

- a mechanical workshop (turning and milling, forging and welding, maintenance of wheel-sets and wheel-set bearings, tool maintenance, a shop for the training of apprentice mechanics and a tool magazine);
- a joinery and carpenter shop (wood preparation, plastic-working, wood-drying facilities and wood storage);
- a paint shop for railroad cars and parts. Car-cleaning facilities;
- an upholstery shop (maintenance and completion of upholstery for carriage seats with textiles or imitation leather, general upholstery work);
- a laundry and a sewing room;
- an assembly shop (locksmith's shop, sheet-metal shop, welding shop, plumbing shop, buffer workshop, axle and wheel-set shop and cleaner for parts, electro and apparatus workshop);
- a workshop magazine with ca. 15,000 miscellaneous articles.

Bahnhof Interlaken - Ost



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