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Chair in the Air

John Jesson

SRS Chairman John "Biggles" Jesson returns from his successful aerial mission to add to his photo survey of the North Ramp of the Gotthard Pass railway. PHOTO: Mervyn Pritchard Aerial Photos: John Jesson

During the June trip to the Gotthard, John Jesson and Steve Tinsley, accompanied by Paul Jans, enjoyed a helicopter trip from Erstfeld to Göschenen and back. Here are just a few of the many pictures taken en route. 🇨🇭



1. Entrance to the base tunnel at Rynächt.
2. Erstfeld depot as it looks now, with the newly-built base tunnel "Intervention Centre".
3. A southbound freight approaching Pfaffensprung.
4. Gurtellen station with a short freight in the loop.





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5. Wassen low level with a heavy freight – Re 10/10 on the front, Re 4/4 on the back – about to curve into the Wattinger tunnel.

6. Göschenen and the mouths of the (old) Gotthard tunnel. The main southbound track is blocked by some engineers wagons.

7. Just to prove we were in a helicopter (with the door wide open). A northbound IR passes the site of the rockfall a short distance from Gurtellen. The hand belongs to the 'second man', who normally deals with such tasks as managing winches and guiding the pilot. Not many of their trips are for photography!

8. SBB Re 10/10 at Silenen, about to pass through Amsteg-Silenen station.

9. The same freight as in picture 5. exiting the Wattinger tunnel and crossing the Reuss.



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