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NEW PANORAMIC CARS USHER IN A NEW ERA FOR THE GLACIER EXPRESS

St. Moritz / Davos - Zermatt



On May 10th 2006 the RhB and MGB launched a new set of passenger trains for the Glacier Express services. They included restaurant/service cars and new first and second panoramic coaches. Your Editor was fortunate in visiting Switzerland on the day of the launch and was able to attend. A large array of journalists from all over the world together with Tour Operators and other tourist organisations gathered at Chur to witness the launch of a new era. Fittingly the



ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHS EXCEPT ONE ARE BY TOGGENBURG AND ALL WERE TAKEN ON 10TH MAY 2006.

TOP: The new Glacier Express pays its first official visit to Trun past the well known viewpoint by the church.

LOWER: The complete train passes along the embankment behind Trun. Note the formation of loco and six coaches. The maximum loading for the MGB section of line. No doubt the Rhb will add coaches for their own section whenever required.



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official speeches took place at Disentis on the boundary between the RhB and MGB, the two partners in the Glacier Express operation.

In total 24 new Panoramic cars have been introduced. Built by Stadler, at an approximate cost of Sfr60M, following an order placed in 2003 they are state of the art, as you would expect. They are each formed into trains of six cars, one restaurant/service, two first, one with a disabled access toilet and three second class. They are air-conditioned, have fully automatic interior doors, improved and very comfortable seating, vastly improved noise insulation (although to be fair it had never been much of a problem before!) Meals can be served at all seats and a shop and minibar are part of the service cars facilities.

They will replace older coaches which will in turn replace time expired coaches on regional services.

I would like to thank Peider Härtli from the

THIS PAGE:

TOP: Interior of new second class car.

CENTRE: Interior of new first class car.

LOWER: One of the highly skilled Rail Gourmino waiters serves the Schnapps in the traditional way.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

UPPER: RhB Ge 4/4^{III} 651 stands at Disentis after arriving with the special train. Its new livery is both attractive and striking.
Photo: George Hoekstra

LOWER: MGB HGe 4/4 108 cruises past Oberalpersee with the new Glacier set.

RhB and Helmut Biner from the MGB for the invitation. It was a very enjoyable day and for once the words 'A New Era Dawns' do not represent a cliché.



GLACIER EXPRESS®

St. Moritz / Davos - Zermatt

THIS PAGE:

UPPER:

New Glacier Express 2nd class panoramic. type Bp

CENTRE:

Glacier Express Servicewagen type Wrp

LOWER:

1st class Panoramic type Ap

All the pictures were taken by Oberalpsee. It had been warm and sunny in Disentis, but the nearer we got to Andermatt the worse it became. I think I am right in saying that in the 10 or 12 times I have visited Andermatt I have never seen the sun there!

OPPOSITE PAGE:

UPPER:

Courtesy of StadlerRail the internal layout diagrams of the new coaches.

AND TO END SOME HISTORIC PICTURES OF HOW IT USED TO BE!

CENTRE LEFT:

Glacier Express on the Fischbachviaduct between Berguen and Muot, about 1930.

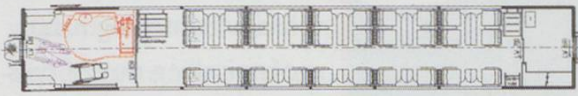
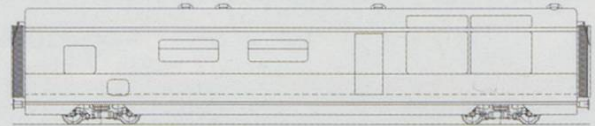
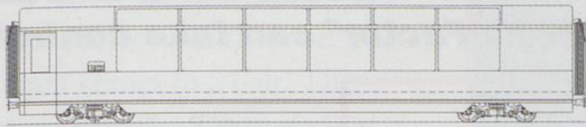
CENTRE RIGHT:

Glacier Express on the Landwasser viaduct about 1970, Train 135.

LOWER:

Glacier Express near Samedan/Celerina, about 1930, Ge 6/6 I, Nr. 415.

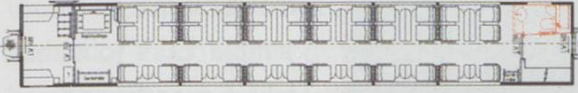
All the historic photos are ©Rhaetische Bahn, courtesy: swiss-image.ch



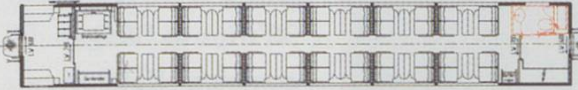
Api



WRp



Ap



Bp

