

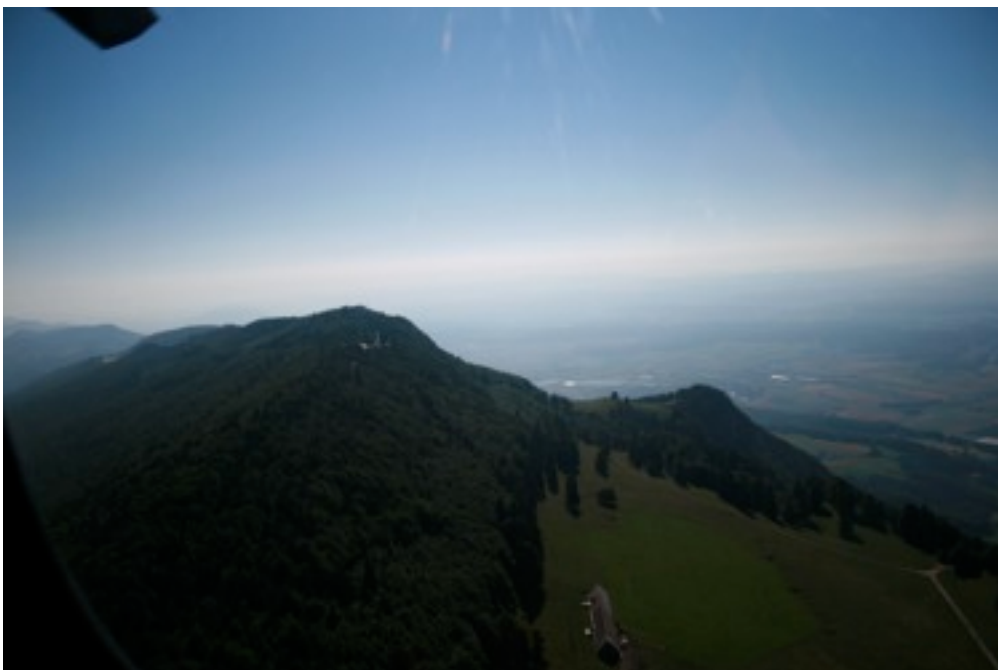
Tuesday 20 July 2010

by Anne Koelewjin

Tuesday was the first day of our visit to Switzerland. All cadets went to Frankfurt to meet each other there and travel to Switzerland. In Frankfurt our guides, Dominic & Benjamin and René Meier, the president of the IACE committee in Switzerland, were waiting for us with a first surprise: we were to travel to Grenchen by Cougar, a courtesy of the Swiss Air Force. Excited, we got on board after determining who was going to sit on the jumpseat. By means of a small quiz, the Belgian cadet Sven was selected to be lucky one.



We took off from Egelsbach, a regional airport near Frankfurt, and flew southwards via the Schwarzwald. The second surprise was at the circuit of Hockenheim when Sven asked for some acrobatic flying and the pilots made a steep turn to the left and to the right, so in the cabin everyone experienced the g-force both when looking to the ground or to the air.



Tuesday 20 July 2010

by Anne Koelewjin

After this nice experience we flew further to an area with hills. When we were flying straight at a hill, Sven asked if we shouldn't fly a little higher. The pilot then answered: "don't worry, we'll fly by!" Then we turned a little and saw the hills at our sides at approximately 20 meters. It was very enjoyable to fly so close to the ground.



We arrived at Grenchen Airport after clearing some other mountains. Here we were welcomed by Suzanne & her husband, Willi and René Meier. After this warm welcome we had some time for a drink at the airport, while seeing a lot of planes. It was surprisingly busy at the airport with a lot of aircraft landing or leaving.

Refreshed by the drink we went to the restaurant "Untergrenchenberg", where we will be staying the two weeks. We went to the rooms, settled in and had a lovely dinner. After dinner we explored the Jura mountains. We hiked to the top, where Willi explained about the evolution of the mountains, which was quite interesting. Another surprising thing was that at the top of the mountain, you could see almost the whole country. From the Alps to Germany and from France to Italy, it is all visible on a clear day.

After this interesting explanation we walked back to the hotel. After a drink, everyone went to bed early because of the exhausting and very enjoyable trip. We are looking forward to a great week!