

SWITZERLAND

AVALANCHE KILLS 12

Piled high over Airele in South Switzerland a huge mass of snow, ice and debris loosens under rain and gales and overwhelms the little town in the dark of night. With 15 feet of snow in their streets, the few people left begin to dig out. Before the threat of the 200-yard wide avalanche the 2,000 population, 500 troops and cattle had been evacuated. But some remained, too old or unwilling to move. In 12 minutes the little town was buried under hundreds of tons of snow and rocks, and when they took count, 12 were dead.

The whole of South-east Switzerland is threatened as snow continues. The St. Gothard tunnel, main route to Italy, is cut again, and some mountain roads are buried 100 feet deep. Despite all man's skill, nature is still untamed.