



The Ramble 353 - 28/03/21

The Ramble

The next Ramble will be Number 354 on Easter Sunday 4th April, 355 on Sunday 11th April, 356 on Sunday 18th April and 357 on Sunday 25th April.

There is a lot more news this week.



Norichten aus Lëtzebuerg

CFL 3000

3012 had an internal fire at Woippy on 6th March 2021 and the scorch marks can be seen on the roof. The loco is now sat sheeted over on Luxembourg Depot.



This photograph was sent to me with the note that it was found on Flickr. So I went to look for the original. Typed in 3012 and got a photo of this monster!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/paulfixter/3335356844>

Bombardier Class 188

On 24th March Graham saw 188 005 at Belval. She was quite alone, no 186s, nor were they sighted anywhere else in Luxembourg. I assume it is probable that they may have gone back. 188 006 has not been sighted since February.

Luxembourg Tramblette

Construction of the next section of the tram line is now well under way with the extension to Lycee Bonnevoie due to open in Sep 2022. As can be seen in the photo, the line will pass adjacent to the CRM.



Photo by Graham Belton

Information From Luxembourg

Getting any information out of Luxembourg is very difficult. Basically we are down to one person, sometimes two, making observations as they go about their daily business.

The main railway web page is rail.lu but it is very hit and miss. There is lots of information about the arrival of the Akiem 186s but no information about them leaving. Have a major crash in the Grand Duchy and there is total silence on rail.lu but have the Minister of Transport go and open a new station waiting shelter, and there is a multi page spread!



Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

HLE 13

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on 1327, 1329, 1331, 1334, 1349# and 1352#.

[# In Salzinnes Works].

- 1308 is at Salzinnes Works for attention to damaged caused by an internal fire on 3rd February and is expected OK in May.
- 1325 is back in service after being fitted with ETCS.
- 1327 is in Salzinnes Works for fitting with ETCS and possible collision assessment.
- 1340 is back in service after being fitted with ETCS.
- 1341 is in Salzinnes for repairs to a serious internal fire. 1341 is now overdue and will be back in service soon, perhaps by Easter.
- 1349 is back in service after a Grand Revision.
- 1352 is in Salzinnes for a Grand Revision and due out in mid May on my Birthday.

HLE 18/19

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on 1847# & 1887#

[# In Salzinnes Works].

- 1809 is back in service after an Intermediate Revision.
- 1846 is in the Test, Homologation & Repair pool for testing M7 stock. [correction]
- 1848 is in Salzinnes for an Intermediate Revision and back sometime mid April.
- 1860 is in the Test, Homologation & Repair pool for testing M7 stock.
- 1887 is in Salzinnes for an Intermediate Revision and collision repairs, back sometime in March 2021 [I didn't think so myself and time has told]. Now expected back in late May, so that will be June then.....
- 1903 is in Salzinnes for the second Intermediate Revision [RI2]. This loco was the first to have an Intermediate Revision and was in Salzinnes for 100 working days for this prototype first Revision.
1903 is now the test for the second Intermediate Revision and is due out at the end of May. It does show how these HLE 19s are racking up the mileage.
It is also interesting that 1903 is in for the second RI before 1913 has had it's first RI.

HLE 28/29/186

186 503 is with Lineas. This is an ex-DB Cargo Nederlands loco.

Class 193 Vectron

Current situation concerning the DB Vectron locomotives:

D/A/I/CH/NL/B: 193 318, 324 to 339, 341, 342, 344 & 353

D/A/B/NL/HU/PL/CZ/SK: 193 360, 366, 376 & 560

193 339 is a recent addition to the locos permitted to work in Belgium.

Thank you to Frank for this list and to all of the people who supply the updates.

HLD 62

Interested in the Revision dates on:-

Blue - 6216#, 6222#, 6243, 6249*, 6257#, 6261, 6262 and 6275.

[* Panels are blank/incorrect # In Salzinnes Works].

Yellow - 6247, 6274, 6292* and 6295* [* Panels are blank].

With the need to fit and test the ETCS, the Revisions to the HLD 62s are now taking a good 140+ working days to do.

6203 Was due to be stored at the end of March 2021 but will now work until the end of 2021 barring any accidents or a major component failure.

6216 is in Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision and is due out sometime in September 2021.

6222 is in Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Its shopping date is slipping and is now due out sometime in May 2021.

6223 is in Salzinnes Works for fitting with ETCS and a working third headlight.

6247 was stopped with a faulty main generator in early February and will be stored on 31st March 2021 basically in place of 6203.

6257 is in Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Its shopping date is slipping and is now due out sometime in mid April 2021.

6261 has returned to service after an Intermediate Revision, fitting with ETCS and a third headlight.

6267 is in Salzinnes for repairs to some accident damage. Due out August 2021.

6304 is in Salzinnes Works for fitting with ETCS and a working third headlight.

6315 is in Salzinnes Works for fitting with ETCS and a working third headlight. With poor paintwork could this be the loco to get TUC Rail livery?

To be called in for Revision in 2021 are 6214, 6216#, 6295, 6305 & 6329.

Perhaps 6295 will get the call to Salzinnes Works in the near future when 6257 is ready to leave after Revision.

For Store 6203 [end of 2021], 6292 [Autumn 2021] and 6328 [end of 2022]

6247 has gone in the skip with a broken main generator. Official storage is on 31st March 2021 but 6247 has been sat stopped on Melle since 18th January. I featured a photograph taken by Leo on 18th January of 6210, 6323 and 6247 running through Mechelen [Ramble 344]. It looks as if this train was 6210 hauling 6323 and 6247 back to Melle where 6247 was assessed.

6203 was booked to go next Wednesday, 31st March, but she has had a reprieve until the end of 2021, I assume 6203 has remained in place of 6247.

I was looking at seeing if I could organise a last hurrah for 6203 as a lot of people need it. However in the current climate, even getting to Belgium will be a major achievement, let alone trying to organise a successful event.

6267 is in Salzinnes for repairs to some accident damage. I do not know what the accident damage is but I think it is only minor. Perhaps the main reason for visiting the Riverside Spa is to be fitted with ETCS and a third headlight.

In better days, 6247 calls at De Pinte, with a train from Gent St. Pieters to Ronse, on 19.09.2000. Photo by Ian Saunders



HLR 77/78

7792 should be visiting Salzinnes Works in April for a Grand Revision and will also be the prototype for fitting with ETCS. The loco is due to go into the Works sometime in April and I suspect we might see it back in service in 2022 as these things seem to take a lot of time these days.

French Ballast

The Quenast campaign restarted on Friday 26/03 running Monday - Friday until 11th June 2021. This should be the last usage of these venerable locos into Belgium as they are not equipped with ETCS.

Locos planned to be used at start are 67579 in Fret green and 67629 blue both running in multi.

Train 49833 generally departs Somain at 07h00 then runs via Aulnoye to Quévy passing at 08h30. The train runs via Line 96 and branch from Tubize. Arrival at Quenast 10h50

Train 49880 is the return from Quenast generally at 13h54, then Quévy 16h47 and arrival at Somain 18h11

Train continues to Pont-à-Vendin which is between Lens and Don then returns to Somain.



Nederlands Nieuws

Class 193

As many are aware, NS have leased two Vectrons from ELL to haul the Nightjet trains. Both locos came in ELL green and were recently taken back to Austria to have NS yellow and blue stickers applied.

193 766 entered service in the new NS stickers on Monday 22nd and the number of photographs was unbelievable. People were saying here is a NS Vectron pulling a passenger train whereas the reality is the locos have been working Berlins for months and are leased.

After photographing the SGM scrap train, Bert then went to Amsterdam Central to see the 193 766 with the Berlin train. It took two attempts to get all of the train next to a platform, which seems to be a regular issue for the Vectron.

Here is 193 766 about to move Train 70240, the ecs off train 240 06:22 Berlin Ostbahnhof – Amsterdam Centraal. Photo Bert Hollander.



SGM Scrap Movement 24th March 2021

On 24th March 2021 Strukton 1756 brought NS 2111, 2955 and 2120 from Dijksgracht to Amsterdam Westhaven with the 704 at the back. Photo Bert Hollander.



1756 then moved into a siding and 704 is pushed them to their penultimate destination. Their final journey might be by barge.

Photo by Iz Ak and posted to Locomotieven serie 1600/1700 on Facebook.

There was a comment with the above Facebook post which said that Strukton has taken over the contract for transporting vehicles for scrap. It used to be done by Volkerrail but the contact is now with Strukton Rail.

Both the next three photos are by Bert Hollander



Here 704 pushes the trio directly to the Ter Haak Group tracks, next to TMA.



It is subject to speculation that there will be a pause now until the build up of DDM/DD-AR stock takes their last cruise. The contract to cut up these SGM vehicles is up for grabs and I suspect their will be a contract out on the remaining Buffalos as well.

Certainly the movement away by barge does seem to be the way forward. Use the existing facilities at the TMA Terminal to load the barges from the quayside and water transport also opens up the number of contractors able to deal with vehicles. There is no transport through the streets, no low bridges and no tram wires either. The "loading gauge" on British and Irish roads is a lot higher as we had double deck trams from the start and the wire had to be out of reach for the people on the open top deck. In continental Europe they have always had single deck trams and so the height standard was lower.

Class 1700

NSI - 23 03 21

1739 - Towed to Maastricht on 24/03/21 with leaking oil pump.

1744 - in service with minor faults

1745 - in service with minor faults

1746 - in service

1750 - At Maastricht - traction motor faults

1752 - Watergraafsmeer - Repairs

1761 - in service

1765 - in service, towing 1739 for repairs

NSM

1768 - Utrecht Maliebaan - in service

Some photographs taken by Vincent Wolst at Volker Stevin Materieel in Dordrecht on 23rd March 2021 of 7143 [1743]. Posted to Locomotieven serie 1600/1700 on Facebook.



Buffalo Stampede

At long last the DM90 Buffalos have started to move from Vlasackers to Poland. The trains are running with Rail Adventure barrier vans at each end of the train.

On Thursday 25th, RFO 1572 towed four sets of DM90 from Amersfoort Vlasackers to Amersfoort GE, followed by 2x4 the next day.

Thursday 25th saw RFO 1829 move 3421, 3402, 3427 and 3406 to Bad Bentheim.

Friday 26th saw RFO 1831 moved 3437, 3407, 3415 and 3425 to Bad Bentheim.

Sunday 28th has seen RFO 1830 move 3432, 3447, 3439 and 3449 to Bad Bentheim. Below is a photograph taken by Etienne Blaas of the train leaving Amersfoort and posted to Locomotieven serie 1600/1700 on Facebook.



NSR Units

SNG-2

Delivered - 2764

SGM

On 24th Strukton 1756 and 704 moved 2111, 2120 and 2955 from Dijkgracht to Houtrakpolder.

2140 has not shown as being used since 25th February.

2990 has not shown as being used since 9th March.

Jet Provost

I did a Sik Ramble Extra two weeks ago where I showed where there were two sets of Siks parked up around the town of Barneveld. Glos Old Spot e-mailed in to say there is an ex RAF Jet Provost in a garden in nearby Voorthuizen.

<https://www.jetphotos.com/photo/9820862>



Photographer - C. v. Grinsven and taken on 5th August 2020 and taken from the adjacent field.

I asked Iwan, who is a big plane man, if he knew the address as I did look for the Provost but could not find it on Google Earth. Once you know where it is, it is easy to spot but it is not very big and blends in with it's surroundings if you do not know where it is.

He wrote, Check out <https://goo.gl/maps/4uSwapNqVwQ4WjnM9> , which is spot on.

The owner's address seems to be Lange Zuiderweg 32 in Voorthuizen, but the aircraft is parked right behind the house at Lange Zuiderweg 28.

In the field where XW 301 is looks to be a helicopter landing pad and some buildings which may be a hanger for the helicopter. I do wonder if the houses on this road are all people connected to the Catsburg Ruitter garage at Lange Zuiderweg 36 as putting an aeroplane this close to your neighbour's house, is a strange thing to do.

<https://www.catsburgruiter.nl/>

XW 301 is about two kilometres away from the roundabout where 292 and 326 are.

Blast From The Past

John wrote in, "Looking through my photos from Belgian Trips I came across this:

2367/2372 running light engine westbound through Halle on Friday 23rd March 2012. I think that the vast majority of the 23s with the exception of the few engines kept as Liege bankers were withdrawn by the end of March 2012 so the engines would have been in their last few days of service." Photo by John Hajdasz

Both locos were assigned to park on 30th March 2012 and so they were actually stopped when they were next went to a depot for maintenance, or at the depot if they were there. 2367 was stopped on Tuesday 27th March 2012 and I think 2372 was stopped on Sunday 1st April 2012.



Alex Video

Alex has put another of his videos up on You Tube. Two things to note. One is the playing of music on Belgian stations which seems to have stopped now and two is the absence of graffiti.

<https://youtu.be/zljwIFRGrw0>



Other News

This one has done the rounds will all kinds of comments. Not exactly the Suez Canal but....



Captain of the cargo ship stuck in the Suez canal finally revealed





The awkward moment when you drive your Chevy to the levy and the levy isn't dry.



This is what happens when you're drinking whiskey and rye.

Wife: I have a bag full of used clothing I'd like to donate.

Husband: Why not just throw it in the trash? That's much easier.

Wife: But there are poor starving people who can really use all these clothes.

Husband: Honey, anyone who fits into your clothing is not starving.

Husband is recovering from a head injury now

BeeGee Tips

with "Stayin' Alive"
BeeGee **Barry Gibb**



DON'T throw away that empty After Eights box. It can be used to store square teabags. Circular tea bags can be stored in an empty Pringles tube, and the pyramid ones in the carton that those big Toblerones come in, the ones you can get at airports.



Have a nice week

Tain