



The Ramble 362 - 13/06/21

The Ramble

The next Ramble will be Number 363 on Sunday 20th June 2021.

Then 364 on Sunday 27th June, 365 on Sunday 4th July and 366 on Sunday 11th July.

Thank you for all the kind words after my note last week about pausing the Ramble until I can get abroad again. I will give it further consideration.

Interesting Video

A film on US Railroad Distributed Power. Worth a watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M9pErSaElk>

He talks about Distributed Power in the very first part of the film. At 02:45 there is a shot of a weedkilling train which is like nothing I have seen in Europe. When you think about it, why not? Then we are back to shots of a train with Distributed Power. Certainly the first part of the film is worth a view and the man presenting the film does have a very good media friendly voice.

What I do like about the Distributed Power is that the front loco can be powered down as it crests a hill whilst the loco in the middle can continue to power until it crests the hill.

06:15 - Who says US trains run slow?

Again there is the ability to watch this You Tube film with subtitles.

On You Tube in the bottom right, there is a white rectangle with "c c" in it. This turns on subtitles/captions. To the right of that, there is the usual gear wheel for Settings. That includes an option for subtitles / closed captions which (for me) shows "English (auto-generated)". You can change that option to auto-translate and then pick your language.





Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

ICNG-B Arrives In Belgium For Tests



Photo by Helen Stevenson of 3301 sat in the yard at Schaarbeek.

On delivery - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2Whv0wGu7s>

Big news in the week was the delivery on Monday 7th June of 3301 to Belgium for tests. It was expected that the first ICNG-B would go to the Netherlands first for testing before going to Belgium. As it was, 3301 was delivered straight to Schaarbeek where it was photographed. The set was delivered by 186 384 running as Train 45580.

As many long time readers will remember there was information that NS may not proceed with the ICNG-B due to a number of factors. One of which was project risk and the risks associated with getting these ICNG-B trains homologated for Belgium. It will be interesting to see what does happen with the Benelux Trains and whether NS builds the remaining 18 sets.

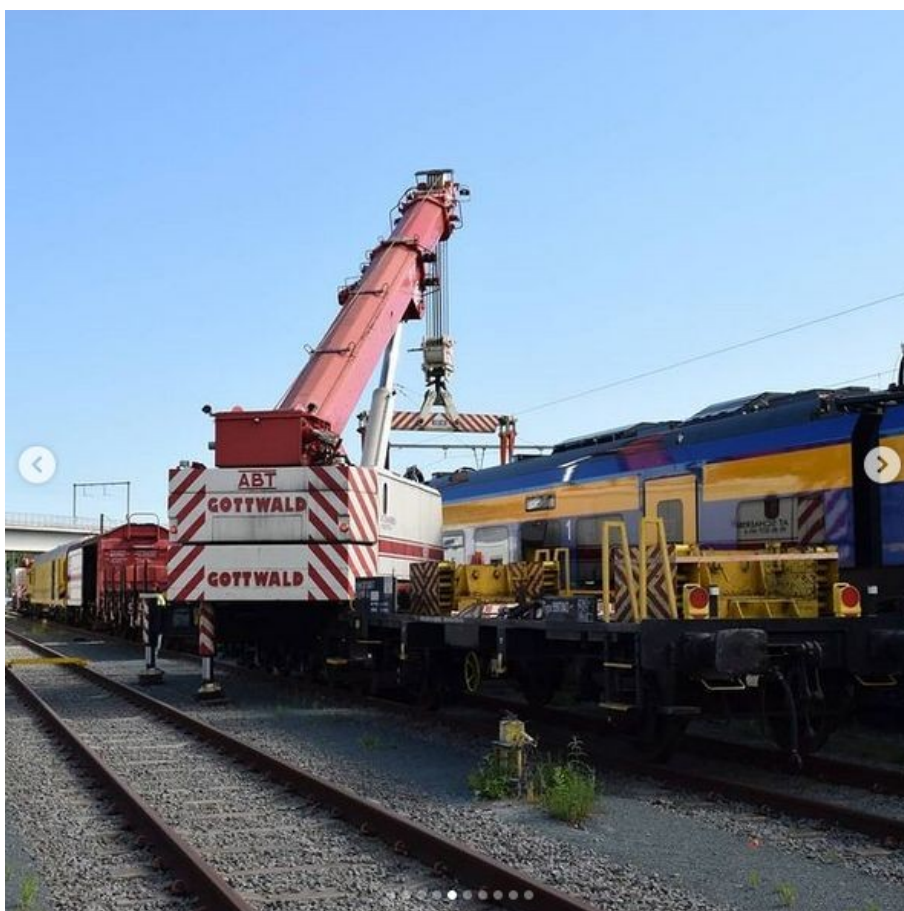
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/189256601@N07/51231369772/in/dateposted/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/break302/51232721009/>

Thank you to all the people who sent in links to photos.

These photos came from dustonrail and taken at Schaarbeek during a lifting test.

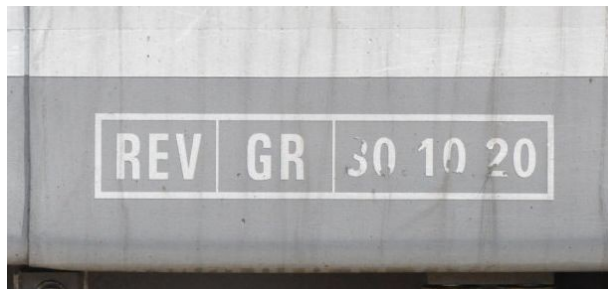
https://www.instagram.com/p/CP82ZIBnZYv/?utm_medium=copy_link



I bet when they pick these ICNG-B units up, the nose doesn't drop like it did with the FYRA units when they had a lift/recovery test!

HLE 13

Hot on the heels of 1352 is the Revision Date for 1332. Thank you to Danny who is currently at his Summer Retreat in Bertrix and spending some of his time down the station.



The reason why I collect Revision Dates is to add an element of amateur observation to the information. The only way to get the dates on the side of the locos is to see them or photograph them. The computer record is usually different.

HLD 62

Word from a strategically placed field is that 6325 is receiving the grey Rail Force One livery.

Benelux Trains Website

The useful Benelux Trains Website will be down for about two weeks due to problems with it and implementing their solutions.

Class 186

186 240 which was with Lineas is now with DB Cargo Belgium.



Photographed by Bart on Saturday 12th June working a DB Cargo train.

Electric Trains to Hamont

Firstly the Belgian Parliament passed a “Proposal for a resolution for the construction of a cross-border rail link between Hamont and Weert.” on 3rd June.

<http://tinyurl.com/7v2nnmxv>

Now all they have to do is persuade those pesky Dutch to do the work.

Discussions in the forums suggest that service trains will continue as mostly MW41 DMUs for some time. P Trains from Brussels and some Monday to Friday ICs to/from Antwerpen will be T21/T27. This is due to the lack of M7 coaches coming into service in sufficient numbers, which starts a cascade of stock and enables B-Transport to be able to release enough electric units to operate the service.

The Official start of electric services was on Thursday 10th June and used Desiro 08 006 to Hamont. You would have thought that they could have found a unit without graffiti on the nose for the “first” official train with passengers. The boss of NMBS/SNCB is the lady seen at 1:35.

<https://www.rtv.be/artikels/eerste-elektrische-trein-rijdt-tussen-mol-en-hamont-a99819>

Photos [here](#)

From tomorrow, Monday 14th June, the P-Trains Neerpelt - Mol - Brussel will not all be M4 carriages (pull-push) powered by HLE 21/27s, but a combination of I10 & M4 carriages (pull-push) with HLE 21/27s.

P7209 06:56 Neerpelt - Brussel Zuid arr 09:00

P8209 17:00 Brussel Zuid - Neerpelt arr 19:02

These IC trains will run with HLE 21/27 and M5s on working days

IC Hamont - Mol - Antwerpen

4327 06:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 07:51

4328 07:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 08:51

4331 10:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 11:51

4332 11:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 12:51

4335 14:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 15:51

4336 15:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 16:51

4339 18:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 19:51

4340 19:19 Hamont - Antwerpen Centraal arr 20:51

IC Antwerpen - Mol - Hamont

4308 08:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 09:38

4309 09:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 10:38

4312 12:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 13:38

4313 13:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr **14:41***

4316 16:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 17:38

4317 17:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 18:38

4320 20:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 21:38

4321 21:09 Antwerpen Centraal - Hamont arr 22:38

4313 sits at Mol for an extra six minutes, I presume to allow a freight train to either come from the Zinc Works or perhaps overtake the passenger train going to the Zinc Works.

Thanks to K. Smilde for some of this info via Trein Weert-België.

Mechelen Interlude

Here are some photographs taken inside Mechelen Works in May by Dirk





For those wondering where 904 is, well half of the set is here at Mechelen.

It must be very disheartening for the workers at Mechelen who spend their time at work rubbing down and painting these trains, only to see them some weeks later with graffiti on them. It must be even more disheartening to see them when they are badly graffitied and the set's home depot seems not to care.



Two unusual photos taken by Helen Stevenson at Ekeren using a drone. The first is 186 457 on a container train and the second is 6331 running light engine.



Double Deck Stock

There was another movement away of ten cars on Tuesday 8th June 2021. A nice photo [here](#) on Facebook.

NSR Units

SNG-2

Delivered - 3019

SGM

Scrapped: 2948, 2954

26 units remain in service.

Bas sent me a video in the week of a roll past Dijkdracht and there were a number of SGM units in the yard. Some were well graffitied and some looked to be new arrivals.

Class 186

186 011 has returned from Revision at Maastricht.

186 036 has gone to Maastricht for Revision.

186 121 has returned from Revision at Brugge.

186 144 is rented to Rhenus Logistics at the moment

186 148 and 186 236 are rented to HSL Netherlands.

Rail Force One

As I mentioned above in the Belgian section, 9802/6702/6325 is getting Rail Force One grey livery sometime in the near future [if it has not already been done]. Here is one last shot in orange taken by Bert Hollander at the TMA Terminal in Amsterdam on 5th July 2018.



Unit News

Steven sent in this photo of 2741 with a yellow end seen here at Oostzaan on 8th June.



As a comparison, here is 2331 with a blue end also at Oostzaan



With the driver's window and surrounding glass, the yellow end does not make that much difference. Perhaps a case of being seen to do something. Myself, I might have coloured the yellow end the same colour as the doors and bottom of the bodysides as it would have given a more complete look.

Blast From The Past

30 Years Ago TODAY!

Here is a real blast from the past for all those who know these people. Taken in a bar in Poulseur on Thursday 13th June 1991 and seen left to right are Rob Dale [who gets the Ramble], Andy Marshall, Ian Parkinson [who gets the Ramble] and Martin Fisher [who gets the Ramble]. When you think this photograph was taken 30 years ago today.



The photo was taken about half way through a fortnight around the nearest parts of Europe that Andy and Martin were doing. They did, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg and a little bit of France. Ian only did a week and Rob was out solo but ended up tagging along for part of his holiday.

It will also be noted that Martin is sporting a Heritage Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Shirt. Sponsored by Whitbread [who gave up brewing years ago] and the shirt looks to be loud enough to get you arrested, if worn in a built up area after 23:00 at night. In fact this photo was taken that long ago, that Martin retires in September!

Fairing equally well is the cafe they were sat in. They look to have been sat in the window under the "Du" in Taverne Du Chateau and the view in the background is of the hotel opposite. The road crossing has moved and the hotel appears to have extended into the shop unit that is visible above Andy's head. New windows have gone in to the Taverne Du Chateau and the window where the table is looks to have been re-opened as a doorway to the tables on the roadside.

This is the second time I have used this Blast and the first time was in June 2019. The Google Street View I used in June 2019 showed the hotel opposite was still going.



When I have come to redo this, I found the hotel has now closed and the date of the Google Street view, June 2019.....



Do you still think I could get a glass of Kriek in the Taverne today?



Other News

British Humour At It's Best



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/the-voice-of-bill-and-ben/z49cf4j> and if does not work elsewhere try this on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVpjzGeM2p4>

Robert Robinson introduces this classic interview from "Points of View" which is a long running BBC programme where viewers can write in, ask questions and make comments on BBC programmes.

Stanley Unwin [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Unwin_\(comedian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Unwin_(comedian)) was a comedian who invented his own comic language called "Unwinese". Unwinese was a corrupted form of English in which many of the words were altered in playful and humorous ways.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiPbkVljkKQ>

Peter Hawkins https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Hawkins did the voices for Bill and Ben and who, when you look at his Wikipedia page, did so much work especially in the field of voices for animation.

The Flower Pot Men?

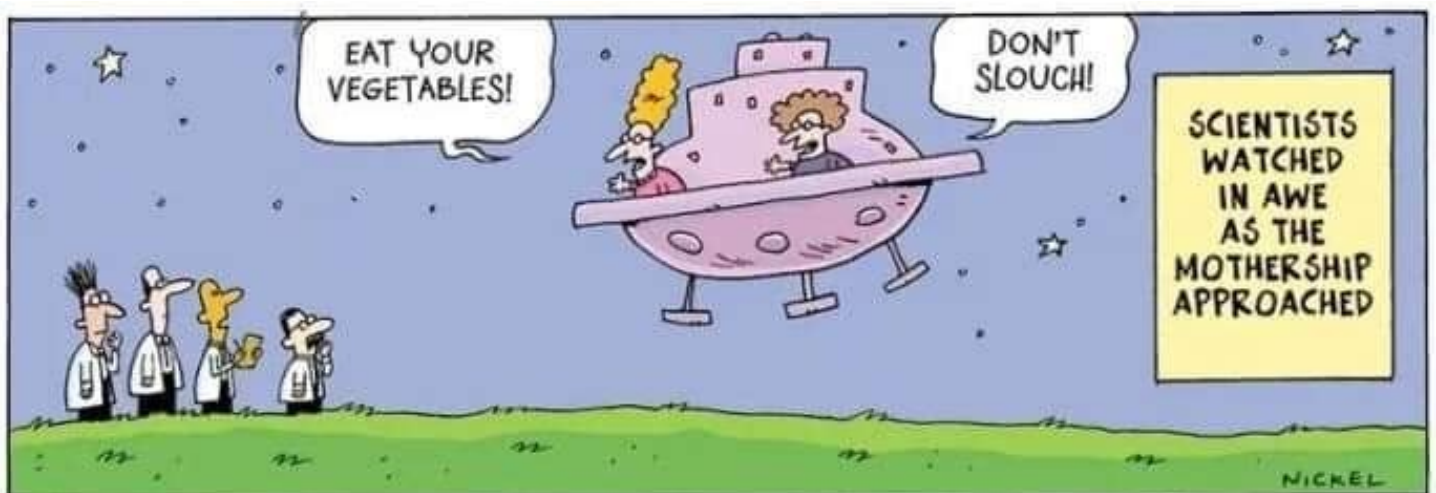
From 1953! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6zNwBTLWU>



If you like 'em low, this is **low**!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iOoiEbt2w>

[Ray Hanna](#) was the Master.



Wenn Trainspotter **hübsche Frauen** sehen:



Wenn Trainspotter **historische Züge** sehen:



Doesn't need a translation.

Mind you my eyes would have popped out if that steam loco appeared on the tracks in South London as that looks like a Connex third rail emu in the background. I think I might have said, "What the f**k is that doing here and more importantly, how the f**k has it **got** here in the first place?"

For the cognoscente https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiffany_Mulheron and I do not think she is wearing any underwear in this [photo](#)! Very Huba Huba.

Have a nice week

Tain