

WICKHAM PERSONNEL CARRIER DX68056

D Wickham & Co Ltd built many Type 27A personnel carriers at their Ware factory in Hertfordshire between 1949 and 1972. They are also referred to as Gang and Inspection Trolleys. Seventy Three in total were built for use on Eastern, London Midland, Southern & Western Regions. Wickham had a special arrangement with the British Railways Board to use the St Margarets to Buntingford branch line to test completed vehicles before delivery.

Early models of the permanent way maintenance ganger's trolley used a vee-twin JAP engine. This drove through a large flat flywheel and a friction drive. On later models a standard four-cylinder motor car engine, e.g. the Ford Anglia car 100E engine, provided power through a standard three-speed gearbox to a final chain drive transfer gearbox which included the forward and reverse selection.

The example on the Swanage Railway was out-shopped in 1956 with works number 7505. During its working life with BR, it was variously numbered PWM4302; then B41W; TR19, and finally, DX68056.

Wickham Type 27A number WD9033 was featured in the 1966 film *The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery*, filmed in part on the Longmoor Military Railway. It is believed to be preserved on the Chasewater Light Railway. D Wickham & Co finally ceased trading in 1991.

It was withdrawn from BR service and seems to have been resident at Gloddfa Ganol Museum when photographed there on 17 June 1990. Gloddfa Ganol was dedicated to the Welsh slate industry and related narrow-gauge railways. It was situated in the Oakeley slate quarry in Blaenau Ffestiniog. The museum opened to the public in 1974 but closed in 1998 following an auction of its exhibits.

DX68056 resided for a number of years on the Battlefield Line based at Shackerstone. Thereafter it moved to a private site in Poole, Dorset for restoration and, from May 2019, it has been stored at Norden.