

SR PASSENGER LUGGAGE VAN S 1234

This van was out shopped in 1936 by the Southern Railway at their Ashford Carriage Works to Diagram 3103. It was included as part of Order No.A824 which totalled 97 PMV's numbered 1154 - 1250. This South Eastern & Chatham Railway design had originated in 1919 with construction continuing under the Southern Railway until it was nationalised. The last batch of 50 was constructed by British Railways' at Wolverton Works in 1951 and, during a period of around 32 years, a total of 979 PMV's were built.

The four wheeled vehicle weighed 13 Tons and had a wheelbase of 21 feet. Roof, side and end panels were made with wooden planking and two double doors were installed on each side. It was fitted with vacuum brakes and steam heating pipes to enable it to run in SR's trains as necessary.

During the 1930s, growing numbers of passengers were carried by the Southern Railway with increased volumes of luggage. Parcels and Newspapers were also being carried on many trains. During BR 'ownership' it's description was changed to Parcels and Miscellaneous Van - presumably due to reduced amounts of luggage being carried.

It was withdrawn from BR (Southern Region) revenue-earning service in 1950. Conversion to a Mess and Tool Van for the Signals and Telecommunications Department followed. For this role it was re-numbered DS3065. Eventually it was condemned as surplus to requirements at Woking in early 1976 and then moved, with other out of service stock, to storage at Micheldever sidings.

Two Southern Steam Trust volunteers purchased it from BR and, on Monday 23rd August 1976, haulier D J Hedgman Ltd of Wool transported it from Hampshire to Swanage.

The coal/coke fire installed by BR for it's Mess Van duties came in very useful for permanent way volunteers during the early days of re-laying track on our Railway.

Originally drafted by Peter Sykes 26th February 2019
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