

December 2008 - EUROPEAN NEWS (Robert Brown)

3rd January 2009 (news up to 31st December 2008)

Germany

'Rabbit' **218163** is due withdrawal mid-way through 2009. Anyone who needs this machine would therefore be advised to get over to the Ulm area sooner rather than later. It has recently been paired with **218214** on the ICs. On the 19th DB subsidiary MEG has acquired its first 155 from its parent organisation. **155124** has been renumbered **MEG701**. The last 232 in the old DR livery was **232690**, (now **MEG318**) which was taken over by MEG earlier this year. Sadly, they've repainted it into their own DB livery variant, but it does look quite smart while the paint's fresh. On Sunday 19th **113268** arrived at Leipzig at the head of IC1933 from Oldenburg (this train is a class 112 diagram so I guess IC sector were very desperate for power all over the Country today, it returned heading IC1934 the 16:02 Leipzig to Oldenburg (Oldb) On the 23rd December **218836** worked RE14307 the 11:47 Hannover to Bad Harzburg and was later noted again leaving Hannover, this time with RE14245 the 18.16 to Braunschweig. Later **ES64U2061+ES64U2067** worked IC1911 in a pair. These Dispolok locos show up as class 117 on DB systems. Boxing day found **232524** heading D449 the 20:48 Berlin Gesundbrunnen to Warszawa which it did as far as Kostrzyn. The following day the ICE situation had got no better and this is best illustrated by the use of class 120 electrics on 'substitute' IC services, those noted are as follows, **120159** heading IC79663 0618 Frankfurt to Leipzig, **120125+120149** 'top 'n' tail' on IC73929 the 06:58 Warnemunde to Nurnberg, **120144+120126** 'top 'n' tail' IC73930 the 09:37 Nurnberg to Berlin Gesundbrunnen, **120132** leading IC79667 the 10:22 Frankfurt Sud to Leipzig, 120102+120142 'top 'n' tail' with IC73931 the 11:40 Berlin Gesundbrunnen to Munchen and **120141** powering IC79658 the 11:54 Dresden to Wiesbaden. On the 27th **120154** worked EC101 from Hamburg Harburg to Basel SBB which is not so frequent and makes a change from all those ICE substitute services!

France

Noted out on the 18th were **72168** on train 1047 the 16:41 Paris Est to Mulhouse, which was 50 late starting out, **67570** on train 47768 the 18:06 Beauvais to Creil, **66450** powering train 47770 the 18:45 Beauvais to Creil and **67606** hauling train 47765 the 19:03 Creil to Beauvais. Christmas day saw **26113** work train 5990 the 19:29 Clermont-Ferrand to Paris Lyon, this loco is allocated to Fret Swing (the new wagon-load network), but was loaned for this working.

Luxembourg

Workings from the 21st included SNCF's **26152** heading EC296 the 06:48 Bassel SBB to Brussels Midi, into Luxembourg with SNCB's **2007** taking over here, **3011** did RB5708 the 08:50 Luxembourg to Kleinbettingen, **3007** powering IR110 the 09:15 Luxembourg to Liers, **4020** heading RB4709 the 09:20 Luxembourg to Athus, **4009** leading IR3710 the 10:15 Luxembourg to Troisverges, **4010** hauling RB4710 the 10:20 Luxembourg to Athus and DB's **181223** starting out IC335 the 10:24 Luxembourg to Norddeich Mole as far as Koblenz Hbf.

Belgium

On the 15th December **2514** was noted on P7283 the 07:44 Aarschot to Antwerp Berchem, **2344** worked P8215 the 16:36 Antwerp Noorderdokken to Aarschot (then ECS to Hasselt) and **2604** did P8281 the 17:09 Antwerp Noorderdokken to Aarschot. The following day **2358** headed P8066 the 15:40 Brussels Midi to Gent St Pieters, **2342** worked P8092 the 16:05 Brussels Midi to Dendermonde, **2224** turned out on P8511 the 16:06 Schaarbeek to Tournai, **2503** powered P8067 the 16:40 Brussels Midi to Denderleeu, **2345** headed P8741 the 17:00 Schaarbeek to Binche, **2347** handled P8906 the 17:05 Schaarbeek to Oudenaarde, **2372** topped P8095 the 17:12 Brussels Midi to Dendermonde and **2369** did P8010 the 17:32 Schaarbeek to St Niklaas. On Christmas Eve **2118** was noted heading P8349 the 16:28 Schaarbeek to Tongeren, **2377** worked P8215 the 16:36 Antwerp Noorderdokken to Aarschot 16:36 Antwerp Noorderdokken to Aarschot and **2335** handled P8281 the 17:09 Antwerp Noorderdokken to Aarschot.

Spain

The museum in Madrid has been closed since a storm damaged the building in September 2008 and current studies indicate that the exhibits may have to be moved out to allow reconstruction of the fabric. The recorded message and website hopefully predict reopening early in 2009 but this seems highly unlikely as the work could take some time.

Switzerland

Workings from Boxing day included **11185** with the 09:12 Zurich to Chur, **11314** hauling the 10:09 Zurich to Locarno, **420160** powering the 11:12 Zurich to Chur, **11251** heading the 14:44 Spiez to Wimmis, **BLS165** topping the 15:09 Spiez to Interlaken Ost and **465018** leading the 18:28 Brig to Geneva Airport. Meanwhile **185525+185527** were seen on S1 stock, stabled at Spiez.

15th December 2008 (news up to 13th December 2008)

Germany

Before the beginning of the winter timetable, Dortmund secured the services of **110284 & 110329** which were transferred to Braunschweig depot. Noted out on Saturday the 6th were **110504** leading RB29155 the 22:07 Dortmund to Soest and **110493** heading RB39240 2235 Dortmund-Munster. The following day, **ÖBB's 1016006** handled IC2320 the 05:42 Frankfurt to Hamburg Altona (currently booked for a 1116), **110414** did RB29127 the 08:07 Dortmund to Soest, **110457** hauled RB39212 the 08:35 Dortmund to Munster and **110493** powered RB39214 the 09:35 Dortmund to Munster. Later in the day the 'Rabbits' came out to play with **218329** on RE21418 the 13:05 Hamburg to Kiel, **218491** heading RB21368 the 13:09 Hamburg to Ahrensburg, **218103** bringing home RB21421 the 14:07 Lubeck to Hamburg, **218454** powering RE21424 the 16:05 Hamburg to Lubeck, **218464** topping RB21494 the 16:20 Hamburg to Ahrensburg, **218105** hauling RB21330 the 18:39 Hamburg to Bad Oldesloe and **218399** at the helm of RB21332 the 19:39 Hamburg to Bad Oldesloe. On the 13th **101145** headed IC2377 the 12:30 Ostseebad Binz to Frankfurt Hbf, **101054** powered IC2054 the 15:54 Frankfurt (Main) Hbf to Saarbrücken Hbf, and **110243** started IC2270 the 17:41 Saarbrücken Hbf to Kassel Wilhelmshöhe, giving way to **120134** at Frankfurt Hbf.

Holland

A big display at Alkmaar is scheduled for Saturday 16th May 2009 with new material on display and historic train shuttles by SSN and VSM, put it in your diary!

Luxembourg

The new timetable sees improved services for Diekirch with an hourly direct IR service 07:45 - 19:45 Monday to Saturday calling only at Mersch and Ettelbruck, motive power as yet is unknown (but not for long). The annual Diekirch cavalcade will be on 22nd February 2009.

Belgium

This week the executive committee of the SNCB converted its option for 60 additional Siemens locomotives (class 18) into a firm order. The price amounts to a total of 222 million euro, which is 11 million more than for the first 60. The delivery is planned for between June 2010 and April 2012.

Meanwhile the first two locomotives of the original batch have been supplied and are currently at Kinkempois depot, with the first test runs on Belgian rails planned for Monday 8th December. The new order is part of a substantial stock order of approximately 5 billion euro, consisting of 120 Electric locos, 305 Desiro, 492 M6 Dosto vehicles and 72 M6 Dosto compartment coaches. Along with the class 13 electrics and the Traxx locomotives, SNCB/NMBS will have, by 2012, 223 electric locomotives available with no more than 13 operational years behind them. Of the 347 of today's electrical locomotives 152 (44%) are older than 30 years. The oldest locomotive is **2301** which was delivered on 21st November 1955!

8th December 2008 (news up to 6th December 2008)

Germany

The 25th November saw the return to use of **212094**, withdrawn in August 2006 and recently serviced at Cottbus, it is now allocated to the DB services department. On the 27th November **V150.05** (ex DB **212161**) was delivered to SGL (Schienen Güter Logistik) GmbH, which is part of the Knape company. The locomotive has been completely re-built at Alstrom's Stendal works as a class 214, carries the UIC number 92 80 1214013-5 D- SGL and is painted in a red and silver/grey livery.

On the 1st December came the news that **204671** has again been placed into store at Saalfeld, after (again) suffering engine damage. The engine is still under warranty from its last repair, however the estimated repair date is after the locomotive's expiry date, so she has probably worked her last. Meanwhile, **298086** (fire damage), **298047** (overhaul due 01/11/08) and **298139** (overhaul due 17/11/08) have all been placed into store at Berlin Seddin.

The latest stock changes indicate that **110284/329/403** are reinstated, it also suggests that **110376/460** have been transferred to Munich, presumably this is in light of the new unit unavailability in the Augsburg area, whether that means some 110 diagrams will involve push pull sets from the timetable change is unknown. 'Rabbits' seen out on Saturday 29th November were **218450** with RE14311 the 15:47 Hannover Hbf to Bad Harzburg, **218447** leading RE14313 the 17:47 Hannover Hbf to Bad Harzburg and **218452** on RE14315 the 19:47 Hannover Hbf - Bad Harzburg. The 1st December saw **110403** leading RB24924 the 16:34 Bremen Hbf to Bremerhavn Lehe and **110466** on RB24926 17:04 Bremen Hbf to Bremerhavn Lehe. On the 3rd 232358 was seen on EC445 the 11:34 Berlin to Warsaw, (ex Gesundbrunnen). The following day OBB's **2016076** headed the 11:07 Munchen to Muhlendorf, with **218440** dead inside, **218440** then returned on its own with the 12:28 Muhlendorf to Munchen.

Portugal

Sightings from the 3rd December included **1944** heading IC690 the 08:10 Lisboa Oriente to Evora, **2628** on IC511 the 08:30 Lisboa S.A. to Guarda, **1946** leading IC592 the 09:10 Lisboa Oriente to Beja, **5603** powering IC524 the 12:52 Porto Camphana to Lisboa S.A and **1931** with IC698 the 18:44 Evora to Oriente.

France

Confirmed stock changes for December are, new **27359** Ile de France, **60067/80-83** Fret, **75094-096** Fret Renumbered **66402** to **69402** Withdrawn **8603 16650/790 17001/019/057/104 63723/917 64039 66145 72083** Transferred between activities **8576** TER Rhone Alpes to TER Bourgogne, **8599/8612** TER Languedoc Roussillon to TER Bourgogne, **8604/8632** TER Languedoc Roussillon to CIC, **8611/8642** TER Languedoc Roussillon to VFE, **8620** TER Rhone Alpes to TER Bourgogne, **8645** TER Rhone Alpes to VFE, **15037/038/039** TER Lorraine to CIC, **17002/010/030** IDF to TER Haute Normandie, **17007/038** TER Haute Normandie to IDF, **17076** IDF to TER Picardie, **17098** IDF to CIC, **25636/647/656** TER Rhone Alpes to TER Pas de Calais, **63938** Fret to Infrastructure, **63922** Infrastructure to Fret, **66315** Fret to Infrastructure, **67371/372/373** TER Centre to TER Rhone Alpes, **67423/456** TER Pas de Calais to TER Picardie, **67542** TER PACA to TER Haute Normandie, **67612** TER Aquitaine to TER Rhone Alpes, **72042** CIC to Infrastructure. Also shown is **67620** TER Aquitaine to TER Rhone Alpes but as far as I am aware 67620 never has been TER Aquitaine, so this maybe an SNCF typo.

Spain

Thursday 4th December found the following in action **333405** with train TH335 the 22:00 (Wed) Lisboa Santa Apolonia to Madrid Chamartin (from Vilar Formoso), **333404** on train TH852 the 21:45 (Wed) A Coruna to Madrid Chamartin, **334019** leading train Altaría 222 the 09:28 Madrid Chamartin to Cartagena, **252031** with Talgo 409 the 19:43 (Wed) Paris Austerlitz to Madrid Chamartin, **354001** powering train Altaría 228 the 12:40 Madrid Chamartin to Cartagena, **354008** leading train Altaría 224 the 16:29 Madrid Chamartin to Cartagena and **252037** hauling Talgo 278 the 16:42 Madrid Chamartin to Almeria. The following day **334005** worked Altaría 223 the 08:55 Cartagena to Madrid Chamartin,

334002 did Talgo 460 the 08:20 Lorca Sutullena to Montpellier and **334011** was noted spare at Murcia del Carmen.

2nd December 2008 (news up to 30th November 2008)

Germany

The DB Museum locomotive 103245 is diagrammed to work the following trains:

78820 02.58 Nürnberg München 04.58 *ECS Tue-Fri

2492 05.31 München Nürnberg 07.27 Tue-Fri

2493 09.31 Nürnberg München 11.11 Tue-Fri 2490 16.37 München Nürnberg 18.28 Tue-Thu

2494 13.40 Nürnberg Leipzig 18.46 Fridays

2497 10.16 Leipzig Nürnberg 13.36 Saturdays

2496 15.37 Nürnberg Leipzig 18.46 Saturdays

2495 18.16 Leipzig München 23.36 Sundays

DB site quotes these trains until the timetable change mid December, no guarantee 103245, only if available

Thursday 20th saw **110320** on RE4092 the 14:48 Mannheim to Trier, **110430** heading the 16:06 Frankfurt to Heidelberg and **110300** throughout on RE12130 the 16:08 Frankfurt to Mannheim, which was very pleasant once all the commuters had bailed around Bingen. On Monday 24th **232403+234551** worked into Berlin at the head of EC446 the 07:25 Warsaw to Berlin and **232014** powered EC445 the 11:34 Berlin to Warsaw. Meanwhile the last 'orientrot' liveried class 218 diesel in service, **218156**, is seeing its final days out before storage working in and out of Ulm, on the 24th it headed IC118, the 09:10 Innsbruck to Münster (Westf) Hbf, which it had taken over at Lindau on time at 12:02.

Switzerland

Tuesday the 18th found **11145** heading IC598 the 19:09 Chur to Zurich vice a class 460, **11140** powering IR792 the 19:16 Chur to Basel also vice a class 460 and **11154** topping IC168 the 19:10 Buchs to Zurich. The following day **11301** did IR2908 the 06:21 Luzern to Zurich, **11204** lead IR560 the 07:34 Zurich to Basel, **420160 (11160)** topped IR2259 the 08:31 Zurich to Chiasso, **11173** headed IR566 the 09:34 Zurich to Basel, **11116** powered EC163 the 09:40 Zurich to Wien, **11108** hauled IR2419 the 11:40 Luzern to Romanshorn, **11115** handled IR2421 the 12:40 Luzern to Romanshorn and **11112** did EC174 the 19:05 Zurich to Shaffhausen. Moving on to Friday 21st Cargo lok **11251** headed RE3318 the 08:57 Luzern to Bern, which was capped at Langnau due to problem with the line with buses operating to/from Konolfingen. However further Cargo lok **11187** continued RE3318 from Konolfingen but didn't wait for the bus to arrive! Another cargo lok in passenger action on this day was **11252** which did RE3040 the 11:37 Bern to Neuchatel. Action from the RhB on Saturday 22nd included **617** with RE1244 13:42 Scuol to Disentis, **616** on RE1252 the 15:42 Scuol to Disentis and **611** hauling RE1256 the 16:42 Scuol to Disentis. In the opposite direction **618** headed RE1253 the 13:45 Disentis to Scuol, **619** powered RE1261 the 15:45 Disentis to Scuol, **621** handled RE1257 the 14:45 Disentis to Scuol and **624** worked RE1265 the 16:45 Disentis to Scuol. A big working occurred on the 28th when **420160 (11160)** was seen out on IR2177 the 14:04 Basel to Luzern.

Italy

Observations from Thursday 20th included **E656497** leading EC109 the 07:04 Basel to Milano Centrale (from Chiasso), **E656562** on R2523 the 14:20 Milano Centrale to Albenga, **E656555** powering R2039 the 17:05 Milano Centrale to Livorno Centrale, **E656593** leading R2534 the 14:14 Albenga to Milano Centrale and **E656580** with R2192 the 17:45 Genova Piazza Principe to Milano Centrale.