



The Ramble

576 of 6th July 2026



Monday 13th July	[577]
Monday 20th July	Holiday [Tomorrowland]
Monday 27th July	Holiday [Tomorrowland]
Monday 5th August	[578]
Monday 10th August	[579]
Monday 17th August	Holiday
Monday 24th August	Holiday
Monday 31st August	Holiday
Wednesday 9th September	[580]
Monday 14th September	[581]
Monday 21st September	Holiday [Innotrans]
Monday 27th September	Holiday

Aad has written in

"On July 30, 1987 I took this photo but neglected to write down where it was exactly. I was in the Falkirk area that morning and later drove by car to Fort William to take the steam train to Mallaig and back. Presumably the photo was taken somewhere on the way to Fort William, after I had stopped the car.

Would you like to place this photo in the Ramble and ask the readers if they have more information about this ex-railway wagon? Where was this? Does this still exist?

I am very curious,
Thanks, and greetings from Aad de Meij



For The Diary 2026

If you know of an event, let me know and I will put it here.

Tomorrowland - Two Weekends in July 2026 - [See Below](#)

Chemin de fer à vapeur des 3 vallées [CFV3V] - July 17th

On Friday 17th July there is a photographic event at the CFV3V.

Chemin du fer du Bocq - August 15th & 16th

The 2026 Festival is just Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th with the Photo Safari on Friday 14th. The main themes of this year's event are the renewal of the railway line and 100 years of NMBS/SNCB. Special attention will be given to the renovated Spontin station, now expanded to three tracks, as well as the station works in Bauche.

They hope to be able to present a large number of NMBS/SNCB railway vehicles during the event.

I have given the Organiser some suggestions. You can be proactive or start asking questions on Facebook a month before the Gala.

Pukkelpop - Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd August

Sometimes there are extra trains and it is always busy in the Hasselt area.

European Railtours 28th & 29th August 2026

Two days of tours based in Rotterdam with a short Friday tour and a full days tour on Saturday. RailExperts are again facilitating the tour. Booked my hotel.

Friday 28 August 2026

We anticipate a mid-afternoon departure from Rotterdam Centraal, with our train expected to be hauled by a modern electric freight locomotive along the freight-only Havenlijn towards Maasvlakte. A diesel locomotive is also expected to provide assistance at both Maasvlakte and Europoort.

Saturday 29 August 2026

Our train, top and tailed by classic electric locomotives provided by Railexperts, will depart from Rotterdam Centraal and travel south west to the end of the line at Vlissingen. From there, we will retrace our route to Goes, where a further reversal will allow access to the Sloehaven branch.

We have specifically requested that one of the two electric locomotives is a former RRF Class 1600 locomotive 4401 or 4402, both of which are now part of the Railexperts fleet.

Once the full operating plan has been confirmed, we will provide a further update via our mailing list, website, and Facebook page.

Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo - 5508 Running day - 20th September 2026

<https://stoomtreinmaldegem.be/nl/evenementen-2026/20-september-2026-rij-mee-met-de-5508/>

De Lijn - Antwerpen PCC Tram Event - 26th September 2026

Farewell to the PCC event in Antwerpen.

Open Day at Mechelen and Salzinnes Works - Sunday 4th October 2026

Both works have an Open Day on 4th October 2026.

Tomorrowland Two Weekends In July 2026

There are three trains running to Antwerpen Centraal.

Düsseldorf: Lineas TRAXX + 4 i11B + 1 WGmz + 3 i118 [Short Set]

Amsterdam: Lineas TRAXX + 3 i11B + 1 i10WR + 6 i11B + 1 WGmz + 3 i11B (Long Set)

Paris: HLE 18F + 4 i11B + i10SR + 3 i11B (French Set)

The TRAXX are Lineas F140 which will be drawn out of the pool at Antwerpen.

The HLE 18 will be drawn out of the Oostende Pool used for the Quigo Trains.

The I11 coaches are currently being stickered up into Tomorrowland livery.

Wednesday 15th & 22nd

Fresh TRAXX Locomotive off Antwerpen Noord to Schaarbeek.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Amsterdam Centraal.

13401 09:47 Amsterdam Centraal – Brussel Zuid [does **NOT** stop in Ant] [short set?]

Thursday 16th & 23rd

Suspect that the previous day's train locomotive sits at Schaarbeek on the short set.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Düsseldorf (via Emmerich?).

13404 10:08 Düsseldorf Hbf – Antwerpen Centraal (via Emmerich?) [short set?]

ECS to Schaarbeek.

Fresh TRAXX Locomotive off Antwerpen Noord to Schaarbeek.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Amsterdam Centraal.

13405 09:47 Amsterdam Centraal – Antwerpen Centraal [long set?].

ECS to Schaarbeek. Then a tea time light engine movement from Schaarbeek to Antwerpen Noord which **may** convey both locomotives.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Paris Nord. Locomotive shunt released at Paris Nord.

19501 10:06 Paris Nord – Antwerpen Centraal.

ECS to Schaarbeek via run round at Luchtbal.

Monday 20th & 27th

There is one very early morning light engine movement from Antwerpen Noord to Schaarbeek which **may** convey both TRAXX locomotives.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Antwerpen.

13403 09:24 Antwerpen Centraal - Düsseldorf Hbf [short set?] (via Emmerich)

ECS from Düsseldorf Hbf to Schaarbeek (via Venlo).

ECS from Schaarbeek to Antwerpen.

13406 15:31 Antwerpen Centraal – Amsterdam Centraal [long set?].

ECS from Amsterdam Centraal to Schaarbeek.

Then a midnight light engine movement from Schaarbeek to Antwerpen Noord which **may** convey both TRAXX locomotives.

ECS from Schaarbeek to Antwerpen.

15xxx 09:45 Antwerpen Centraal – Paris Nord. Locomotive shunt released at Paris Nord.

ECS Paris Nord - Schaarbeek

Everything then repeats on Wednesday 22nd July with the same footprint.

Why the imbalance with three trains going there and only two going back? I don't know but the same thing happened last year and it confused the f**k out of me.

Why do the trains not run to Boom near where the event is actually held? I do not know but there may be overhead power supply problems, track capacity problems or the station is not suitable for long trains. It is double track to Boom but single track going forward from there. If the Puurs Avoiding Line [Line 61] had been commissioned then trains may have been able to drop off in Boom and run forwards to Mechelen.

I have seen two sets of instructions and the border crossing of the Düsseldorf train is different in both.

So far the following are available for stickering

12807, 12808, 12809, 12811, 12814, 12815, 12820, 12831, 12840, 12841, 12846, 12859, 12860, 12863, 12864, 12865, 12869, 12870, 12878, 12885, 12887 & 12900 with a further four to be identified.

17903
16005

Hired bar carriages will come in next week.

There are not many railway organisations that can afford to have this number of fairly modern coaches sat around. I suspect that some of them were for the Brussel Zuid - Paris trains that have not run. There were supposed to be five trains in each direction per day and there are only three. Still waiting is the Liège - Köln service to provide stock for which I understood was to be M7s.



Belgische Nachrichten Nouvelles belges Belgisch Nieuws

Schaarbeek Interlude

Bruno Malfait sent in these photographs of Schaarbeek on 3rd July 2026.

The first is off 7730 and 7790 at rest in the Infrabel locomotive area at Schaarbeek. Both locomotives are in service with TUC Rail. I do think that this blue livery suits the HLR 77/78s.



Here are withdrawn 2739 and 2749 sat in the sun awaiting their last trip to the scrapyard.



Photography on Belgian Stations

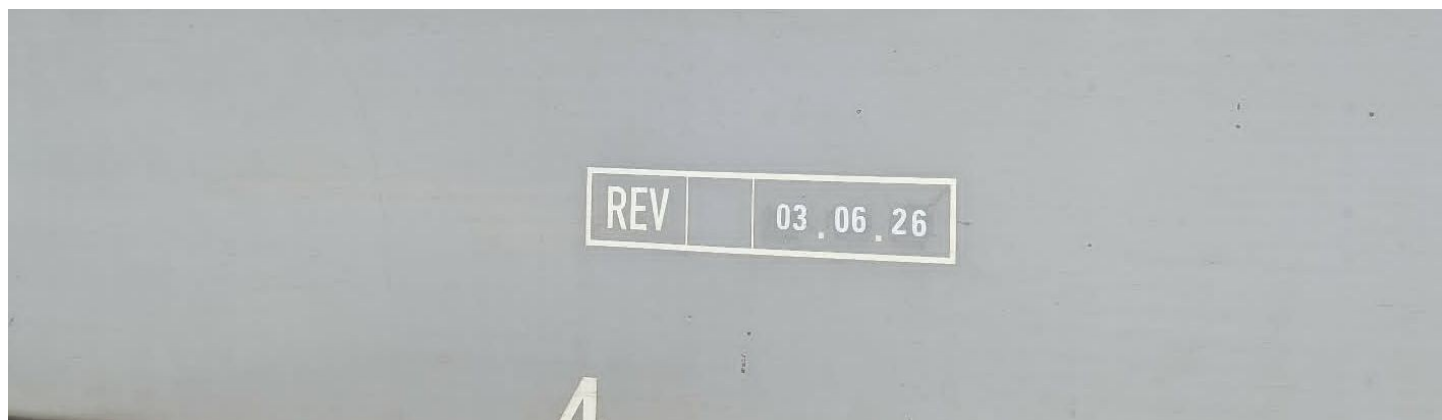
<https://www.belgiantrain.be/nl/about-sncb/contact/shootings>

Via this link you can ask permission for trainspotting in stations, the SNCB will send a .pdf file back that you need to sign and send back. Then you will receive another document that gives you permission to take pictures on the platforms.

HLE 18

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on 1841, 1843#, 1847 & 1924 [# In Salzinnes Works].

The Revision date on 1845, thank you to Nathan van Riet!



HLE 28/29/186

Interested in the Revision dates on 186 256, 186 348, 186 446 & 186 447.

Richard Eizens sent this one in from Antwerpen Noord of the Revision date on 186 454.



PFT/TSP News

The work to bring locomotive 5519 back into service is progressing steadily at the PFT workshop in St-Ghislain. The main generator has been repaired and re-installed in the engine room, and the roofs and cooling unit were re-installed last Monday. We are slowly approaching the end of repairs...

Here is 6289, 5519 and 5540 out in the sunshine at St Ghislain. Someone did post on Facebook asking if there were any plans for 6289. Someone did answer but it translated as gobbledegook (I think it is mechanical problems and money to fix them).



M7

76136 is about to enter service and is seen here at Schaarbeek. It will be the last M7 driving trailer to enter service.

Photo by Nathan



Class 1600



Through a very welcome tip, I was told that this train was about to depart from Zwolle in the direction of Amersfoort an hour ago. So I had some time to find a spot for a picture. I actually had another place in mind, but this one was unreachable due to roadworks/closure. But this is a nice alternative, right?

Apparently this is a trip for Prorail, and it goes from Zwolle, via Amersfoort and Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden and Holland Spoor to Rotterdam. So whoever wants him in the picture can stand by the track.

Photograph and words by Iwan Bögels 30th June 2026 and posted to Rail Magazine.nl fotogroep on Facegroup.

I do know of one person and 1618s is his last 1600/1800/1700 all time.



Oude NS Treinen

Vincent Smit · 19h · 🌐



The 9904 of Rail Experts is in Hoorn tonight and will perform a shuttle service between Hoorn and Enkhuizen for the Bello festival this weekend.

🔗 · [See original](#) · [Rate this translation](#)



👍 118 💬 8 📌



NS Units



3214's first test rides were on Tuesday 30th June 2026. Seen here at Zwolle in a photograph by Mark Broekhans.

ICNG

In Service are 78 examples. As with all things ICNG, "Service" is open to interpretation.

ICNG-5	3101, 3102, 3103,	3105,	3107, 3108, 3109, 3110 [8]
	3111,	3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120 [9]	
	3121,	3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130 [9]	
	3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140 [10]		
	3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149 [9]		
ICNG-8	3201,	3205, 3206,	3209 [4]
	3211, 3212,	3214,	3219, 3220 [4]
	3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227 [7]		
ICNG-B		3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310 [7]	
	3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320 [10]		
	3321 [1]		

In Commissioning/Acceptance/Testing are 3214, 3351 & 3352.

3136 returned to Watergraafmeer on Monday 29th June after for retrofit work.
3201 went into passenger service on 30th June.
3214 arrived on Sunday 28th June and was out on test on Tuesday 30th June.
3225 is at Alstom Brugge for retrofit work.
3308 is out of service due to fire damage in the toilet on 16th May 2026.

VIRM

Reformed: 8633

Returned to Service: 9406

8633 hit a truck loaded with pears on a level crossing at Meteren on 30th October 2025. The leading mBvk1 290 8565 was severely damaged and derailed with one bogie. 8633 was originally reformed and returned to service with the damaged Bvk1 car 290 8565 being initially replaced by mBvk1 car 290 8511 from 9406.

9406 had been at Haarlem Works for low voltage cable revision since 15th September 2025.

In June 8633 returned again to Haarlem where the mBvk1 car 290 8511 was returned to 9406.

8633 then gained mBvk1 car 290 8509 (from 9405) which has been repaired following the damage it sustained in the accident on 04-04-2023 near Voorschoten.

Both 8633 and 9406 then returned to service.

DM 90

This was photographed possibly last Tuesday [30th June] of SD85-006 on fire. Apparently there have been a number of fires in the recent heatwave and SD85-009 is also out of action.



Class 600

Last year RailPro started doing track works for GVB in Amsterdam and 2026 brings part two of these works. In preparation, two gronks were transferred from Crailo to Amsterdam on Friday 3rd July 2026.

This year 603 and 607 are to assist with the works. 607 worked last year and 603 replaces the unfortunate 606 in 2026. 603 was retrieved a few weeks ago from Amsterdam Westhaven and has had the required yellow fronts applied at Crailo.

On Friday 3rd July 603 was loaded on the specialized trailer of De Haan Transport and moved to Amsterdam. Here are some pictures I was able to take of it.

Photograph by Iwan Bögels and posted to Oude NS Treinen on Facebook





Blast From The Past



Here is Luxembourg National Monument in service on 21st September 2008. On that day I had 1604 on:-

10:15 Luxembourg – Troisvierges
11:45 Troisvierges – Luxembourg
14:15 Luxembourg – Troisvierges
15:45 Troisvierges – Luxembourg



Belgian Can Can

51 / 144



This week it is the turn of 2127 to be the Can Can.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/laufbe/4220468958>

Photograph taken in May 1999 of 2127 at Liège Guillemins by Laufbe. In this scene the only things that are left are the buildings and hills in the background and 2383 which has been preserved by Trainworld. The dive under has gone and use of a banker at Liège Guillemins has stopped as well.

It is likely that 2127 was scrapped in Poland in Quarter 1 of 2026.



Other News

Red card? No worries.

He used the Trump card 🤔🤔😭😭😭😭





BigJobber

5h · Crash · The Primitives ·



Don't put your feet on the dash !! !!

Feet up on the dash, airbags could make your hips go smash! (Or worse) [See less](#)



635



185



212





**If we're going to
ban social media
for under 16's to
protect their mental
health, shouldn't we
ban the Daily Mail
for the over 60's for
the same reason?**





If you believe the planet is billions of years old, I can prove you wrong with just one question: 🙏

Where were the dinosaurs in the Bible age?

The Bible did not mention it for once and the Bible is dated back to the beginning of time 🤔

30

35

102



Replying to

For fuck's sake... Where does the Bible mention kangaroos? I can go down to my local zoo and show you a kangaroo, which immediately invalidates your theory that if it wasn't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't exist.

the Bash Mash

C Lee

Go to work or Call in Sick..





Have a nice week

Iain