

SR PARCELS & MISCELLANEOUS VAN S1248

PMV S1248 was built in December 1935 at Southern Railway's Ashford Carriage & Wagon 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. During a period of around 32 years a total of 979 PMV's were built.

S1248 had 22 years of revenue earning service before being withdrawn in July 1957 entering Departmental Service re-numbered ADS161. Primarily it was used as a mess van for the Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineers Department. A solid fuel stove was installed in one corner as part of this change of use. Unaccountably ADS161 was pictured at Watford Junction, on 10th July 1976, apparently coupled to a Chipman's Weedkilling Train.

Latterly it became a store at Selhurst Depot from where it was withdrawn. It was moved to sidings at Basingstoke to await transfer to a scrap merchant or purchase by a heritage railway. On Saturday 28th May 1983, it was noted amongst a total of 44 condemned vehicles.

It was purchased in February 1984 and moved to the Kent & East Sussex Railway. Apparently the original intention had been to ground the body at Rolvenden to act as a static store. The underframe and wheels were to carry the body of one of KESR's former London, Chatham and Dover Railway carriages. Fortunately, this proposal was not carried out and it became numbered 80 in the K&ESR stock list. At some stage it was moved to Robertsbridge on the Rother Valley Railway.

It was sold to the Swanage Railway and moved during late 1999. Since arrival it was refurbished and repainted in BR Crimson with yellow lettering.

Information collated by Peter Sykes 4th October 2021