

SR PARCELS & MISCELLANEOUS VAN S1628

Parcels & Miscellaneous Van (PMV) S1628 was built in 1950 at two British Railways Carriage & Wagon Workshops. S1628 was part of order number A3590 (Total of 111 vans) to the usual PMV design diagram 3103. All 111 underframes were constructed at Ashford and, as a means of getting them into traffic quickly, the construction of bodies and equipping them was split amongst Ashford, Eastleigh and Lancing. S1628 was finished at the latter's works being outshopped in a plain Crimson Lake livery.

A further method of speeding production included side and end bodywork planking being replaced with plywood. The doors retained planking to give them strength. From mid-1956, BR decreed that all PMV repaints were to be in BR(S) passenger green. From June 1966, BR blue was selected but it took many years before green disappeared from the remaining PMV's.

In November 1963, under design diagram 3104, S1628 (joined by 1613, 1618, 1562 and 1576) was converted into a 'Security Van' for the transportation of bullion.

BR withdrew its Parcel Collection and Delivery service in June 1981 which led to a huge withdrawal of parcels vehicles from service. Prior to this, in July 1980, S1628 had been withdrawn and transferred to Internal User Service gaining the number 083394. It spent some time as a static stores van at Southampton Up Yard and nearby Redbridge.

S1628 was purchased for preservation at the East Somerset Railway (ESR). Checking the RCTS Preserved Coaching Stock of British Railways Amendment Sheet Number 65 (September/October 2003) lists 083394 as having had BR number S1638 so it is not clear where their information came from. It seems highly likely that this was merely a typographical error.

In July 2002, steam loco 30075 was moved from Swanage to the ESR for overhaul and restoration to steaming condition. S1628 was used to store components during the restoration process which saw 30075 steaming in 2004.

As its storage duties were over S1628 reached Swanage in July 2004.