

34067 Tangmere

Unrebuilt 'Battle of Britain' Class Locomotive

These locomotives were introduced in 1945 by the Southern Railway to a design by Oliver Bulleid. Oliver Vaughan Snell Bulleid, CBE was born at Invercargill, New Zealand on 19th September 1882. He became the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway and Southern Region of British Rail, 1937-1949.

Tangmere, named after the military airfield in Sussex, is therefore a Battle of Britain class locomotive, completed at the Southern Railway's Brighton works in September 1947 and given the number 21C167. This unusual number is based on the 'continental' system of numbering locomotives as favoured by Bulleid. The first three characters indicate the wheel arrangement thus 2 leading axles, 1 trailing axle, and six (C) driving wheels. The last three digits indicate the series 1(00) 'Light Pacifics' of which Tangmere is the 67th built, so 167. Following the nationalisation of Britain's railways Tangmere was renumbered 34067 in July 1949.

During its time in service Tangmere worked out of sheds at Stewarts Lane (London), Salisbury and finally Eastleigh. After covering almost 700,000 miles, Tangmere was withdrawn from service on 16 November 1963. The following March the decision was made to begin breaking up several `Light Pacifics` stored at Eastleigh. However, before Tangmere was broken up, Eastleigh choose to send withdrawn locomotives to private scrapyards instead and in April 1965 Tangmere was moved to Woodhams Bros scrapyard in Barry, South Wales.

Then owned by the late Brian Pickett, Tangmere moved to the Mid-Hants Railway in Hampshire for restoration in January 1981. However, most of the restoration has taken place in recent years at the Ian Riley engineering works at Bury, Lancashire. Finally, early in 2003 Tangmere was returned to steam on the East Lancs Railway, followed by a period of main line running until its withdrawal in 2016. The locomotive was returned to steam in October 2021 following an overhaul where it was fitted with the boiler from 34073 249 Squadron. Its Main Line service resumed in January 2022 when it hauled the Winter Cumbrian Mountain Express. Tangmere is currently part of the West Coast Railway collection based at Carnforth,

(from the excursion route guide, by David Hughes)