

## **STARS**

### **THE PARIS & NORTH WEST FRANCE TOUR REPORT**

**Thursday 7th to Monday 11th August, 2008**

**Narrative by Rob Tusler**

**Numeric by Mark Foster**

This was a tour I was looking forward to as the other two that I booked on, had been cancelled. The first part of the day I spent on Ealing Broadway looking for freight but saw only 3-4 and the rest of the time on London Bridge, which I had never done before. There was a constant stream of units - I couldn't put my pen down. I had a meal in Leicester Square as Adrian says the food is not all that palatable on Sea France. The coach arrived virtually on time with quite a few people being picked up at Waterloo Station. There was much trepidation whether we would get round the depots. The tour had a very good start as we had a good 75 minutes at the Services. We left on time with Adrian filling in as a relief driver.

We arrived at the Port in good time for the ferry. I can't seem to remember much about the crossing as it was quite smooth. Our first call was to be Creil where we had a couple of locations, the first being the station where an express working into Paris was observed, also two freights passed through as well. The Yard contained 10 y Shunters. The next location was Creil Petite Therain where nine locos were stabled, although one of the class 67 was a problem to identify. After 90 mins. drive we arrived at Moulin Neuf P.W. Yard where five Y's were jotted down, also the waon works cat was spotted. On the way to Paris Sud Ouest we passed Les Joncherolles where several locos were stabled. At Paris Sud Ouest we had a view of the depot from the bridge where apart from the passing rer trains the Shunters were moving the coaching stock about. We arrived at Chapelle next, where we had a guide who took us around the depot. It had plenty of class 15 locos awaiting their next turn of duty, also a fair number of class 6100 units and the preserved electric 40110. The next port of call was at La Villette depot which is run down now but still with a fair few main line locos stabled about the depot, also a fair bit of traffic going into Gare de Est with several new units being observed. We had early arrival at the Hotel and did not have long to wait for the keys to the rooms. Everybody then went on their own way for the remainder of the day. I myself went to Villeneuve St Georges station for the freight, but only saw 4-5. The only one of note being a pair of new class 60 locos. One could see passing from the train that there were between 60-70 locos stabled at the Depot.

On Saturday as a result of my alarm clock not going off I awoke at 7.00 am, and when I got to breakfast it was like a rugby scrum. Unfortunately for Adrian there were no eggs. We left on time and our first port of call was Villeneuve St Georges depot where after a few minutes wait we were given a guide to take us round. Normally we don't get a guide to take us around. He took us around in a very unusual way. We started in the round house and finished in the round house. We saw much passing freight as we were going round. I don't recall how many locos there were. After we had finished we went to the yard - there were a few shunters stabled and also a diesel unit in the middle of a freight train. We also tried to identify seco rail locos in the yard adjacent but it was too far to identify them. Next stop was Valenton where there was at least twenty locos stabled. Next up was Torcy, a new location for me. Only z units were stabled and a lot of numbers were obscured as other units were covering them. Next was Vaires Gare where besides the rer units stabled, two class 75 was passing on a oil train. The next location was Vaires stabling point which had two sides with the yard in the middle. There were three spare staff but unfortunately we were told to come back on Monday .There were several locos stabled - a Sybic in freight livery and 62432 was stored here. On the way to Drancy we passed through Villemoble which is twinned with Droylesden . Only four Y's and a class 27 were present. Not far to our next location which was Le Bourget, which contained lots of locomotives, so we drove over to the depot. We asked the depot foreman and he let us around. Whilst we were leaving we came across two stars members, one being the Scotsman Gordon Macleod. I got off the coach at Le Bourget station to do my own thing. I went to see if there was any freight either passing the station or over the

line south at the Paris Nord end, but nothing was forthcoming. I spent time at Paris Gare Nord seeing what was on the Paris Nord -Laon services.

On Sunday morning we left on time for Acheres depot via Pontoise. We had problems reaching Pontoise as cars were parked in the tight streets. As we approached the station only rer units about apart from 27347 which arrived as we were just leaving. Whilst Adrian was seeking permission for us to go around Acheres Depot the heavens opened but the rain had miraculously cleared up in time for us to leave the Coach for the visit. There were a lot of y Shunters, as all shunters for the Paris area having been transferred to Acheres. There was a class 63938 ex Avignon here, also 17005 with a different front end than the rest of the class. The next port of call was Mantes la Jolie where a guide wearing a Irish rail fluorescent vest took us around, the only problem was trying to identify a class 60 in the yard. After 5 minutes we identified it as 60052. Two class 16s were in the station. At Dailona a single y was noted. An extra was added in Alizay, where the EWS DEPOT is. After a quarter of an hour looking for it we came across it. There was a yellow diesel with a tarpaulin over it and inside the shed were two class 66s but the security chap who was there said no photography as the last person who took a photo got the sack for it. The photo was featured in Today's Railway Europe. He had a tracking system which could track all the class 66 locos around France. He said there were a few around Brittany and a few around Calais. Next were two locations at Quatre mare works Rouen. The first was the bridge not far from the works which contained a fair few locos waiting to go into the works. There was a number of locos in the works either awaiting to be cannibalised or having been stripped of parts. The yards contained a number of new diesel units awaiting their next turn of service. Whilst on the way to the dump we must have been spotted by someone because as we were about to go round the scrap lines we got apprehended by a private security chap who ordered us out. The next location was Sotteville Depot. We got permission to go round Sotteville Depot. There were a fair number of class 60s and also a few shunters which made identification impossible. After the diesel depot two members went over to the electric stabling point where another ten to twelve electrics were stabled. Owing to the late finish we would do the dock lines tomorrow. Most of the touring party decided to give Rouen Rive Droite a miss but I went to see what was on the station. There were a couple of class 15s as well as a class 67 and some diesel units. The station reminds you of Birmingham New Street but much worse. I had a fantastic Chinese meal just outside the station.

On the morning of last day of the tour we went looking for the Shunters in the docks area - the only shunter found initially was a blue industrial one. As we progressed through we came across a shunter in the Grand Queilly area (y8162) then two class 60s namely 60058 and 60066. Next port of call was Dieppe. There were a couple of diesel units here plus another one that was due to arrive while we were there. Next location was Le Treport. It took us a fair while to get to the station as it was market day. Only one suppository here, namely x73720. There were plenty of seagulls though. At Abbeville we were up well up on time and had fifty minutes here. There was a class 67 awaiting its next turn of duty plus a suppository in the platform. Our next location was Boulogne where there were only two items; one was a tgv the other being a class 67 about to work a service to Amiens. Our last stop of the tour was the stabling point of Frethun. Here were a couple of EWS class 66s plus a couple of class 61s who normally work round the Strasbourg area.

We reached the port unfortunately just missing an earlier ferry. I think we arrived into Waterloo about five minutes late (Ed – That's on time in my book!). OVERALL A VERY GOOD TOUR AND A MARK OF 9 OUT OF 10.

**DAY 1 08-08-2008**

Creil Stn & Yard 15030/47 16042 16106/13 16772 22305/22/57 27111 Y7828/81 Y8036  
Y8108/27 Y8310 Y8423/93 Y8521 Z20721/22/47/48 Z26543/44

Pettie Therain 27133 63998 64017/69 66282 66313 67272/74 Y7739

Moulin Neuf P. Way Y7152 Y7291 Y7854 Y8275 Y8373

Les Joncherolles 17008/83/87/98 Y7136

Paris Sud Est TGV606 Z5311

Porte D`ivry Tram 305/18

Sud Ouest Cs Y5111

Sud Ouest Depot 7252/55/61/75/95 7304/91/93 9201/08/64 22326/42 26054/70 63579 63913  
64079/80 80004 X72649/50 Y5106 Passing 7394 26071 Z5669/70  
Z8909/10/15/16 Z20511/12

Sud Ouest Yard Y7759 Y8007/77/95

La Chappelle Depot 15004/07/30/40/51/65 16015/29/41/51/58 16102/03/04/08/09/12/14/15  
17046/64/67/69/71/72/86/92/95/96 40110(AT3.PN.179) Y7199  
Z6126/29/32/37/40/43/46/47/52/64/66/70/74/80 Locma0073 Passing 16020  
17052/76 ES3311/12 TGV09 TGV4305 Z6153/67/78

La Villette SP 15009/12/16/39/63 16583/88 16601 16732/424  
17039/47/60/65/668/68/79/83/97 17103 67511 72140/43 B82531/32/41/42  
Passing 72186 B82505/06/47/48/57/58 TGV503/05/07/37/46/49/52 X76703/04  
Z20507/08/21/22/69/70 Z20783/84 Z20821/22  
Z22501/02/11/12/37/38/47/48/51/52/55/56/95/96 Z22605/06 DB ICE4685

**DAY 2 09-08-2008**

Villeneuve St. Georges Depot  
7230/38/53/62/70/76 7310/11/14/32/81/84/95/96 7403/04/06 8638 15061/62  
22201/02/12/15/18/21/42/49/54/78 22301/48/68/86/99 22403/05  
26003/04/19/34/59/64/82/92/94/96 26100/08/16/26/29/54/60/69 26217  
27043/51/71/76/78 27100/15/26/29/38/61 60005/10/14/27/32/35/44/57/61  
63161/65 63402/15/16/22 63522/54/72/85 63774/80 63912/28/50  
64010/25/46/55/60/61/62/77 66082 66238 66712/17/22 67222/23/29/67/70  
75069 80009/11/12 88505/07/09/14/15/19/26/27/31 Y2506/07 Y5140  
Y7202/73 Y7300 Y7422 Z5302/33/35/37/44/45/51/53/59/68 Z5621/22  
Z20656/99 Z20700/01/02/05/58/95/96 TSO 99.87.9.182.572-7 Passing 7395  
22222 22405 27034 60008/45 75060 TGV216/77 TGV4515/22

Villeneuve St. Georges Yard  
7270 26154 27051 63954 66722 TGV216/77 TGV954 X6070 Y6286 Y6307  
Y7674 Y7721 Y8034 Y8207/99 TSO 99.87.9.182.507-3 ETF 99.87.9.182.530-5  
216.0577 Passing TGV615 TGV708

Valenton 7313/29 7401 22211/28/29/60/65/71/76/89/96 22303/80/83 26066/81  
26132/35 27065/94 27171 60043/56 67260

Torcy Z1505/17/18/21/36 Z8358/83/84 Z8411/12/34/48/85

Vaires Stn 75037/40 Z20521/22 Z22511/12/13/14/51/52/79/80/85/86

Vaires Yard 67315/68 Y7481 Y8372 Y8415

Vaires SP 26086 27013/20/25 27129/35/40 37003/22/37/39 60011/33 62432 66300/09  
TSO 99.87.9.182.570-1

Drancy Triage 27104 Y7492 Y8128 Y8221/30 Y8366

Le Bourget 22216/40 26077/81 26171 27107/11/19/11/32/33/73 37031  
60007/08/13/15/20/21/24/42/45/46/53/59 63794 63802 63907/60/65/79/97  
64006/19 64711/22 64811 66229/78/84/99 66308 75023/52/75/84 Y7290  
Y7712 Y8005 Passing Z8105/06/07/08/13/14/19/20/83/84  
Z8205/06/59/60/65/66/91/92 Z8305/06/23/24

### DAY 3 10-08-2008

Pontoise 27347 Z8836 Z20502 Z20615/16

Acheres Depot 15002/26/32/37/38/64 16028/33/42/51/55/58/61 17001/02/05/07/09/10/15  
17018/23/31/32/35/37/43/45/48 26007 27326/28/53/55/56 60009/28/33/50  
63411 63503/52/67/68 63636/79/92 63765/67/92 63803/04/09/66 63938/68  
64056 64710/13 64810/13 66255 66304 Y5122 Y7109/10/55/62/89  
Y7206/93 Y7308 Y7411/32/55/69/72 Y7510/17/30/49/60/62/63  
Y7616/18/29/37/39/41/60/76/78 Y7713/53/58/76/88 Y7878/82 Y8037/78  
Y8161/73/86 Y8200/41 Y8314/18/19/26/34/42/60/71 Y8404/39/63/76  
Y8527/34 Passing Z6439/40 Z8377/78 Z8409/10

Acheres CS 16059 16546 16612/54 17049/57 17101 63652 63932 64717 64817 Y7269  
Y7488 Y7547 Y8173 Y8273/88 Z1541/42/59/65 Z6403 Z6537 Z8371/72/85  
Z5470

Acheres Yard 16013/22/31/37/57 17099 25543 64000 Y7271/86 Y7438/64/67/71 Y7516/61  
Y7602/22/70/82 Y7761 Y8244 Y8370 LOCMA0092

Poissy Stn Z8465

Mezieres 27338

Mantes La Jolie 16032/39 17014/28/40/78 17104 27313/25/27/34/35/40/41/45/48 60052  
Y7683 Z20611/12/13/14 Z27675/76

Gaillon Y8051

Alizay UK 66072 66247

Oissel Y8093

Sotteville Yard 25596 27100 60016/34/40/47/63/69 63571 63667/69 63783 67020/25  
67328 68012 72006/08/14/19/22/25/71/73 X4539/44 X8335 X8510 X96005  
Y7415 Y7735 Y8039/57 Y8162 UK 66029 66249 Passing 16006

Quatre Mares Works 17105 63088 63122 63200 63658/66 63894 63906 64076 66027 66469  
 66710 67063 67306/42 67418 67529 68078 72015 72156 Y7178 Y7310  
 Y7872 Y8201/14/65/67

Sotteville CS 15029 17004/06/38 Z27512/19/20 Z27621/22/23/24/63/64/69/73/74/82

Sotteville Stn SP Y8012 Z24557/58 Z27533 Z27612/38/52/58

Sotteville Depot 16044 60004/12/17/23/26/30/31/41/49/51/54/55/58/60/62/64/65/66/67/68  
 60070/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/79 63410 63530/37/63/88/98 63650/78  
 63732/36/48/54 63808/37/44/62 63933/53/91/96 64013/15/16/18/38 66167  
 66231/63/89 67338 69225/30 69302/11 75007/13/56/65/76/80 X4524/32/49  
 X4605 X4752/54/55/63/76/77/96 X4901/02/05/06/07/08/09 X4910/17/18/23/24  
 X8353 X8405 X8534/46 X8752/54/55/63/76/77/96 X8901/03/04/05/07/12  
 X73533/34/48/64 X73775/92 Y6522(LOCMA0117) Y7146/70  
 Y7203/26(AT2.RO.290)/82(AT2.RO.289) Y7756/77 Y7824/55/59/65 Y8024  
 Y8102/88 Y8205/50/55/81 Y8306/35 Y8402/03 LOCMA053(AT2.RO.269)  
 LOCMA0089 Passing 17004 X4605 X8405 X76531/32 Z27635/36

Sotteville Electric SP 27065/73/78/88 27100/06/09/35/45/52/76 60036/39 63526

Sotteville WW Y7198

**DAY 4 11-08-2008**

Rouen Docks 60058/66 Y8162 AT1.LL.735

Dieppe Stn X4752 X4909/10/15/16/23/24 X8752 X8905/08/12 X76655/56

Le Treport Stn X73720

Abbeville Stn 67414 X73719

Boulogne Stn 67586 TGV22

Frethurn 27163 61020/22 67605 CT9820 UK 66038/67 66226/40 92001

Trioxide Y6508