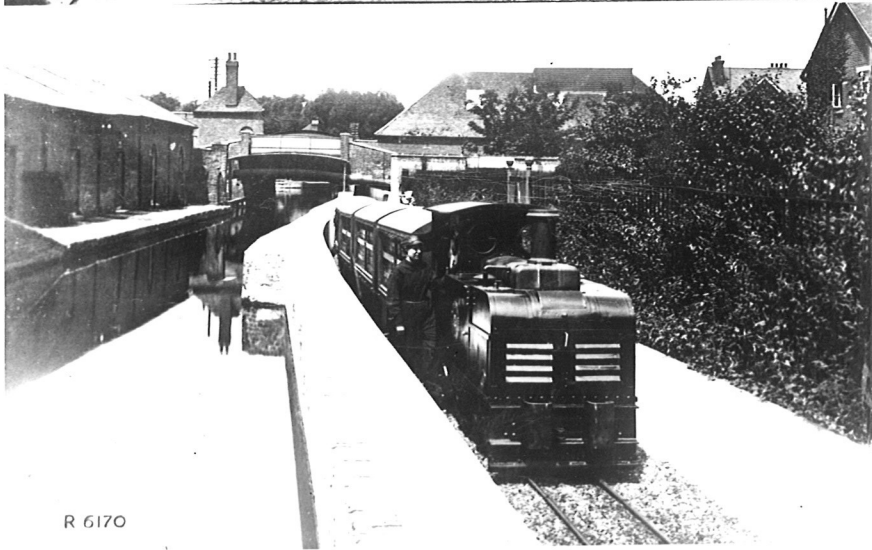
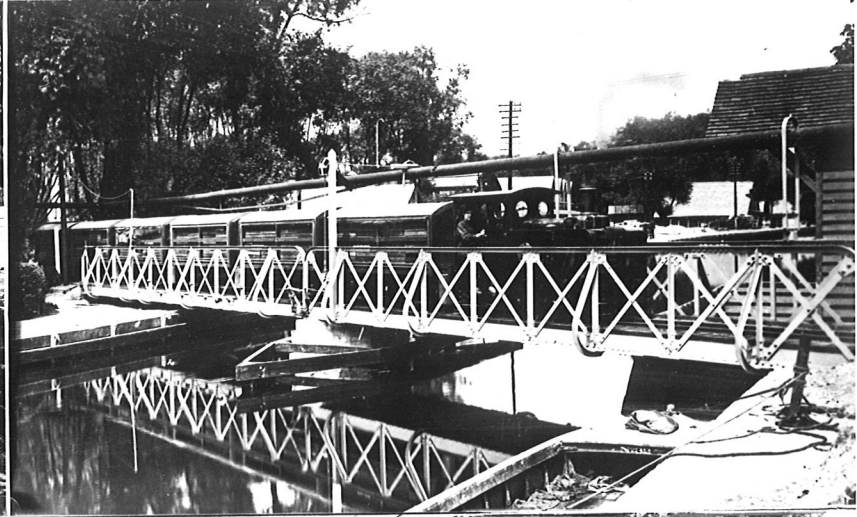


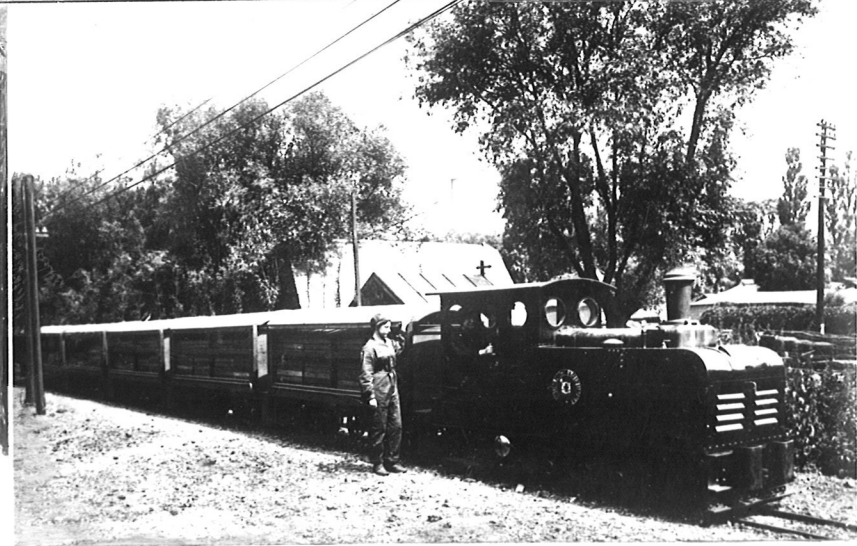
On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 1547



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E211

WASC 1547

RUSTON GAS TURBINES LIMITED

ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, FIRTH ROAD, P.O. BOX 1, LINCOLN LN2 5DJ, ENGLAND
TELEPHONE: (0522) 36292 TELEX: 56231 CABLES: RUSTURBINE, LINCOLN, ENGLAND

25th February 1982

Our ref: LIB/REH/AS

Mr. M. MacLaren,
Librarian,
P.E.R.M. Est.,
Waltham Abbey,
Essex.

Dear Mr. MacLaren,

I have a special interest in the older products of Ruston-Proctor & Co., Richard Hornsby & Sons, and Ruston & Hornsby Ltd (since 1918).

During the 1st World War, Ruston-Proctor & Co. built a small batch of ZLH oil-engined narrow-gauge locomotives. Four of these were delivered to the Royal Gunpowder & Small Arms Factory, Waltham Abbey, in 1917. They were Ruston engines Nos:- 51697, 51707, 51901, and 51927.

Another loco, No. 52124, was delivered to the Admiralty at Holton Heath early in 1918. This loco is now in preservation at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, and is in running order. I have recently corresponded with Mr. Bowditch at Holton Heath about the loco (he is publishing a series of historical articles on the Holton Heath establishment). Mr. Bowditch suggested that you might have some information on the Ruston locos that came to Waltham Abbey. I have a fair amount of company literature on the ZLH locos, but have no information of their working lives.

I should be very interested to learn of any information that you may have:- records, photographs, perhaps even remains of the engines?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Hooley,
Manager,
Technical Reference Section.



E212

Mr R E Hooley
Manager Technical Reference Section
Ruston Gas Turbines Limited LIB/REH/AS
Engineering Development Centre
Firth Road WAA/105/04
PO Box 1
Lincoln LN2 5DJ // March 1982

Dear Mr Hooley

Thank you for your letter of 25 February concerning the
Ruston Proctor narrow gauge locomotives.

All that is known to be in our records at the present time
is a photograph taken in July 1917, of one of these
locomotives with the wording "Ruston Proctor & Co Ltd
Lincoln" surrounding a fleur de lys emblem clearly visible
on the side. Although there is no caption to accompany
the print the locomotive is pulling waggons loaded with
trays of cordite either to or from the cordite drying
stoves in the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey.

I believe that there are one or two similar photographs
in an old Royal Gunpowder Factory photograph album now
lodged with the Public Record Office under their reference
PRO Supply 5/861.

I am enclosing a copy of our photograph and hope that this
somewhat limited information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely

M McLAREN
Management Services

22. 3. 82

WASC 1547

E213
R. E. HOOLEY
16 Alexandre Avenue,
North Hykeham, Lincs.
Tel: Lincoln 682406

M. McLAREN
P.R.M.E.
WALTHAM ABBEY

Dear Mr. McLaren,

Thank you for your letter of
11th March, with the very interesting photo.
It is one that I have not seen before.
In return I am pleased to enclose a
composite of 4 photos, all of which
may have been taken at Waltham Abbey.
Perhaps you can confirm this, or otherwise!
I was rather disappointed that you
didn't have any information on the operation
of the Huston loco at Waltham Abbey.
Are there any local railway enthusiasts who
may have information?

Yours sincerely,
Ray Hooley

Mr R E Hooley
16 Alexandre Avenue
North Hykeham
Lancs

✓
WAA/105/04 ENQ 3297

6 April 1982

Dear Mr Hooley

Thank you for your letter of 22 March enclosing the composite photograph of four views of the Ruston Proctor locomotive(s).

These I can confirm as having been taken at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey and further, although I do not have the item in the Establishment at the present time, they are almost certainly copies of the photographs which appear in the RGPF photograph album, PRO Supply 5/861, which I mentioned in my last letter.

Unfortunately there are no Establishment railway enthusiasts who have further information but in the past we have received two other requests from outside enquirers:

(1) Mr K H Miller
10 Belmont Avenue
Barnet
Herts EN4 9LJ

(11) Mr D J Taylor
39 Larmas Road
Enfield
Middlesex

They may have something to offer. Mr Miller referred to an illustration of an RGPF locomotive in "Locomotive" of 1921 - perhaps you know of this publication.

Yours sincerely

M McLAREN
Management Services