

THE WARRIOR

The Newsletter from the LMS-Patriot Project

March 2009
Issue 3

The LMS Patriot Co. Ltd. Company Registered in England & Wales No. 6502248 Registered Charity No. 112352

The Royal British Legion Endorses Project

By Andrew Laws, Marketing Director

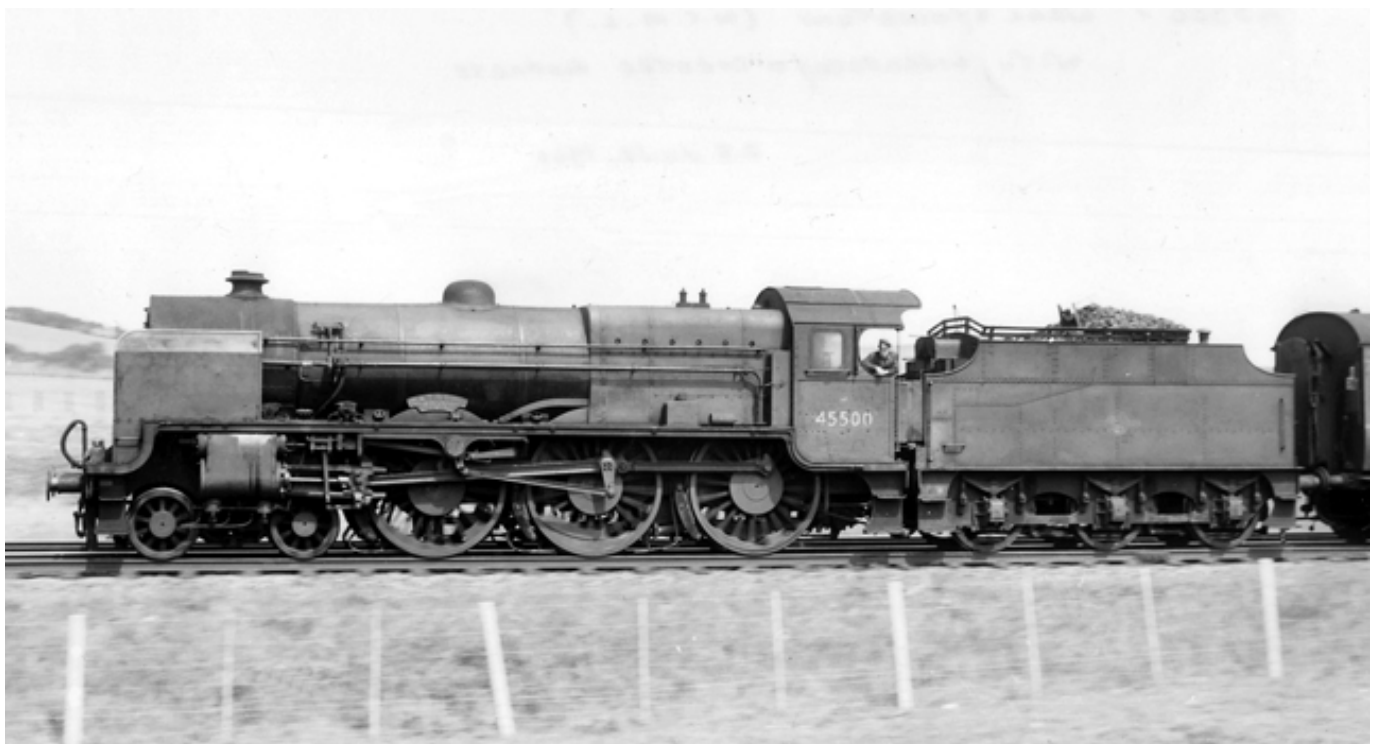
The Royal British Legion has endorsed our aim of creating the new National Memorial Engine. It became very clear early on in the project when the name "The Unknown Warrior" was chosen and voted for by many of you, that the underlying themes of War, Remembrance and Patriotism were still very much relevant today as they were in the 1930s when 5500 received the name 'Patriot - In Memory of the Fallen L. & N. W. R Employees 1914 -1919.' With this in mind we decided that the new 'Patriot' should also be dedicated as a Memorial Engine. This claim has now been endorsed by The Legion, whose aims as a charity are to provide welfare to injured servicemen and women past and present as well as being the guardians of Remembrance. The Legion's support will be vital as it will enable the Project to reach a wider audience (The Royal British Legion has over 400,000 members worldwide) and will enable our fund raising efforts to be stepped-up a gear, as we look further afield to raise awareness of the Project outside of the railway enthusiast world.

This will enable our ambitious target of having the new Patriot in steam by 2018 - the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice.

The announcement of the Legion's involvement will be of huge benefit to the Project. We will be organising a Remembrance event in November to enable the new National Memorial Engine Project to be promoted on a National level and reach our fund raising target of £1.25 million.

It's not the first time The Royal British Legion has been associated with LMS designed steam engines. Back in November 1935, 'Royal Scot' number 6170 was named 'British Legion' at an official ceremony performed by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe. Further information about The Royal British Legion and the excellent work that they do is available from: www.britishlegion.org.uk

5500 'Patriot' was the Memorial Engine for the LMS. Seen here at Symington on 25th June 1960 carrying its BR number 45500, this was the loco that gave the class its name from 1937. The first name carried was 'Croxteth' before the loco was renumbered and renamed. Photo by David Anderson.



We are delighted to reproduce the letter that Richard Sant, LMS–Patriot Project, Company Secretary received from Stuart Gendall, at The Royal British Legion.

Dear Richard,

It was delightful to meet you and to hear about the LMS–Patriot Project which aims to create a new national memorial engine, to be completed in time for the 100th Anniversary of the first Armistice Day in 2018.

With a number of railway enthusiasts in my own family I am acutely aware of the popularity of these no–nonsense steam engines and the sadness of many at seeing them scrapped in the 1960s. How wonderful that steam enthusiasts and readers of Steam Railway magazine have voted for the new engine to be named “The Unknown Warrior”.

The Royal British Legion provides welfare support to Service people past and present and their families – raising and spending more than £50m each year in its welfare work.

And, as the nation’s guardian of Remembrance we seek to ensure that all generations understand the importance of remembering the sacrifice of Armed Forces people who have given their lives in the service of their country.

The Legion does not have responsibility for war memorials in themselves. But in seeking to actively commemorate those who fought and died in the First World War and other wars “The Unknown Warrior” is a vehicle in keeping with the Legion’s wider aim to raise awareness of Remembrance amongst both young and old. As the project matures, I am sure there will be opportunities for us to work together. For the time being we endorse the LMS Patriot project aims and wish the project team every success in its meaningful venture.

Kindest regards,

Stuart Gendall

Director of Corporate Communications, The Royal British Legion



Engineering Update

By David Bradshaw, Chairman

I’m pleased to announce that the two frame plates for the new Patriot will have been cut by Corus Steel at Cradley Heath by the time you read this. I would like to publicly thank Pete Rich who has created new drawings that have allowed the frames to be cut, and for a second set that show the drilling positions. The next stage is to get Pete’s second set of drawings converted to CAD format which will enable the Boro’ Foundry at Lye, to do the drilling. When this has happened the frames will be taken to the Llangollen Railway Works, for assembly to begin. Pete has now started on drawings for the frame stretchers and we have also received some drawings from Fred James showing the dragbox.

Membership Matters

By Richard Sant, Company Secretary

125 people have now joined us, which is a sign of the tremendous response we are finding from the railway community. A significant proportion of you are also regular donors through the Gift Aid scheme, which is as near as we get to having covenanters who have built 'Tornado'.

Analysing who you are ...we have 3 women members...so everybody else isn't! And we have one Scotsman. The great bulk of members live in the old LNWR/LMSR/BR London Midland Region; which is as you would expect for a Patriot engine especially those of us who remember them.

However, it might also reflect the galas, open days and talks we have attended which have been from those areas such as Barrow Hill, Keighley, Carnforth, Birmingham (NEC), and Stafford. Llangollen based events have brought members from mid and north Wales including the Chester area.

Invite us to Your Event

The first presentation about the LMS–Patriot Project was given to the Stafford Railway Circle on 2nd March. Company Secretary, Richard Sant gave a presentation to the interested Stafford audience who learnt about the history of the Patriots, how the Project began, and an overview of our first year of progress.

If your Society or Organisation would like to hear about the Project and you are able to invite an audience to your event, we would be happy to give a presentation. Please get in touch.

Future Events

We will be attending the following events in 2009 with our exhibition and sales stand:

- Barrow Hill LNER Gala
4th – 5th April
- Steel, Steam & Stars 11, Llangollen
18th – 26th April
- Eastleigh Works Open Day
22nd–24th May
- Tyseley Loco Works Open Day
27th–28th June
- Llangollen Autumn Steam Gala
11th–13th September
- Warley National Model Railway Exhibition
22nd–24th November

If you would like to volunteer at any of these events by helping out on the Sales Stand, please contact us. Member and Supporter, John Hastings–Thomson helped us recently at the Stafford Model Railway Show and at Bewdley on the Friday afternoon of the SVR Gala. Thanks to John for his help, and also to Members and Supporters Neil and Karen Kinsey, who mounted 'The Unknown Warrior' nameplate on a mock up of a splasher. The nameplate can now be used to promote the project and will be displayed as it will look on the loco thank to Neil's efforts. Thanks also to Member and Supporter David Fakes who helped look through the drawings at the NRM.

Fundraising Progress & First Gift Aid Application Made

The LMS–Patriot Project has now raised around £44,000. This was boosted by our first Gift Aid application to HMRC which was around £5000. All UK taxpayers who make a donation should complete a Gift Aid form (available on our website or from our Stafford postal address) which enables The LMS–Patriot Project to claim an extra 28p from the Government for every £1 donated. So it's worth taking the time to complete a Gift Aid form with your donation. Thank you for your donation or regular contribution. If you've not yet set up a standing order to make monthly contributions, we would be delighted to accept any donation, minimum of £5 per month. If we can get 400 people each donating £20/month over a number of years, then we will be well on the way to building the new 'Patriot!'.

The LMS–Patriot Company Limited

Company Registered in England and Wales No.: 6502248

Registered Charity No: 1123521

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Director: Kevin Finnerty (Archive)

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45504 'Royal Signals' is seen at Blackwell on the Lickey incline on 27th July 1960. Photo courtesy of John Willerton.