

European Branch to Austria 8th – 11th July 2005

In opening this visit report I find myself having to write what is possibly the hardest paragraph of words I have ever written. The day before we were due to fly, four individually, for reasons known only to themselves, made a decision to ruin the lives of hundreds of innocent people in our country. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on the respects of the entire European branch of ICRS to anyone whose life was affected by this act.

As we did the drive to Standstead the car radio was constantly updating us of the situation and we were expecting serious delays to our travel plans, us, in this case being just Metal Mickey and Myself. We had managed to secure return flights to Salzburg for just £11.99, with Roitair, and we planned to spend the weekend searching out the few remaining class 1042 electrics, visiting one or two new depots and trying to clear the narrow gauge class 1099 electrics. It was a massive surprise then that we departed bang on time, at 06:20, in a very full and extremely quiet plane. A easy flight followed, we arrived 10mins early, Hertz were expecting us and we were underway by 10:20 heading towards our first call, the depot at Attnang Puchheim. In view of what had just happened we were expecting an increase in security, we certainly attracted more attention than we have ever done before, but we made a point of seeking out the depot engineer and asking permission (something we have always done anyway). We made our intentions crystal clear and we were warmly welcomed, a full visit followed, producing 12 numbers including 1042056 before we moved on. As we passed directly through Lambach it was no hardship to call at the station then view the yard where 2070035 was busy shunting. The main depot at Wels was the next call and we secured a full visit. Quite a collection of stored / withdrawn class 2043 diesels are now here and provided me with more than one 'gap filling' photograph. A walk round produced 40 numbers in total, with departmental X260096 in the nearby goods yard and 2070010 in the Freightliner terminal it was not a bad haul for a lunch time Friday.

Moving on from here Clara easily found our first hotel, the Ibis at Linz, alas getting us there through the roadworks and diversions proved a lot harder. Once we had finally parked up and deposited our bags, we did the short walk to the HBF and did a 3 hour 10 min stint on the platforms. Linz HBF is an excellent place to visit, constant train movements to or from the nearby depot are supplemented by frequent passenger and freight workings. Photography is easy from any platform and the variety of locomotives excellent; in the whole stint we only saw loco hauled trains (not including the DB ICE trains) there were no units of any kind! 1042050/510/513 were all visible in the depot, 2067055 busied it's self shunting and DB's 101080 gave me a surprise 'cop'. We were forced to leave the station when hunger got the better of us, but returned after an excellent plate of grilled Salmon for a final hour which produced a further 40 numbers, including the only unit we saw, EMU 4010011, before it got too dark for photos and we hit the sack.

Attnang Puchheim Depot (11:10) 1042056 1044019 1063024 1116181 1142622 1163009
2043043/063/067 2067032 5047075 X262005 **Lambach Station Yard (12:00)** 2070035 X616009
X626215 Private Owner EMU 20109 **Wels Depot (12:50)** 1044263
1116004/090/173/189/204/214/235 2016064/073 2043026/029/030/041/054/060 2060079
2062026 2067033/037/039/052 2070002/034/036/075/080 5047/69/072/077/083/084
X260087/098 X262058 DB Loks 151131 185056 Preserved DMU 8061.15 8081.21 **Wels Goods
Yard (13:15)** X260096 **Wels Freightliner Terminal (13:25)** 2070010 **Linz HBF (14:50 – 18:00)**
1016004/024/049 1042050/510/513 1044014/020/027/028
1044048/059/103/104/110/112/12/267 1063002/003/011/025
1116041/048/051/052/067/089/090/092/095
1116108/140/141/173/180/181/189/190/202/204/217/242
1142572/587/600/605/614/622/633/637/642/646
1142651/656/658/665/669/671/689/693/705 2016068 2043012/021/037 2067055
2070008/026/027/029
2070030 2143043 DB 101012/050/060/080/123 151013/069/103/114/122 185047/050
401069/071/569

401571 MAV 1047003 Private Owner 185528 ES64 U2 022 **Linz HBF (19:50 – 20:50)**
1016040/049 1042054/510/513 1044034/052/124/267/268 1046022 1063002/011
1116032/043/051/092/113/121/145
1116202 1142613/637/659/662/665 2043021 2067055 2070003/008/027/029 2143075 4010011
DB 101096 151135 182014/024 185050

The usual Ibis breakfast started our second day and we were underway by 07:50. We were heading to the depot at Gmünd, somewhere we had never been before and the drive took a lot less time than we expected. Having never been before we decided to head for the station and find our way from there. We need not have worried as the depot is close by, securing a visit was easy but persuading the depot staff we did not want to ride behind the steam loco was much harder! Narrow gauge diesels 2095012 & 2095014 were both on the depot and both required, but the presence of 1042052, in the station and 1042502/512 on the depot provided us with welcome photos. After donating 20 euro to the Austrian police benevolent drinking fund our next call was the small depot at Sigmundsherberg. This is part working depot and part museum, 1042007 kept up our run of good fortune with the class, but preserved electric 1040009 was definitely the highlight. Krems depot, and 1042520, came next, to say the depot engineer was pleased to see us was an understatement, he is one of the most friendly people I have ever met. A nice line up of diesel locos made a good depot photograph while an overgrown 2045002 provided an excellent place to 'do a Malc'.

After taking lunch on the run we called next at St Pölten Alpenbahnhof Depot, we have never found the official entrance to this depot, instead we cross the running line by the station. A full visit secured we found 18 numbers at home, the depot is littered with stored narrow gauge class 1099 electrics, but it was 2095006 that we were interested in. We moved on to the standard gauge depot and once again received a warm welcome, the run down of the older diesels was evident with just 2043017 on the depot. We were running very early so asked the depot engineer if he knew where the works was located, to our surprise he produced a map of St Pölten and highlighted it for us, it looked like he had given us directions to the Alpenbahnhof Depot but we went anyway. I'm glad we did, not only did we find the works we also found the official entrance to the Alpenbahnhof Depot! We could not get into the works and viewing it was made impossible by the line of freight wagons parked in the way, but we did get the address and will be writing for an official visit, so watch this space.

We were far too early for the hotel, so we decided to visit the depot at Wein West. After directing us through the city centre Clara deposited us at the depot gate, which was locked! We found a nearby bridge and were about to use it as a viewing point when a passer by asked if we wanted to go into the depot, he proceeded to show us the foot entrance and the depot engineer who was only too happy to grant our request for a visit. 28 locos were our reward including 1042017/029/055/518 and 2070001. Our final call today was the yard at Kledering, it was surprisingly empty with only 20 locos stabled in the holding sidings. 1042505 kept our run going but 1116200 frustrated us by being just in the wrong place for photographs. We called it a day and headed to our hotel. After a refreshing de-louse we enquired about nearby restaurants and we were directed to one a full 25 yards away. It offered traditional Austrian food and beer, made easier to order with an English menu and staff who spoke good English. I can highly recommend the traditional Wien Pot, a thick, creamy soup with chicken, noodles and vegetables. We followed this with large mixed grills and washed it down with four different Austrian beers, sleep came easy this night!

Gmünd Hbf (09:20) 1042052 **Gmünd Depot (09:30)** 1042502/512 1044024 1116086
2067071/087/110 2095012/014 2143034/048/068 Steam Locos 399.01/02/03 **Sigmundsherberg Depot (11:15)** 1042007 1142704 2143058 5047025 X534.60 Preserved 1040009 2045017
2060011 X150.05 X614012 Steam 52.855 93.1335 **Krems Depot (12:30)** 1042520 1063033
1142644 2043034/050 2045002 2143031/041/055/063/072 5047014/019/022/039 X260089 **St Pölten Alpenbahnhof Depot (13:25)** 1099002/003/005/006/009/010/011/012/013/014
2095006/013/015 5090004/005/014/015/016 **St Pölten Depot (13:50)** 1063029
2016014/025/034/036/085 2043017 2062036 2067074/107 2070037/038/039/047

2070049/050 2143027/046/050 4020297 5047003/006/013/018/060 6020018/098 with 1142630 passing

St Pölten Works [view] (14:30) 2043039 2070006/061 2143074 **Wein West Depot (15:45)**

1016029/049 1042017/029/055/518 1044039/105 1063027

1116003/007/021/023/039/145/191/229 1142558/566/690

1142696 1144275 2060090 2067098 2070015/052/056 DB 101122 **Kledering Yard (16:55)**

1016003 1042505 1044069/079/116 1064009/010 1116011/086/091/159/168/183/200

2067081/108 X627511 DB 151026 182024 Private Owner 1047503

A nice relaxed start to the day saw us leave the hotel at 07:50 for a short drive through empty streets to the main depot at Wein Oost. The sun came out to greet us and the depot engineer was more than happy to allow our visit, actually asking us if we required a guide! Green liveried 2050002 was about to leave the depot but the driver asked if we wanted to photograph it and promptly waited for us to do so. This formed one of the 59 numbers scattered around the depot. The class 2143 diesels were the main focus of our attention here, with many stored examples languishing here it was a good chance to fill in the photo gaps and we "filled our boots". After saying our goodbyes we did the short drive to Wein Sud depot, the depot engineer was outside moving locos around but knew what we wanted long before we actually got to ask him. Our request granted we went first to the top yard where electric locos tend to stable, our reward here great with 1042001, sadly in a un – photographic position, 1042012/048/504 all being seen among the crowded yard. Moving down to the depot it's self we found green liveried 2045020 in among the class 2143 diesels and preserved electric loco 1145002 undergoing restoration inside the main depot. 72 numbers were at home this morning, giving us over 120 numbers in our first hour and before we actually left Wein, leave we did though and headed down to Weiner Neustadt. Despite the major road works right outside the depot entrance we found our way in and received a positive response to our request. A further 60 numbers found their way into our books with no fewer than 18 of the new class 2016 diesels showing why so many 2043/2143's are now stored. The sun was just in the right place for photographs round the turntable so we took full advantage before saying goodbye and heading off to Mürzzuschlag. This was our first visit here, the old depot is now a museum and serviceable locomotives are now stabled in the holding sidings. We 'got the nod' and a steady walk round found 22 locos in residence. Withdrawn 1040010 was here, labeled up as property of Selzthal, so it could well be preserved. In among the stabled locos were 1042002/015/509 all of which made it into our cameras, along with train heating units 11.02 & 11.21.

From here we drove on to Knittelfeld, Clara directed us right to the depot turntable and the only person we could find allowed our visit with no problems. The unique 2043555 was there as was 2043001, painted green on one side and orange on the other, it was inside the depot and did not lend it's self to being photographed, but I presume it must now be preserved. Our schedule was to go to our hotel in Graz now, but we were over two hours early so made the decision to drive on to Villach. This proved to be an excellent choice, the depot was full and the sun out, 1042031/057 & 517 were all there along with 2067001. The depot engineer bought us a cold coke and we passed a pleasant 15 mins 'talking' to a fitter (I'm sure he did not understand a word we said and I know we did not understand a word he said!). Klagenfurt came next, this small depot contained just 9 diesels, non of which wanted to be photographed. We made the hotel at 18:00 and after a quick scrub down headed to a nearby eating house. The best I could say about it was it was near, it served fried cheese, fried ham, fried pork or any combination of these three, with chips and not a lot else! We waddled off to the main station to work down our dinner, spending an hour on the platforms before our bloated bellies shrank just enough to fit in a night cap, then we hit the sack.

Wein Oost Depot (08:00) 1014008 1044120 1116083/156/199

2016001/013/015/018/026/029/038/092

2016095/098/099 2050002/003 2062057 2067089/094/105 2068004/005

2070024/025/053/054/055/058

2070059/060/062/063/070/086 2143017/020/035/037/051/052/056/062/064/067/077

4020052/245/301 5047008/047/049/052 6020222 Preserved Steam 52.4984 DMU 5145.14

6545.12 6581.64 8081.01 with MAV 1047001 passing **Wein Sud Depot (08:30)**
 1014004/009/011/012 1016008/037 1042001/012/048
 1042504 1044029/037/086/126/259/267 1063031/032 1064001
 1116058/065/091/099/120/141/147/149
 1116151/154/167/184/222/230/232/233
 1142552/553/557/564/576/608/617/620/624/627/628/674/675/681
 1142692/701 1144271 2067101/102/111 2070017/020/023/066/067/090
 2143012/014/022/042/073 4010019 4020054/259 5147002 6010003 Preserved Electric 1145002
 Diesel 2045020 **Weiner Neustadt Depot (10:10)** 1014014 1042060 1044112 1116148
 1142690/691 2016002/003/004/006/008/009/017/019
 2016020/027/028/030/031/032/033/054/091/094 2067072/075/078/100 2068020/029/056
 2143004/009/018
 2143040/049/057/066/070 5022018
 5047029/030/031/032/042/043/059/085/088/089/091/092/093/094/097 5147005/006
 6020240/284 X627036 **Mürzzuschlag Depot (11:45)** 1042002/015/509 1044005/097
 1116028/043/186 1142542/549/554/575/616/618/635/649/686/702 1144279 2068039 X626112
 Train Heating Unit 11.02 11.21 Preserved 1040010 **Knittelfeld Depot (12:55)** 1044059 1063020
 1110015 1116227 1141016 1142678 2016047/055/057/059/060/088/089
 2043001/008/011/058/062/064/555 2060057 2062016/017/018
 2067012/041/046/064/080/082/085/109 2068010/042 4024003/006 X260086 X552001 8081.05
 Heating Unit 11.17 **Villach Depot (15:10)** 1016047 1042031/057/517 1044045/046/065
 1044077/078/088/093/110 1064007 1116048/054/096/119/140/166/170/177/185/215
 1142534/535/687 1163014/015/016/017/019 2016043/045/053 2043006/069/074
 2062008/021/047 2067001/003/008/010 2068015/016/045/048 2143074
 5047024/028/044/045/046 **Klagenfurt Depot (16:20)** 2016042/044/051 2043038/053/070
 2067009 2068014/051 **Graz Hbf & Depot [view] (20:30 – 21:30)** 1016027 1116070/105/130/214
 1142590/625 1144288 2016010 2067011/018 2068057 2143061 4010019/020/024 4024004/006
 5022001/003/009/013/017/019 6010005/006/008/020 X627034 Private Owner
 VT70.02/06/09/11/12/13

Having done most of today's schedule last night we had to do a quick re – plan over breakfast and so after washing our bacon and eggs down with copious amounts of orange juice we first headed round to the nearby depot. Despite the entrance barrier being down we walked in via the gate house door and found the engineer. He spoke excellent English and allowed our visit with no problem 1042501 was among the 53 numbers we noted and we managed to cop 2016081, quite a rare feat now. Visit over we headed off to Salzthal, it was a heck of a drive through torrential rain and endless tunnels, it was still raining when we got there, but it did not stop our full visit. Despite having a large paper allocation Salzthal is only a small depot, it also holds most of OBB's nostalgic fleet. The depot engineer was fantastic, he spoke good English and went to great lengths to provide us with information on future special trains and told us a little about the history of each preserved locomotive under his control. 1042005 arrived on shed while we were there joining sister locomotive 1042043. Preserved 1040001 & 1040013 were stood side by side inside the depot and the engineer then had 001 moved to the front of the depot for our photographs. We took lunch at the nearby station where 1063015 provided us with a further 'cop' before we drove on to Wels. Here we did a 2 hour 45 min stint on the HBF, the sun came out, 1042050 passed on a freight and 1116200 finally allowed it's self to be photographed. It was an excellent session with constant train movements, I can recommend a stopover here to anyone. Eventually we dragged ourselves away, we had to as our flight time was drawing near.

Salzburg depot engineer welcomed our request for a walk round and we were rewarded with 40 further numbers including a brand new 1116250. Diesel loco 2016067 then did a 'road run' for us down to the yard by the Localbahn depot where a further full visit netted our final 22 numbers. These included ex OBB 2048018, still carrying that number and a further 2048 now carrying number 83. Clara found the way back to the airport and Ryanair got us home spot on time. Despite the tragic episode that went before this trip we were warmly welcomed at every depot we visited and a genuine interest in our hobby exists within Austria. It's a wonderful country to visit,

the scenery is breathtaking and rail traffic plentiful. Unit domination is, hopefully, years away and loco haulage is king, get out there while it's still this way.

Graz Depot (08:25) 1016022/028 1042501 1044006/016/017/031/097 1063008
1116036/050/105/130/138
1116144/158/176/187/211/214/233/235/253 1142536/574/606/619/625/628/636/649/650/677
1144286 2016010/074/081/083 2067043/092 2068053/060 2143044/059/061 2167093 4024005
5022003/009/013
5022017 5047037 X626156 **Selzthal Depot (10:20)** 1016030 1042005/043 1063009
1116108/134/189 1142546/571/582/586/663/665/670 2043016 2067017 X260100 Preserved
1080.01 1245.05 1040001/013 1041202 1080007 1141007 Private Owner ES64U2080 **Selzthal
Hbf (10:45 – 11:15)** 1063015 2070031 X260045 X621002 X626119/136 X627033 Plinthed
Steam 52.704 **Wels HBF (12:30 – 15:15)** 1016014/043 1042050
1044014/020/025/029/032/039/052/091 1116019/021/024/025/029/066/067/095/112
1116126/142/191/192/200/204/209/230 1142587/611/645/669 2043022/029 2067037/052
2070085 5047061/070/074/075 X626215 DB 101007/096/145 182025 Private Owner
ES64U2081 **Salzburg Depot (17:05)** 1016010/021 1044015/025/027/071/095/122
1116120/136/210/219/229/239/250 1142608/627/658 1144200 1163002/010 2016067
2067024/027/028/095/104 2068036/040/041 4010020 4023002/005/006
4023009/010/020 DB151025 152040/094 **Salzburg Localbahn Depot (17:30)** 3 10 11 42 45 46
47 48 55 57 62 71 83* 116 2048018 BC109 C158 D803 E61 E63 ET1 Steam 770.86
* = ex OBB Class 2048 diesel.