

37890 The Railway Observer

by Alan Cooke, Andrew Lait & Bob Wallen

'Log' of the activities of 37890 covering the years 1994 (from its naming at Hither Green on 23rd February) to the present time. After its return from use in France in 2000, we are recording major changes but not sightings and workings. Note that, in this 'log', RO refers to The Railway Observer, the monthly magazine of the RCTS.

1997: -

6th January	Bristol - Working Westbury to St Philips Marsh tanks
13th January	Exeter Riverside - Working 13:59 Meldon quarry to Eastleigh ballast
24th January	Taunton and also Exeter - Working 13:34 Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
25th February	Reading - Working east toward Wokingham
10th March	Taunton and also Exeter - Working 17:03 Westbury to Tavistock Junction tanks
21st March	Eastleigh (photo on page 206 of RO May 1997 showing the explanatory plaque added below the nameplate; this plaque carried the message "THE JOURNAL OF THE RAILWAY CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL SOCIETY FOUNDED IN 1928 RCTS") Southampton - Working empty tanks to Fawley, returning later with Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks, which was also noted at Taunton and Exeter
24th March	Taunton and also Exeter - Working 17:03 Westbury to Tavistock Junction tanks
30th March	Hampton Court - On engineering work (photo on page 357 of RO September 1997)
4th April	Newport - Up light engine (13:00)
7th April	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
18th April	Taunton and also Exeter - Working 13:34 Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
21st April	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
30th April	Taunton & Minehead - Working 13:15 Merehead quarry to Minehead (arrived 16:30) (photo on page 349 of RO August 1997)
2nd May	Southampton - Working empty tanks to Fawley, returning later with 13:34 Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks, which was also noted at Taunton (18:10) and Exeter
7th May	Totton - Working 09:33 Fawley to Westbury tanks (photos on page 465 of RO November 1997 and on page 33 of RO 75th Anniversary issue)
9th May	Taunton (17:50) - Working Westbury to Tavistock Junction tanks Worked 10:00 Westbury to Meldon quarry with 37248 Exeter Riverside - Working 13:59 Meldon quarry to Eastleigh ballast
12th May	Taunton (17:56) and also Exeter - Working 17:03 Westbury to Tavistock Junction tanks
13th May	Taunton (18:23) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
20th May	Taunton (17:52) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
23rd May	Taunton (17:58) and also Exeter - Working 13:34 Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
27th May	Taunton (17:05) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
10th June	Didcot - Stabled
12th June	Peterborough - Working Kings Cross to Ketton cement
13th June	Hull - Working empty tanks to Saltend
14th June	Hull - Working Saltend to Baglan Bay tanks
24th June	Southampton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks, also noted Taunton (18:02)
30th June	Worked 10:47 Workington to Bescot cwr train
4th July	Featherstone - Eastbound light engine

37890 The Railway Observer

1997 (continued): -

7th July	Winwick Junction - Working Castleton to Toton cwr train (photo on page 491 of RO December 1997)
11th July	Barton and Broughton down loop – Working Bridgwater to Sellafield nuclear flasks (photo on page 65 of RO February 1998)
19th July	Carlisle - Stabled alongside station
22nd July	Castleford - Working Ferryvans
RO October 1997	Records 37890 as having visited Minehead three times up to 24th July since stone trains started on 24th March 1997; the 30th April working is recorded in this log
5th August	Warrington Arpley stabling point
11th August	Edge Hill - In sidings with an engineers' train with 37371
20th August	Clapham Junction - On ballast duty
September 1997	Transferred to Eastleigh (EH) on closure of Stewarts Lane (EWS part of the depot) - still in Pool EWDB
9th September	Chester - Working empty engineers' wagons towards Warrington
10th September	Chester - Shunting engineers' train in middle road
18th September	Horbury Junction - Working 07:06 Holyhead to Humber tanks (6E52) (photo on page 394 of RO September 1998)
26th September	Hull - Arriving with tanks
7th October	Worked Baglan Bay-Humber tanks (6E21)
10th October	Worked to Penyffordd Cement Works and returned with 60040 and 35 MEAs
17th October	In charge of Mostyn Dock to Hull Saltend (6E39)
24th October	Hereford - Working 13:57 Cardiff Isis to Warrington Enterprise
13th November	Has been on engineering duties between Wrexham and Bidston during the last week
6th December	Basingstoke - Failed whilst working an Eastleigh to Bescot infrastructure train (6Z85) and was rescued by 37513
15th December	Eastleigh depot - Receiving traction motor repairs

Acknowledgements are due to The Class 37 Group, RAIL Magazine and the End of the Line website, which have been valuable sources of information. Members' observations make up a large part of the log and we would like to thank those members and others who have kindly responded to our requests for information.

In particular we would like to thank Brian Garrett for his complete record of all workings by 37890 on 6V62 Fawley to Tavistock Junction loaded tanks from 1994 to 1998. Including five workings before it was named and some that it worked Fawley to Westbury and then on to Tavistock Junction it did a total of 68 loaded workings and presumably the same number of return empties although few of those were recorded. This must also be, by far, the working on which 37890 most often appeared.

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