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*mercia
charters*

invite you to join us aboard

“The Cause and Effect”

on

Saturday 28th April 2012



***After 13 years we complete the passenger network of Belgium
locomotive hauled!***

*Featuring haulage by 4 locomotives, freight track, and a short visit to Aachen in
Germany*

Our 15th year of railtouring!

2012, our 15th anniversary year, and our 13th year of running charter trains in mainland Europe will see us finally clear the passenger track in Belgium by locomotive hauled train! This train should traverse all those small pieces of track not covered on any of our previous tours and include the border crossings at Aachen West and Aachen Hbf!

Our day will begin at Brussels Midi with us departing around 08.00 hauled by a B-Cargo electric locomotive through the tunnels under Central Brussels and Schaerbeek to join Line 26. Passing Schaerbeek depot and yards we take Line 26 to Y. Keelbeek and drop down onto Line 36 for the run into Brussels Airport.

Reversing at the Airport the B-Holding diesel locomotive should now lead. We take the second side of the Airport triangle and rejoin Line 36 but just short of Leuven at Y. Wilsele we take the recently built connection to Line 35 towards Aarschot. We then travel on to Hasselt via Diest and passing Bilzen we take Line 34 to Y. Glons to join the freight line (24) across to Montzen Yard.

At Montzen the B-Holding diesel will be detached and the electric loco run round so we can continue our journey to Aachen West yard. Whilst in Montzen yard there should be ample time to photograph the train as well as any locomotives present. After the short stop the electric will take us forward to Aachen West yard in Germany where we need to reverse for the short run to Aachen Hbf. We have requested DB provide a locomotive from here to Aachen Hbf but this and the border crossing have not yet been confirmed. Aachen West yard usually sees an array of locomotives from Railion, B-Cargo and numerous private operators.



Leaving Aachen West we travel the short distance to Aachen Hbf, for a photostop before heading back into Belgium via the usual route from Germany to Welkenraedt again hauled by our B-Cargo Type 28. Here the train will be met by the B-Holding museum locomotive and a Kinkempois allocated Type 77. The Type 77 will be attached to the rear and the museum loco to the Type 28.

The train will then reverse with the 77 taking us to Eupen on Line 49 where subject to agreement from Infrabel and the line still being open to traffic on to Raeren.

After a short photostop the train will reverse for the final time and head back to Brussels. Passing Welkenraedt the train will take the conventional route through Verviers to Angleur and here will take the connecting line into Kinkempois yard. Here the train will stop for a few minutes to detach the Type 77 so it may return to the depot.

Leaving the Yard area we join line 125A to Flemalle Haute and take Line 125 directly to Namur to join Line 161 through Gembloux to Ottignies. Taking Line 139 to Leuven, location of a B-Holding museum, we join Line 53 towards Mechelen. At Y. Hever we traverse the connecting line onto Line 27 via Y. Weerde and head towards Vilvoorde.

We have requested the train is now routed via Line 26 to Etterbeek and then on through Brussels Luxembourg and onto Nord and finally Midi. We have been informed already this route may not be open due to the ongoing problems with the signalling equipment following a signalbox fire last year. If this is the case we will be routed directly to Nord and through the tunnels to Midi where we anticipate arriving between 19.00 and 20.00 dependent on the route given by Infrabel.

The train will be made up of 3 or 4 coaches of a Type yet to be agreed, the vehicles must be certified to travel into Germany, which the normal K1 coaches are not! Our friends from Stoom Centrum Maldegem have been asked to provide their usual excellent buffet service of sandwiches, cakes, snacks, hot and cold drinks, and an array of fine Belgian beers throughout the day.

Please note: we currently have not had the route confirmed by B-Holding especially the section crossing the border into Germany as soon as we receive anything regarding this we will inform you through our website.

Requested route: Brussels Midi (PU) – Brussels Nord – Schaerbeek – Line 26 – Y.Keelbeek Nord – Y.Keelbeek Zuid – Line 36/1 – Line 36 – Y.Zaventem – Line 36C – Brussels Airport (rev) – Line 36C/1 – Y.Nossegem – Line 36 – Y.Wilsele – Line 35/2 – Y.Holsbeek – Line 35 – Aarschot – Diest – Hasselt – Bilzen – Line 34 – Y.Glons – Line 24 – Montzen – Line 24 – Aachen West (rev) – Aachen Hbf (rev) – Line 37 – Welkenraedt (rev) – Eupen – Raeren (rev) – Eupen – Welkenraedt – Verviers Central – Angleur – Line 125A – Flemalle Haute – Line 125 – Statte – Namur – Line 161 – Gembloux – Ottignies – Line 139 – Y.Parkburg – Y.Tivoli – Leuven – Line 53 – Haacht – Y.Hever – Line 27B/1 – Y.Prisenhoek – Y.Weerde – Line 27 – Vilvoorde – Y. Machelen – Y.Keelbeek Noord – Line 26 – Y.Etterbeek – Line 26/2 – Etterbeek – Brussels Luxembourg – Brussels Nord – Brussels Midi (SD)

Requested motive power: 1 x B-Holding diesel locomotive, 1 x Type 28 (B-Cargo), 1 x Type 77 (B-Cargo), 1 x DB locomotive

The above details are not guaranteed and are subject to alteration, confirmation, and availability on the day. All times quoted are estimated and may be amended!

Fares	
"The Cause and Effect", if booked before 30 th March	"The Cause and Effect", if booked after 30 th March
£79.00 / 90€ per person	£115.00 per person

General information

Our train - will be formed of 3 or 4 vehicles, Type not yet agreed, with a buffet service provided by our friends from Stoom Centrum Maldegem.

Photo stops - We have requested photo stops at various locations during the day.

Child fares - We offer discounted fares on this tour for children travelling with responsible adults. Please enquire for more details.

- **Please note that you may be required to provide proof of children's age when tickets are checked during the tour.**
 - The child's passport, or national identity card showing date of birth, is acceptable as proof of age.

The exchange rate - used for calculating the sterling fares for this tour is £1 = €1.15

Your cheque - will be presented to our Bank on or just after 30th March 2012

Please note - Our fares (above) do not include your transport costs to or from the tour, your meals, or your overnight accommodation before or after the tour.

Travel insurance - We strongly recommend you obtain travel insurance to cover for travel problems, cancellation, illness, loss or theft of belongings, and costs associated with unavoidable delays for the duration of the whole tour and your stay in Europe and any other potential problems.

- **In the UK, travel insurance can be purchased online, and from the Post Office, supermarkets, and Travel Agents.**
- **You are also strongly recommended to obtain a European Health Insurance Card**

Passport - you must be in possession of a passport with at least six months validity remaining to join this tour

Further details and enquires

If you have any questions or if there is anything you wish to discuss with us, please write to the address on the booking form below, call 07535759344 (+44.75.35.75.93.44 from outside UK) 10.00 – 18.00, Monday to Saturday, or email: team@merciacharters.co.uk

The small print

Conditions of booking

1. Tickets are issued subject to our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**' and the additional conditions in this section.
 - *When you apply for and use tickets for this tour, you accept our conditions.*
2. The fares shown on this leaflet are for the tour(s), as advertised, in Belgium only
 - *Our fares do not include your transport costs to or from the tours, your meals or your overnight accommodation before, during, or after the tour date(s).*
3. We require a minimum of **130 (one hundred and thirty)** bookings to ensure that these trains will run.

We will examine the position on Friday 30th March and if there are insufficient bookings the tours will be cancelled.
 - *In the event of cancellation,*
 - *our only liability will be the return of any and all monies paid to us for this tour, and*
 - *passengers will be notified in writing within 5 working days of the decision being made to cancel the train, and*
 - *our website will be updated within 48 hours of the decision.*
4. Tickets and final details will be dispatched approximately 8 days prior to the date of travel.
5. **Cancellations** will be dealt with in accordance with our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**'. If you have made your booking through a third party, such as another tour company, you must contact that company to cancel your booking.
6. The requested routes, traction, depot visit(s), and photo stops listed are not guaranteed and subject to final confirmation from B-Holding, Infrabel, B-Cargo, DB, and DB Netz.
 - *We reserve the right to alter and amend the specification of the advertised train(s) at any time, should the need arise.*

Reminders (extracts from our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**')

- We will make every effort to run the tour as advertised.
 - Neither we, nor any individual, will accept any liability for any loss, or for any additional expenses incurred by any passenger, by reason of ejection from the train or by reason of delay, cancellation or failure of arrangements for any part of the tour including, but not limited to, the substitution of any motive power or re-routing of the special train(s).
- You shall not have any claim against us, or against any individual, if you miss any onward transport connections as a result of our or your late arrival at any starting point or any point en route.
 - *This includes all or any part of the tour.*
- If you choose to collect your tickets from us on the day, it is your responsibility to confirm both the departure time and boarding points before joining the tour.
 - If you do not do so, we will not accept liability if you miss the tour
- A copy of our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**', which gives full details of all the conditions applying to your booking, is available on request or may be downloaded from our website www.merciacharters.co.uk