



84030 Rebuild Project



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Work is continuing on the bunker and although there is quite a bit to do the end is now in sight. All the external welding and quite a bit of the internal welding is now complete.

The angle iron strengthening supports for the 2 side panels are yet to be fabricated and riveted. One side is nearly complete and we aim to use this as a pattern for the other side.

The remaining steps for the rear of the bunker and the lamp holder brackets have now been built and ready for final assembly. Beading strips for the top sides of the bunker have been installed and the rear beading formed and trial fitted. The coal doors have been trial fitted and now await final assembly.

So as can be seen from the above and the photos below there is still a bit to be done before the bunker is finished



Rear panel beading being trial fitted



First lamp brackets fitted



First strengthening angle fitted and inside welding started

Other areas we have been concentrating on are the access steps at the front, the cab and rear of the engine. Backing panels, supports and steps have been started with the backing panels profiled by an outside contractor to our drawings.



Profiled backing panels for the steps

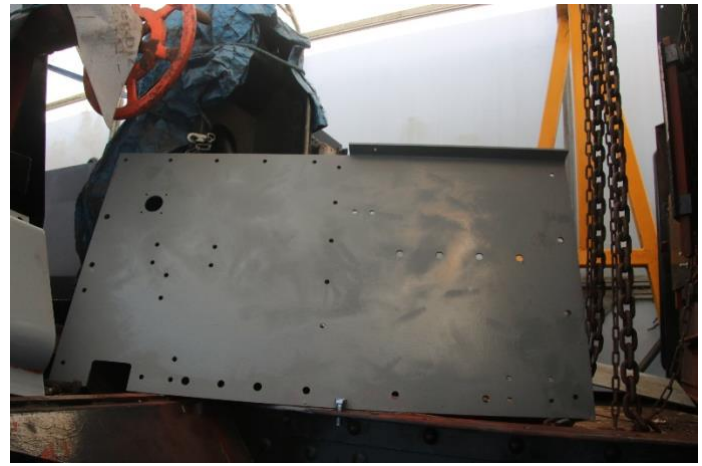


Trial fitting of the bunker steps



Steps under construction

As stated in our last newsletter it was decided to start the cab manufacture with the floor area. Manufacturing drawings of the metal panels had been drawn up allowing for the panels to be profiled by an outside contractor



Profiled floor panels

As our container is in a very poor condition and with all the weight on the racks it was imperative that an alternative safe storage area be found. With tank engine 80064 leaving the railway space became available in a safe secure container close to our own. This allowed us to move a lot of the parts of our engine into the container and stored on accessible shelving. This also had the benefit of having all the parts of the engine finally in one place.

Finally, if you know anyone interested in joining the working group especially if they have an engineering skill, please ask them to contact me, Chris Wren on ccwren@gmail.com and remember the project can only progress by providing a stream of income, one way is by a donation(s). Please see our web page on the Bluebell Web site under department news, loco works.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.