

THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

INFORMATION SHEET

CLASS AC16 221A



AC16 No.221A stands outside the steaming shed at Ipswich Railway Workshops prior to a test run to Laidley on the 12/5/2003 following restoration by QR Heritage Rollingstock Maintenance.

Photo: D. J. Mewes

The Second World War and the occupation by Japanese forces of Pacific Islands and islands to the north of Australia saw Queensland and the north of Australia placed under the threat of imminent attack. This placed a great strain on Queensland Railway's resources in the movement of wartime supplies and troops.

A request was made in 1941 for further, new C17 Class locomotives and the specifications were forwarded to the United States where the United States Army Transportation Corps drew up plans for a 2-8-2 with specifications similar to a C17. These new locomotives were intended as a standard design for use on narrow gauge railways in other parts of the world as a war-time measure.

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Although it was originally intended that Australia would receive forty of these locomotives only twenty were eventually supplied, all to Queensland. A total of 798 of these locomotives were built with more than 600 being built to metre gauge for use in India (350) and other countries.

The twenty originally supplied through the Lend Lease Corporation, to Queensland Railways were eventually purchased and a number continued to give service until the end of steam motive power in 1969.

No.221A survived until the end and was placed in the Redbank Steam Locomotive Museum from 1970 until 1992 when it was removed to undercover storage. The locomotive has subsequently been restored to working order at QR's Heritage Rollingstock Maintenance Workshops located at Ipswich Railway Workshops. Its first test run on Queensland Railway's main line took place on Monday, 12 May 2003 after more than 33 years in retirement.

Dimensions: (as built)

Class	AC16
Wheel Arrangement	2-8-2
Builder	Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, USA
Builder's Number	69456
Year Built	1943
Cylinders	16" X 24"
Boiler Pressure	185 psi
Driving Wheel (Dia)	48 inches
Weight	95 tons

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Compiled by D. J. Mewes, Assistant Curator

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