

Last Scheduled Steam Train on the Richmond Line

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Windsor and Richmond Gazette 29 October 1969.

On Saturday 25 October 1969, fifty year ago, the last regular scheduled steam train ran on the Richmond Line. A short description of the event was provided in the *Gazette*.

P Class steam loco 3324 made a brave showing as she pulled out of the Richmond platform on the 7.56 run on Saturday morning. As though aware of the significance of the occasion the old loco poured out a billowing cloud of thick black smoke from her funnel and a trail of steam hissed out from her valves.

A swarm of Railway Historical Society amateur photographers waited beside the line to catch the moment on film for this was the last scheduled steam train run on the Richmond line.

As from Saturday the few remaining P Class and small S Class tank locomotives have been taken off the line and will be replaced with 48 Class diesel-electric locomotives.

As nostalgic as this change might be to many steam train enthusiasts, Richmond housewives living close to the line are overjoyed at the thought of no longer having to cope with soot-blackened washing.

Pictures (above) show 3324 leaving the station and photographers waiting for the big moment. Fireman Colin Watkins (left) and driver Frank Breen make ready to take the old loco on her last run from Richmond.



NSWGR 3324 at Richmond Railway Station.

Photo: John Ward

These photographs were taken by John Ward and record steam engine 3324 which had the honour of working the line and the last regular scheduled steam train on the day.



NSWGR 3324 on an up passenger between Vineyard & Riverstone on the Richmond Line.



NSWGR 3324 on the last regular up steam hauled passenger service, along with 600 class diesel 703/603 at Richmond Railway Station. Photos: John Ward