

# Locomotive Tool Box

This tool box was one of two mounted above the side tanks of No. 3587, a “Metro” 2-4-0T locomotive turned out of Wolverhampton in 1899.

The “Metro” tanks were originally based in London, Oxford, Bristol and Gloucester. When displaced by more modern types, some were transferred to sheds farther afield.

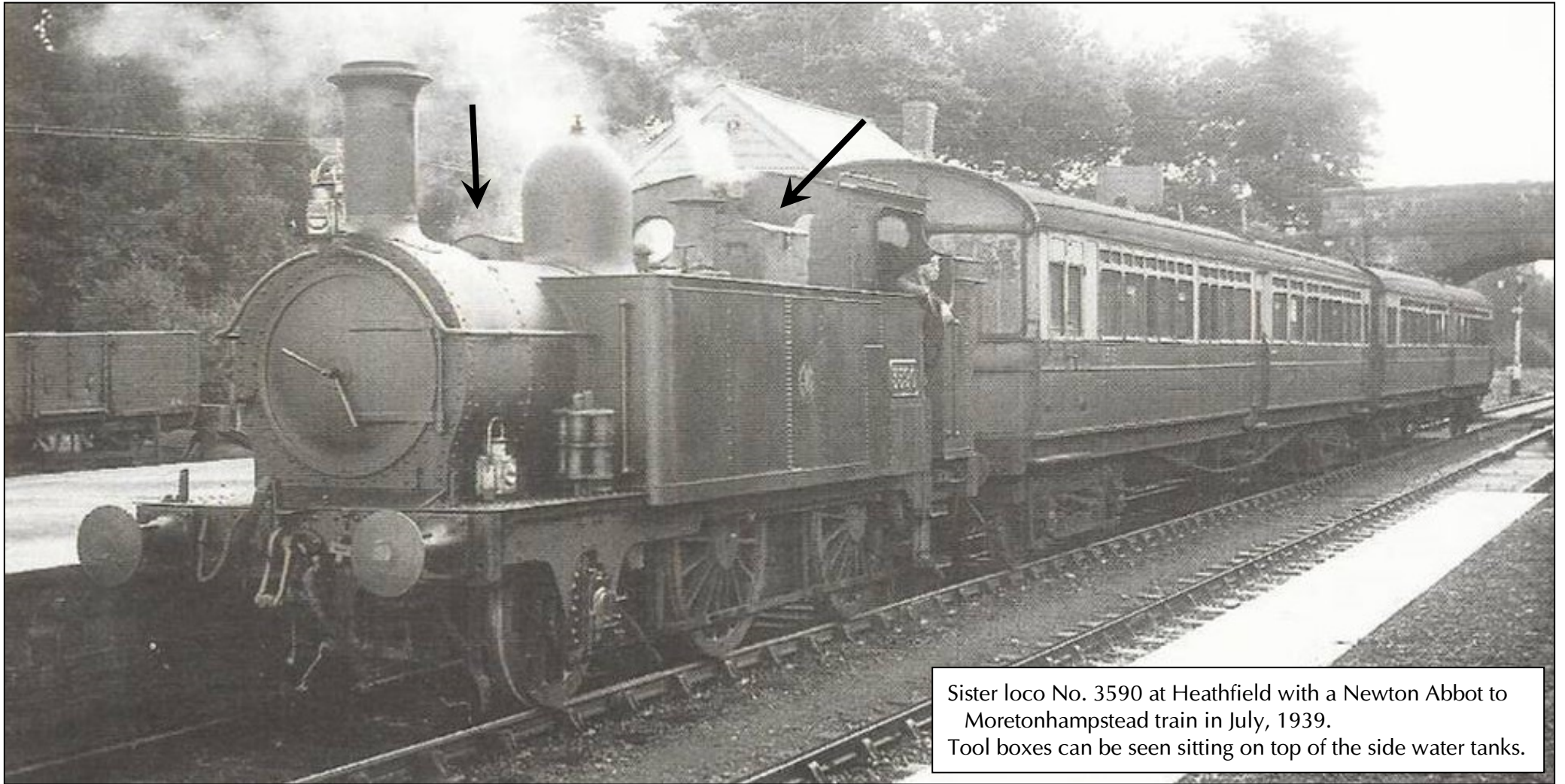
No. 3587 was an Old Oak Common loco, being fitted with London Transport trip cocks and possibly a condenser to enable working through Metropolitan Line tunnels. The large-tank loco was later fitted with Automatic Train Control apparatus and auto-train gear.

Shedded at Newton Abbot from about 1938, No. 3587 must regularly have worked over the Moretonhampstead Branch and may also have worked over the Teign Valley line past this very spot.

The loco was withdrawn in December, 1944. Before being sent for breaking up, a fitter probably removed this tool box for some purpose. It was found, half buried, many years later, in the sand-drying oven room at Newton Abbot.

In service, the box would have contained tools such as spanners and wrenches, as well as lubricating oils, an Aladdin-type flare lamp, some spare parts, cotton waste etc. Also it would have contained the flags and detonators essential to the Fireman when carrying out his protection duties in the event of accident, failure or obstruction.

Well over a century after it was built, one of 3587's tool boxes provides the perfect receptacle for contributions from people who wish to support the reclamation work being done here and the accompanying campaign for railway reconstruction.



Sister loco No. 3590 at Heathfield with a Newton Abbot to Moretonhampstead train in July, 1939.  
Tool boxes can be seen sitting on top of the side water tanks.