Tidy up time at Kommando Nek

Apart from the 3’6’’ gauge locos near the main complex, Sandstone also has four ex SAR locomotives at Kommando Nek siding on the Bloemfontein to Bethlehem line. These are 25NC numbers 3496 and 3536 and 15CB number 2071 and 15F 2910 ex Rustenberg Platinum Mines. Although under security and with their chimneys capped, the external appearance of them has deteriorated recently and Gert Jubileus’ team has been busy cleaning the locos and giving them a coat of paint.
25NC 3496, an ex-condensing locomotive, is quite a celebrity engine having been awarded “The Best Turned Out Engine” during the Blue Train 30th Anniversary in April 1969 while number 3536, also an ex Condenser, was one of the last to be fitted with the banjo type smokebox with which all the 25C class were modified in their early life.



3536 after a coat of paint and red oxide protection.



3496 after painting.



3496 on the 30th Anniversary Blue Train in 1969. Picture by Les Pivnic.



15CB number 2071.



15F number 2910 stands behind 2071.