

ESSEX BUS NEWS

December 2000

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

440

A Very Merry Christmas to all our readers !



SEEN IN CHELMSFORD BUS STATION IN OCTOBER IS PHOENIX
STUDENT TRAVEL 5002 (JTY382X) WITH LEYLAND NATIONAL
1850 (YEV308S) ARRIVING ON SERVICE 33.

CHRIS STEWART

MANAGING EDITOR:

Please send your news reports to:

Southend Transport:

Thamesway:

Essex Buses & S Essex small ops:

County Bus:

North Essex major ops:

North Essex small ops:

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EDITORIAL

A MEESAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR PETER SNELL

As mentioned in the November Essex Bus News, some changes in the Editorial Team will take effect from January 2001. I have decided to stand down as Managing Editor and allow some "young blood" to take over. My successor is to be Sean Menzies Steve Thompson and Ian Burton have also asked to be releived of their respective columns of Arrive Southend and Arriva East Herts and Essex, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts over the years. Also John Weeks is moving out of the area, and again thanks to John for his great efforts with Thamesway news since he took over from Andy Meadows.

To the team we welcome Mark Garrett for Arriva East Herts and Essex and Chris Stewart for Thamesway, and I will be taking on the Arriva Southend news.

The addresses of the new Team Members are as follows.

Sean Menzies
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Shenfield
Brentwood Essex
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Mark Garrett
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Royston, Herts
SG8 8RP telephone 01763 838409

Chris Stewart
9 Fen Close
Shenfield
Brentwood
Essex CM15 8SB telephone 01277 221808

I hope you will continue to support the new members, and the Essex Bus News will grow in strenght.

ROCHFORD MEETING FREIGHT HOUSE 8pm

January	No meeting
February 13th	Programme details im January EBN
March 13th	Group AGM followed by slide show by Alan Osborne.
April 10th	Programme to be announced
May	

BUS MEDIA

Harrisbus Company Ltd at Thurrock goes into voluntary liquidation
Town and Country Travel Ltd. meeting of creditors called 8/12/2000.
Thurrock Council has set up a scrutiny panel, which will investigate bus provision throught the area. They will want to know why services that the community depend on are being constantly cancelled.

Contributions for this months EBN received with thanks from Arriva Colchester, Arriva Southend, Arriva East Herts and Essex. Essex Buses Essex C.C., PSV Circle, LOTS, B White. J Rugg, C Stewart, R Delahoy, M Evans, Grahame Bessy, G Toon, G Perkins, Ross Whiteley, Member 730,

Contribution for the January EBN should be with Sub Editors by 4th January and Man Editor by 8th January, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SEND ANY NEWS TO THE CORRECT ADDRESSES.

ARRIVA COLCHESTER

TRANSFERS IN

3302	(JIL2195)	National Greenway	from Grays	
5055	(ARP615X)	Leyland Olympian/ECW	for spares	10/00
5380	(TPD110X)	Leyland Olympian/ECW		

From Arriva London M782 (KYV782X) Metrobus for spares.

TRANSFERS OUT

3308	(NIW 6508)	National Greenway	to Arriva Grays	12/00
3310	(NIW 6510)	National Greenway	to Arriva Grays	19/10
3335	(H350HNO)	Leyland LBM6T/Wadham Stringer	to Arriva Grays	17/12

REPAINTS

3081 (F153KGS) 5380 (TPD110X)

DISPOSALS

4303 (OHE280X) Leyland Tiger Arriva Fox County 10/00

GENERAL

3305 (JIL2195) was sent to Arriva EH & E at Watford for roof repairs 6/10/00
Munibuses have been fitted with new destination blinds, we hope to have details shortly.

ARRIVA SOUTHEND

TRANSFERS IN

EX	Arriva The Shires	11/00		
2129	N909ETM	Mercedes	709D	Plaxton B27F
2133	N913ETM	Mercedes	709D	Plaxton B27F

TRANSFERS OUT

2070	J65UNA	Mercedes	709D	Plaxton B23F
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REPAINTS

The double deck repaint programme has been completed, leaving a handful of "DSL" Dennis Darts to go to the paintshop. This will leave 5394 (F574SMG) in Southend United F.C. OOA, the Dengie Village Link Renaults blue, and Staff Shuttle bus LDV 1253 (P698PRJ) in white. Several recent repaints are minus off side fleetname transfers.

DISPOSALS

Southend Transport 521 (XWX193S) Ratcliffe Bigrigg 8/00

ARRIVA EAST HERTS AND ESSEX

The Group extends their congratulations to Arriva East Herts and Essex on winning the Bus Operator of the Year Award, presented by Transport Minister Keith Hill at the Bus Industry Awards in London recently

FLEET

Vehicles In / Transfers

2092/4/6/7	M152/4/6/7 RBH	Iveco 59.12, B27F
2114	N918 ETM	Mercedes Benz 709D, Plaxton B27F
3092	H923 LOX	Dennis Dart, B40F
3096	H243 MUK	Dennis Dart, B40F
3192	R192 RBM	Scania, Northern Counties B49F
3244	M844 DDS	Volvo B6, Alexander B40F
3310	NIW 6510	National Greenway, East Lancs B49F

Liveries

Oct 00: 2092/6 (M152/6 RBH), 2114 (N918 ETM), 3363 (K413 FHJ),
3401/2 (R310/1 NGM), 3412 (P334 HVX) to Arriva corporate livery

General

3053 (CAZ 6852) was due to go to Grays by the beginning of October (EBN 439), but the company suffered vandalism attacks at their Amersham outstation in late September, and it was held back pending repairs to the other vehicles.

All the Ivecos with Arriva the Shires are expected to be transferred to Harlow. These are 2093/9, 2230 (all still in service at Luton), 2100 and 2231. In Luton, they will be replaced by Mercedes Benz 709D's cascaded from Aylesbury & Watford.

2097 is in blue/yellow livery operating at Harlow.

2072, 2319/20 were due for withdrawal, but this was cancelled and 2327/8/30 were withdrawn instead. 2327/8 suffered seized engines from flood damage.

Services 20 and 348, operated from Grays are to be reduced due to staff shortages. Staff shortages appear to be a problem at all garages, with regular advertisements in the local press for drivers. Some Essex County Council contract work may be surrendered if staff shortages continue.

Allocation Changes to October 2000

2092/6/7	M152/6/7 RBH	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
2114	N918 ETM	Arriva the Shires to Ware
2313	J933 WHJ	Sold (Ramm, Sudden)
2327/8/30	K707/8/10 FNO	Harlow to Sold (Gale, Harlow)
3092	H923 LOX	Arriva the Shires to Grays
3096	H243 MUK	Arriva the Shires to Grays
3192	R192 RBM	Arriva the Shires (Luton) to Grays
3244	M844 DDS	Arriva the Shires (Hemel Hempstead) to Grays
3305	J1L 2195	Grays to Arriva Colchester
3310	NIW 6510	Arriva Colchester to Grays
3335	H350 PNO	Grays to Arriva Colchester
4335	J56 GCX	Harlow to Grays
4336	J926 CYL	Ware to Harlow
5371	TPD 101X	Withdrawn to Sold (Hardwick, Carlton) for scrap.

This is my last Arriva East Herts & Essex report.

Thankyou for all your help with information provided for this column. *page 4*

First **Eastern National**

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

Acquired from Imperial, Rainham is another Leyland Olympian/ECW for use on Phoenix contracts it is JTY 370X.

ALLOCATIONS

Leyland National 1850 continued in use in November from Colchester depot. It was some way from home in Halstead on 23.11.00 operating service 88.

GENERAL

Volvo Olympian 4303 has a failed electronic destination blind. It carries a card destination in the front windscreen.

Leyland Lynx retains Thamesway livery and names, despite its recent move to Chelmsford.

Vehicles based at Chelmsford and Stansted are receiving new destination blinds. These tend to feature more final destinations and less via points.

REPAINTS

Recent repaints into new Eastern National livery (yellow with green skirt) are:-

1408 1425 1429 1503 1504 1505 1506 1507 2822 2825 2905 2906 2907 2908

Mercedes minibus 2610 has a super-rear advert for Royle IT Accountancy, sister 2671 has one for Hadleigh Carport.

Mercedes 2609 also now carries Stansted Connection lettering and route branding for services 308/9, together with various transport logos.

SERVICES

127 From 29.10.00. the journey from Brightlingsea was revised to depart at 0900

It is understood that from 8.1.01. operation of Brentwood town service 73 (Bishops Hall to Warley) will pass to Eastern National and will be sourced from Chelmsford depot. This is part of a package of changes in the Brentwood area.

Radio reports on BBC Essex say that service 93 (Colchester to Ipswich) is to be withdrawn in early 2001. Reports in the Evening Gazette state 6.1.01 as the final date, after that First Eastern Counties Ipswich to Capel St Mary service will be extended to East Bergholt, while Arriva Colchester are to introduce a commercial service between Colchester and East Bergholt.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

6.11.00.	CF1520 on 351 (branded for 31/X)
6.11.00.	CF2823 on 31 (branded for 33)
6.11.00.	CF 730 on school service 506 (normally double decker)
7.11.00.	CF 731 on service 351 (not normally a low floor route)
13.11.00.	CF 733 on service 352 (not normally a low floor route)
17.11.00.	CR 4315 on service 93 (normally Dart or Lance)

21.11.00. CF 3071 on service 71 (normally Olympian)
5.12.00 Eastern Counties 403 (M586 ANG) on service 93
5.12.00 CR 3220 + 4303 on service 64/A (normally single deck)

403 was on loan to replace Dennis Dart 908, which had failed in Ipswich. This was in use on Ipswich town services on 4.12.00.

Not unusual as such, but to give an idea of what Bristol VR's at Chelmsford were up to on 30.11.00. 3083, 3110, 3112 were all on 352, while 3071 was on service 351 (but failed in Brentwood).

PUBLICITY

Previously overlooked is a timetable leaflet for services 31/B/X dated 26.3.00.
More recent is a leaflet for service 33 - The Stansted Connection dated 4.9.00.

INITIAL DISPOSALS

Noted at First Eastern Counties Lowestoft depot in November were 383 (H394 OHK), 387 (H398 OHK) and 2601 (H601 OVW).

Dennis Dart/Alexander 2912 (M230 VWV) has passed to First Eastern Counties at Norwich, Vulcan Road. This has been exchanged for Dennis Dart/Marshall S979 JLM which has joined Thamesway at Basildon.

ALLOCATIONS 12/00

1850 -- CF, 1924 -- Dvr Training BN, 2606 -- Service Fleet, 2613-2616 CF D/L
2903 acq-CF, 2909/11 acq-res, 322-CRd/I - Disp

AIRPORT BUS and COACH
398 res - AC

Correction to EBN 437

Publicity--- Should read Route 74 and 74B 4/9/00
Route 76 and 76A 4/9/00

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS STANSTED Service 38 (Linton-London) and 871 (Sumners - Passmores School) have been withdrawn, date unknown. It is believed that this operator has ceased.

BRENTWOOD COACHES Have acquired former Wallace Arnold Volvo/Plaxton P329/30 VWR. It is thought that the remaining Bristol VR's may have been sold to County Coaches, Brentwood. These comprise GGM104/6W and UNW 928R.

CEDRICS WIVENHOE FSK 868 (K908 RGE) a Volvo/Jonckhree has appeared for sale in the trade press. Leyland Olympians acquired from Arriva The Shires are ARP 614X and MUH 284X.

COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD In addition to acquiring the above, there appears to have been some re-registrations of existing stock, plus some withdrawals. Can someone please supply some up to date news?

FORDS ALTHORNE Malbus service 1 will operate additionally on Tuesdays from 21.11.00 to 19.12.00.

f THAMESWAY

ODD WORKINGS

16-11-2000	Darts 709 on Canvey Clipper and 711 on Green Line 721
30-11-2000	Dart 956 on Canvey Clipper
1-12-2000	Mobility Dart 855 on Premier 100

PUBLICITY

New zoned fares in Brentwood leaflet dated October 30th 2000.

NEWS

Service changes in Brentwood starting January 8th 2001.
Town services 80/81/82 are withdrawn.
Routes 81 and 82 are to be replaced by an extension of BT route 77/A
Route 73 passes from Thamesway to Eastern National at Chelmsford.
Route 751 reduced to hourly
New route 752 Romford – Shenfield every 30 minutes peak hours but hourly off peak.
More detailed information next month.

A recent report in a local newspaper mentions proposals to ban cars from Wickford High Street. Bollards would be erected which would rise and fall to allow access for buses. Hopefully Thamesway will not have the same problems that occurred in Ilford a couple of years ago.

MOBILITY BUSES

In October 1995, Thamesway put into service four Dennis Darts fitted with Marshall B17F bodies with all disability accessories. These were 851 – 854 (N851 – 854 CPU) allocated to Basildon depot.

These have solely operated on mobility services for London Buses in the Romford, Ilford, Dagenham and Barking areas. Little has ever been written about these vehicles in Essex Bus News as they have plied “up and down” the A127 to take up their duties over the years. However recently 851 was towed into Basildon with severe fire damage, a hasty replacement has been found namely 855 (S979 JLM) a Dennis Dart MPD with Marshall B27+23F body a former demonstrator, having been with Thamesway in 1998.

ALLOCATION LIST NOVEMBER 2000

BASILDON

311, 371, 372, 374 – 376, 379 – 381, 408 – 410, 601 – 603, 605, 607 – 611, 711 – 715
734 – 738, 805, 809 – 811, 852 – 855, 913 – 915, 918 – 922, 924 – 934, 959 – 972
1430, 1432, 1433, 2660 – 2662, 3109, 4026, 4030 – 4032. TOTAL 83

HADLEIGH

310, 313 – 321, 323 – 327, 701 – 710, 717 – 721, 935 – 942, 946 – 958, 987, 1400,
1404 – 1406, 1409 – 1412, 1417 – 1424, 3069, 3113, 4003 – 4005, 4027, 5001.

TOTAL 75.

ROMFORD

345, 348, 353, 355, 357, 364, 401 – 407, 806 – 808, 2657 – 2659.

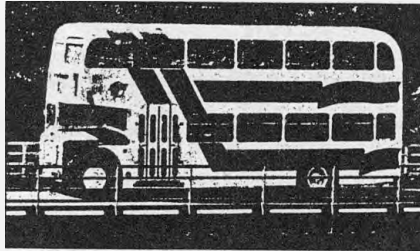
TOTAL 19

PAINT SPARE 368

DRIVER TRAINING 9017, 9029, 9030, 9411.

DISPOSAL 851, 3226, 9016.

Keski-Suomesta



Töysän  Linja Oy

puh. (943) 20 162

puh. (944) 61 179

Matkat läänin suurimmasta matka-
toimistosta aina ja kaikkialle:

Matka  Töysä

Jyväskylä puh. (941) 616 200

Jämsä puh. (942) 14 764

Keuruu puh. (943) 71 609

THE MOST NORTHERLY DOUBLE DECKER
Another advert showing Eastern National Bristol FLF 2852 (OVX296D)

THE 57th SANCTION

The 57th Sanction referred to Bristol K5Gs with chassis numbers 57001 – 57085, these were known as "unfrozen" vehicles and were either partly completed or chassis made up from spare parts held by the manufacturer and impounded or "frozen" by order of the Ministry of War Transport.

In 1942 due to an acute shortage of buses they were released or "unfrozen", bodied and allocated by the Ministry.

Five of these chassis were allocated to Essex operators,
Chassis 57030 & 57041 were Eastern National 3872 and 3873 (JPU 460 and JPU 461) these were fitted with Duple L27/28R bodies.
3872 later received an Eastern Coachworks L27/28R body and a PV2 radiator, it was transferred to United Counties in 1952.
3873 survived only a few months, being destroyed in the Chelmsford Depot bombing disaster in 1943.

Chassis 57045 & 57046 were Colchester Corporation Transport 35 and 36 (JPU 581 and JPU 582) fitted with Bristol H30/26R bodies.
35 was withdrawn in 1956 and later became a contractors bus with Johnson Bros Ltd at Tonbridge Kent.
36 was withdrawn in 1956 and was stored pending conversion to a towing vehicle, but this did not get carried out and was sold to North (Dealer) at Leeds in April 1961.

Chassis 57078 (JPU640) was delivered to Moores at Kelvedon, fitted with a Duple L27/28R body, it remained in service with Moores until May 1958 and was sold to Ashdowns at Danbury for school bus duties.

ESSEX TO WEST WALES.

A total of five former Eastern National vehicles were added to the fleet of W.L.Silcox and Sons of Pembroke Dock, a staunch Bristol operator over the years, who acquired all types of double deckers from GO to VRTs and single deck and coaches from L to RELH.

The Eastern National vehicles were.

1016 (GNO693) Bristol K5G ECW L55R was originally Eastern National 3749 being transferred to United Counties in 1952, later returning to EN.

1212 (WVX445) Bristol LS5G ECW B45F came to Wilcox from Eastern Counties LM927 being sold by EN in 1966.

360 (OO9548) Bristol MW5G ECW C34F was acquired from Tillings Transport 9360 in 1973.

1432 (JHK456C) Bristol MW5G ECW B45F was acquired in 1979

2870 (RWC942D) Bristol FLF6G ECW H70F arrived in Pembroke via Alexander (Midland) MRD200 being one of the FLFs in the Scottish VR exchange.

These were amongst a total of over 100 Bristols, that Silcox operated. Interestig to note that a few miles east of Pembroke, 1200 (UEV829) Bristol LS5G ECW B45F saw service with Thomas (Pioneer) at Laugharne in Thomas Dylan country.

Further along the coast South Wales Transport and Brewers operated a large number of ex Eastern National vehicles, notable of which was Bristol open topper WNO484 EN 4206/1429 now in preservation, but that's another story.

ESSEXBUS and ALEXANDERS

With the recent arrival of a batch of Alexander bodied Dennis Darts from First Leeds, it seems time to reflect on previous Scottish products that have operated in Essex.

The arrival in August at Thamesway of Leyland Olympian 4032 (A983FLS) from First Glasgow, was a surprise acquisition, this is used on school services at Basildon. The only other Alexander double deckers to have been operated were two Leyland PD1/1s that were originally from the City Coach Company LD1/2. these came to Eastern National via Westcliff Motor Services, 2102/3 LEV917/8, they were later converted to opentoppers after seeing service on Canvey Island, being the only City vehicle to receive Westcliff red livery.

Of the single deck fleet operated, the most well known will be the TE bodied Leyland Tigers with dual purpose 53 seats, delivered in 1983 these were 1110-1121 (HHJ371-382Y) and 1122-1127 (A691OHJ-A696OHJ) and were used on express, stage and private hire services

Two Leyland Leopards appeared in 1991 from Western in Scotland, these were used by Thamesway as training buses 9014/15 (MHS25P/32P) leaving the fleet in 1995 and finally a Mercedes 608D saw service with Thamesway for a short period, this was 31 (D220SKD) an 18 seater which came from the District Bus fleet at Basildon.



A SUNNY BUT DESOLATE SUNDAY IN BASILDON BUS STATION
WITH A TOWN AND COUNTRY DENNIS DART WORKING ON
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONTRACT SERVICE 140 BASILDON
BILLERICAY JOHN RUGG

*Season's
Greetings*

ITINERARY FOR BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY ROVER TRIP ON MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2000

WEATHER: SUNNY AND CLOUDY WITH SOME SHOWERS: FARE £4.00 SENIOR CITIZEN (FOR NEARLY 110 HOURS TRAVEL)

DEP	ROUTE DETAILS		ARR	SERVICE NUMBER	OPERATOR	NO. OF PASSENGERS	VEHICLE DETAILS
8.00	LAINDON Shopping Centre	ROMFORD - St. Andrews Way	8.22	2A	FIRST THAMESWAY	1 (ME)	705 P 705 HPU Ds Dair SLF/Plaxton
8.36	ROMFORD St Andrews Way	HARLOW - Bus Station	9.30	500	FIRST THAMESWAY	5	2659 M 659 VJN MB 709D/Plaxton
9.35	HARLOW Bus Station	STANSTEAD AIRPORT Coach Station	10.23	510	ARRIVA (EAST HERTS & ESSEX)	7	3356 K 406 FHJ Ds. Dair/Plaxton
11.23	STANSTEAD AIRPORT Coach Station	BRAINTREE (COFFEE BREAK) - Bus Park	12.02	133	ARRIVA COLCHESTER	4	2384 R 954 VPU MB 810D/Plaxton
12.13	BRAINTREE Bus Park	MARKS TEY - Rail Station	12.38	70	FIRST EASTERN NATIONAL	14	2806 L 806 OPU Ds. Dair/Plaxton
12.43	MARKS TEY Rail Station	SUDBURY - Rail Station	13.02	-	FIRST GREAT-EASTERN	17	153306 ANGLIA RAILWAYS RAILCAR (ON HIRE)
13.07	SUDBURY Bus Station	IPSWICH - Old Cattle Mkt Bus Stn	14.23	900	H.C. CHAMBERS BURES	5	1K 936 GWR MB 814D/Optional AIR CONDITIONING WORKING - BEST JOURNEY OF 200
14.40	IPSWICH Old Cattle Mkt Bus Stn	COLCHESTER - Bus Station	15.58	96	FIRST EASTERN NATIONAL	3	2829 N 829 APU Ds Dair/Plaxton
16.05	COLCHESTER Bus Station	CHELMSFORD - Bus Station	17.05	71C	FIRST EASTERN NATIONAL	15	1403 F 403 LTW Ld Lynx/Leyland (VERY LOUD REAR AXLE WHINE - WORST JOURNEY OF 200)
17.40	CHELMSFORD Bus Station	BASILDON - Bus Station	18.30	140	TOWN & COUNTRY	18	R 312 NGM Ds Dair SLF/Plaxton (ex - LIMEBOURNE TRAVEL)
19.10	BASILDON Bus Station	WALTHAMSTOW Central Station	20.08	2A	FIRST THAMESWAY	1 (ME)	1422 F 422 MJN Ld Lynx/Leyland
20.16	WALTHAMSTOW Central Station	BASILDON - Bus Station	21.13	2A	do	1 (ME)	do do (THE LAST JOURNEY TO OPERATE FROM LONDON TO BASILDON via A127.)
21.30	BASILDON Bus Station	LAINDON Shopping Centre	21.37	8B	FIRST THAMESWAY	5	926 M 926 TEV Ds Dair/Plaxton

NOTE: All vehicles operated as per timetable

JOHN RUGG 31-8-00

LONDON--SOUTHEND AIRPORT--THE CONTINENT

In the 1950s and 60s passenger traffic at Southend Airport was booming, Eastern national was heavily involved in this business.

In 1958 to increase capacity, six Bristol LS, dual purpose saloons delivered in 1952/3, to Eastern National and Westcliff Motor Services viz...

4174	UEV829	Bristol LS5G	ECW	DP41D
4200-2	VNO869-871	Bristol LS5G	ECW	DP41D
	FJN162-3	Bristol LS5G	ECW	DP41D

were converted for the service to DP38F and painted all over cream, with boards above the windows displaying, COACH SERVICE, LONDON, SOUTHEND AIRPORT THE CONTINENT.

In the 1954 and 1964 renumberings they carried the following numbers.

4174	359	1200
4200	372	1201
4201	373	1202
4202	377	1203
	378	1204
	379	1205

Seating capacities

	1952	1959	1962	1962	1962
UEV829	DP41D	C38F	DP39F	DP43F	B43F
VNO869	DP41D	DP38F	DP43F		B43F
VNO870	DP41D	DP38F	DP43F		B43F
VNO871	DP41D	DP38F	DP43F		B43F
FJN162	DP41D	C38F	DP38F	DP43F	B43F
FJN163	DP41D	C38F	DP38F	DP43F	B43F

Although the seating categories which appear as coach, dual-purpose and bus, photographic evidence shows no apparent change in the style of seats.

EASTERN NATIONAL GARAGE ALLOCATION HUNTINGDON 1/7/1949

3421	AEV791	Dennis Lancet	ECW	B32R
3480	AVW458	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3481	AVW459	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3538	BTW477	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3543	BTW482	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3545	BTW484	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3547	BTW486	Dennis Lancet	ECOC	DP32R
3678	ENO956	Bristol JO5G	ECW	B31R
3773	GPU425	Bristol L5G	ECW	B31R
3840	JEV431	Bristol K5G	ECW	L55R
3932	LPU622	Bedford OB	Beadle	B30F