

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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ESSAM. J. C. Bertram

Acorn House

ISLIP

Bertram Essam of Acorn House, Islip for many years had a garage business situated adjacent to his house and in addition operated a haulage concern and ran taxis. In fact the business was started by his father. After the second World War Bertram Essam decided also to run coaches on contracts and private hires. His first coach was a used Commer Commando registered DNR 626 that had previously been in the possession of the well-known Leicestershire operator Barkus of Woodhouse Eaves. Originally seating twenty-nine DNR 626 accommodated thirty passengers by the time Bert Essam acquired it in February 1951 and he advertised his latest acquisition in the local newspaper as shown on the following page.



Commer Commando DNR 626 with its Plaxton coachwork is about to uplift this party of lucky Islip day-trippers to the seaside possibly.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Forestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

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ESSAM. J. C. Bertram - ISLIP

LUXURY COACH

(30 Seats)

FOR PRIVATE HIRE:
Also CARS

BERTRAM ESSAM

ISLIP

Phone: Thrapston 83

Tc23

Having bought a coach Bert Essam advised the public of his latest acquisition by placing this advertisement in the Kettering Evening Telegraph of 21st February 1951.

A couple of years later, in May 1953, Bert Essam added a second vehicle to his fleet to give him more flexibility to cater for loads in excess of thirty passengers. At this point a Bedford OB was acquired second-hand and once again it seated thirty in a Plaxton body. The registration number of the vehicle was HAD 314 having originated in Gloucestershire and later being in service with a Cardiff operator prior to moving to Northamptonshire.



Bert Essam's Plaxton bodied Bedford OB is shown here making a pleasant change from the usual Duple Vista bodies mounted on most Bedford OB chassis.

(Photo courtesy Derek Bailey)

At the end of 1957 Bert Essam acquired another coach with a view to replacing his original Commer Commando, but for a couple of months or so the fleet comprised three vehicles. Bert's latest acquisition was a Crossley SD42/7 model with Yeates thirty-five seat coachwork. It was registered NRB 116 and dated from August 1949.

ESSAM. J. C. Bertram - ISLIP



Only a rather poor illustration of Bert Essam's Crossley coach NRB 116 can be shown. Bert is the gentleman on the left of the picture and his father stands on the right.

November 1960 saw Bert Essam giving up the operation of coaches, thereafter concentrating on his other interests including his haulage business where he had a contract to carry steel tubes for Stewarts & Lloyds of Corby.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
DNR 626	Commer	Commando	17A0503	Plaxton	C30F	63	12/46	2/51	3/58	Barkus, Woodhouse Eaves	Central, Uppingham	
HAD 314	Bedford	OB	48271	Plaxton	C30F	655	10/47	5/53	11/60	Cridland, Cardiff	Mobile Shop	
NRB 116	Crossley	SD42/7	98119	Yeates	C35F	139	8/49	12/57	11/60	Branson, Brampton	?	