

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-BR3A

Page 1

BRITISH TIMKEN Ltd

Main Road

DUSTON

British Timken was established in Birmingham in 1937 to manufacture tapered roller and other ball bearings and during the Second World War a shadow factory was built at Duston in 1941. The firm grew and developed considerably during the 1940s, 50s and 60s and became a major Northampton employer. The firm also provided excellent sporting facilities for its staff.

After the War and for recreational and sporting purposes British Timken operated a coach to convey its workers to sports and social events as the need arose. For this purpose a Bedford OB with twenty-nine seat Duple bodywork was acquired in 1948 but the registration number has so far not been established. It is known however that it was fitted with Skefco bearings which apparently did not endear the vehicle to the Timken Management who, in July 1950, sold their Bedford and it passed to Heeps Garages of Guilsborough (NN-HE2).

British Timken chose a Commer Avenger to replace the Bedford and this machine was registered BVV 379 in July 1950 and it carried a Harrington thirty-two seat body. The Commer was retained for four years after which time it was replaced by a former Guy Arab demonstrator registered NDA 343. This latter coach carried a thirty-seven seat Willowbrook body and provided Timken employees with their transport until 1970 after which time coaches were hired from external sources as and when required.

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL
	MAKE	TYPE	NUMBER	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D		
?	Bedford	OB	?	Duple	C29F	?	-/48	—	7/50	?	Heeps Garages, Guilsborough
BVV 379	Commer	Avenger I	23A0556	Harrington	C32F	819	7/50	—	6/54	—	Duston Garage, Duston
NDA 343	Guy	Arab UF	71550	Willowbrook	C37C	52043	-/52	6/54	7/70	Demonstrator	Cedric, Wivenhoe

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 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.

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-BR3A

Page 2

BRITISH TIMKEN Ltd - DUSTON



In July 1950 British Timken bought BVV 379, a Commer Avenger coach, to which they had Harrington coachwork fitted to seat thirty-two passengers. It was photographed in this case after sale to Heeps Garages of Guilsborough. (Photo courtesy D M Bailey)



British Timken's Guy Arab NDA 343 looks immaculate in this photograph, as does the driver and Willowbrook coachwork.