

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-MA2

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## MARLOW. Wilfred t/a DUNKIRK MOTORS 64 Dunkirk Avenue DESBOROUGH

Wilfred Marlow started running taxis from his home address in Desborough soon after the second World War. From 6th May 1947 he traded as DUNKIRK MOTORS and later in the same year purchased an Austin CXB coach with twenty-nine seater Plaxton body, for private hire purposes. This coach, which was painted cream and blue, was supplied by Central Motors of Dalkeith Place, Kettering and was registered DRP 587 on 24th October 1947.



*Making a refreshing change from the more usual Bedford OBs of the post-War period, Wilfred Marlow's Austin CXB registered DRP 587 looks in fine fettle in this photograph. No doubt many Desborough people journeyed to the East Coast in this Plaxton bodied machine. The lad sitting on the front bumper was Tony Perrin, son of one of Marlow's drivers.*

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.

#### MARLOW. Wilfred - DESBOROUGH

Evidently Wilfred Marlow found that running a coach was a worth while part of his overall business, as three years later he added a second vehicle to his fleet. This time he approached Messrs Blanchflowers Ltd of The Headlands, Kettering to supply a Commer Avenger chassis on which was mounted a fully-fronted Plaxton body seating thirty-three passengers. It was on 7th September 1950 that Wilfred Marlow's new coach was registered GBD 235.



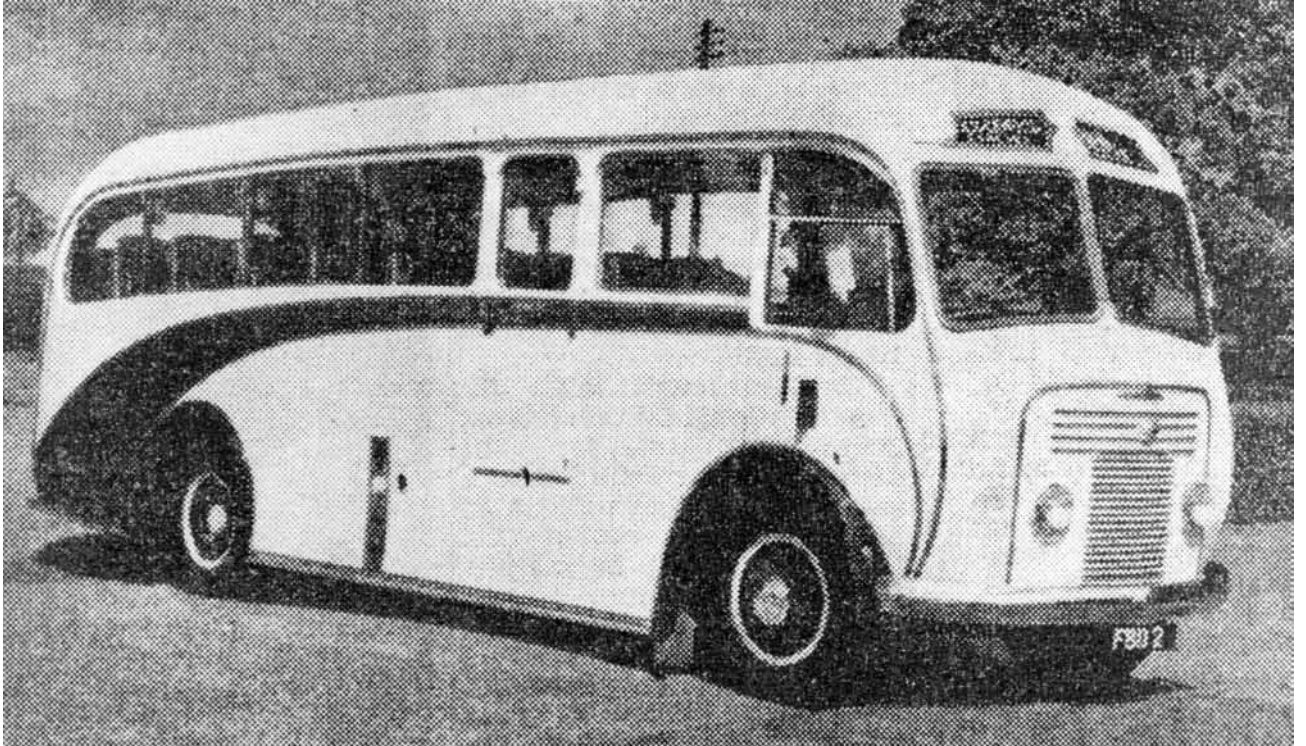
*The body fitted to Commer Avenger GBD 235 was not one of Plaxton's most elegant designs but was possibly in keeping with the "new look" of the period. The bodywork with spatted rear wheels seems to overwhelm the chassis and doesn't help the coach's overall appearance. Once again a cream and blue livery was chosen for this coach.*

Either in late 1954 or early in 1955 Wilfred Marlow added another Commer Avenger to his fleet when he purchased FBD 2 from local operator/dealer T G Dilks of Desborough. FBD 2 carried a thirty-two seat Plaxton body and dated from 1949. Marlow kept this coach for only about a year to eighteen months before disposing of it.

Wilfred Marlow operated only private hires and employed full-time drivers for each of his coaches plus two part-time men to cover rest days and sickness. Sadly, in November 1959, Wilfred Marlow died of a heart attack and shortly afterwards his widow, Daisy, sold the two coaches to Arthur Cooper of nearby Rothwell, in February 1960.

*I am grateful to Mrs Daisy Marlow for details of her late husband's coach operations*

MARLOW. Wilfred - DESBOROUGH



*Not a very sharp image of Commer Avenger FBD 2 but it serves to show this Plaxton 32-seater coach in its original condition with Stockwood Motors of Corby.*

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
DRP 587	Austin	K4/CXB	103895	Plaxton K3/47	C29F		10/47	—	2/60	Supp Central Motor Co, Kettering	A F Cooper, Rothwell	
GBD 235	Commer	Avenger I	23A0605	Plaxton Envoy	FC33F	1343	9/50	—	2/60	Supp Blanchflowers Ltd, Kettering	A F Cooper, Rothwell	
FBD 2	Commer	Avenger 1	23A0004	Plaxton Q2	C32F	641	5/49	c-/55	By 4/56	T G Dilks, Desborough	Banstead Coaches, Banstead	