

Provincial Guy Arabs Part 1 - Wartime Utilities



Provincial Bus Community

Provincial

55 EHO 228

The first Guy Arab of any description that was purchased new by Provincial was delivered in 1942. This was 55 (EHO 228) an Arab I with the standard (for Provincial) 5LW engine. It was delivered with a Weymann utility body to wartime specification. This body was later rebuilt by Reading in 1955. Withdrawal took place in 1970 and it was then sold to the Maypine Trolleybus Company in November of that year. It survives today and is now owned by David York.



No 55 seen at Hoeford with its original utility body.

Photo: Alan Lambert



55 (EHO 228) seen here with its 1955 Reading body in Fareham.

Photo: Cliff Essex

56-58 EHO 868-870

The next delivery of Arabs took place in 1943, when No's 56-58 were delivered. These were Arab II's with 5LW engines and Park Royal utility bodywork. They were painted grey on delivery, and had wooden slatted seats. The body of 56 was rebuilt to P030/26R in 1958. In 1953, 57 received a new Reading C030/24RD body, but it never operated as an open-topped vehicle. It was to a more luxury specification than the standard Reading bodies at the time and was called a "Coach-Bus". This was in an attempt to attract private hire work. The doors were removed in 1963. A Deutz F6L514 six-cylinder air-cooled engine was fitted to the chassis of 58 in 1962, it was fitted with a new Reading H30/26R body and was also renumbered 75. 57 was transferred to Provincial Traction Company legal ownership in 1947.

Withdrawals took place as follows :-

56 In 1969 - It was sold to Fort Wallington car breakers in April 1969.

57 In 1970 - It is now preserved by the Provincial Society

58 became No.75 as one of the Guy/Deutz conversions and was withdrawn in 1972



56 (EHO 868) in open top form at Gosport Ferry.

Photo: Roy Marshall



57 (EHO 869) in its "Coach Bus" form



57 (EHO 869) at Hoeford with its 1953 Reading Body.



58 (EHO 870) with its Park Royal utility body in company with a KEL *** registered Hants & Dorset Bristol K and an unidentified Provincial vehicle. **Photo: Alan Lambert**

59-61 EHO 965,967,966

These vehicles were also delivered in 1943. There were also Arab II with 5LW engines.

The body of 60 was rebuilt to P030/26R in 1952. The open-top body on 60 was replaced by a new Reading FH30/24RD body in 1956, This was, in effect, a sister coach bus to 57, the internal finish was very similar. The doors were removed in 1970. In 1958, the chassis of 59 and 61 were fitted with Deutz F6L514 six-cylinder air-cooled engines and new Reading FH30/26R bodies.

Withdrawals took place as follows :-

59-61 - Withdrawn in 1970 and sold to Fort Wallington Car breakers that year.



59 (EHO 965) in utility form at Gosport Ferry. **Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



60 (EHO 967) in its short lived open top form at Stokes Bay. **Photo: © V. Blackmore**



61 (EHO 966) in its utility form at Gosport Ferry.

Photo: Martin Brown

17-18 EOR 875-876, 31-32 EOR 877-878

The final Arab wartime deliveries were in 1945 when 4 further vehicles arrived. These were again Arab II 5LW. All were delivered in grey livery and with wooden slatted seats. 18 was transferred to Provincial Traction Company legal ownership in 1947. The body of 18 was converted to PO30/26R open top form in 1955. The other three were re-bodied with Reading fully fronted bodies (FH30/26R) in 1958 (17), 1957 (32) and 1961 (31). 31 (EOR 877) was also fitted with a Deutz F6L514 six-cylinder air-cooled engine in 1961 and re-numbered 73. In the 1970 partial re-numbering of the fleet 17 and 32 became 28 and 27 respectively.

Withdrawals took place as follows :-

17 - 1971 - Now preserved

18 - 1969 - Now scrapped

31 - Became No. 73 as one of the Guy/Deutz conversions and was withdrawn in 1971

32 - 1971 - Now scrapped



The original 17 (EOR 875) in West Street Fareham near the bus station.

Photo: Fred York



18 (EOR 876) in its original closed top form at Hoeford.

Photo: JC Gilham



31 (EOR 877) at Gosport Ferry somewhat worse for wear, note the offside panel repair around the fuel filler. In the background can be seen a Hants & Dorset Bristol K and a Provincial Park Royal Guy Arab III. **Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



32 (EOR 878) seen here in Gosport.

Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection

Wartime Guy Arab Summary

Fleet No.	Reg No.	Originally Bodied by	Entered service	Withdrawn
55	EHO 228	Weymann	1942	1970
56	EHO 868	Park Royal	1943	1969
57	EHO 869	Park Royal	1943	1970
58	EHO 870	Park Royal	1943	1972
59	EHO 965	Park Royal	1943	1970
60	EHO 967	Park Royal	1943	1970
61	EHO 966	Park Royal	1943	1970
17	EOR 875	Park Royal	1945	1971
18	EOR 876	Park Royal	1945	1969
31	EOR 877	Park Royal	1945	1971
32	EOR 878	Park Royal	1945	1971

